County Councillors Report November 2026

Local Government Review Update.

On Thursday 29th October the Government provided an update on its review of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) decisions in a number of areas across the country

While decisions have been announced to progress for some areas, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland has been advised the Government has withdrawn its July 2026 decision to create two new unitary councils by April 2028, one covering a larger city and another for the rest of Leicestershire and Rutland.

The Government remains committed to the LGR process and have set out that further LGR decisions will be forthcoming.

This update means that council services will continue as normal and there is no need for residents, businesses or community groups to do anything. We now await further detail and will provide updates as information becomes available. Local council elections are still planned for 6 May 2027.

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

On Wednesday 28th October, the Government announced that they are in the final stages of agreeing 10 new devolution agreements, including a Mayoral Strategic Authority for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

This announcement is part of the Government delivering a growth package for English Local Authorities and Strategic Authorities that provides councils with greater financial flexibility and stability, increased local discretion and targeted support for investment and development. The development could bring more decisions and investment away from Westminster and closer to local people.

A new Strategic Authority would mean councils working together to make long-term decisions on issues that cross boundaries. These could include transport, infrastructure, skills, employment, housing and regeneration. In time, it would be led by a directly elected mayor and governed with representatives from the participating councils.
The proposal would not replace local councils or transfer all existing council services. Councils would continue to deliver local services, while the new

authority would focus on agreed strategic priorities for the wider area.

Devolution could also give the area access to additional powers and long-term funding from Government.

Personally, today we're a step further in securing the vital powers and funding that we need locally. A new mayor brings new money, and the new Strategic Authority is the strongest platform for growth, investment and reform

Rocking Manhole Cover, A50 Bradgate Hill, Groby.

I have taken a report of a loose manhole cover in the road outside 213 Bradgate Hill, Groby. The cover rocks every time a vehicle goes over it. It must be annoying for residents. It clearly needs re-seating. I have reported this to highways.

Government Approves Leicestershire Send Improvement Plan.

Ambitious plans designed to improve support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) have been given the thumbs up by Government.
Leicestershire County Council's three-year strategy sets out expanding the number of specialist school places, bolstering support in mainstream schools and earlier identification and intervention.
The plan includes:

Creating hundreds of new school places – including a new £30 million, 250-place special school for Harborough

bringing specialist support into mainstream education – through 'experts at hand', with speech and language therapists, educational psychologists and other specialists working directly in schools, nurseries and post-16 settings

Leicestershire's Citizens Panel.

The Leicestershire Citizens Panel is a group of residents who come together to share their views on important consultations and engagement activities. Our Citizens Panel help Leicestershire County Council understand the needs and experiences of people who live, work and study in the county. Whether you're interested in transport, communities, the environment, health, education, or other local issues, your voice can help inform council decision-making.

Most meetings will take place online, making it easy for people to participate from home. Occasional in-person sessions may also be held.

The panel helps us:

hear a wider range of views and experiences

improve the quality and depth of consultation feedback

understand how different communities may be affected by council decisions

ensure a wide range of voices are represented in local conversations

Eligibility

Membership of the Citizens Panel is open to people aged 18 and over who live, work or study in Leicestershire. To ensure the panel provides an independent public perspective, elected councillors and Leicestershire County Council employees are not eligible to join.

Your involvement

As a panel member, you'll be invited to:

attend online discussion sessions approximately every two months

hear briefings from council officers on current consultations

ask questions and share your views

provide feedback that will be considered alongside other consultation responses

There is no requirement to attend every meeting.

Participation is flexible, and you can choose which sessions you would like to be involved in.

Register your interest

If you'd like to join the Leicestershire Citizens Panel, please complete our registration form below.

Once registered, we will contact you with information about upcoming meetings and opportunities to get involved. Please follow the link below.

https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-engagement/leicestershire-citizens-panel

Beware of energy scams

In its Budget, the government has announced a £100 Household Energy Payment for 20 million households in council tax bands A to D.

Previously, scam emails and texts were circulating attempting to capitalise on energy support announcements. These scams have said that you're entitled to hundreds of pounds to support with energy costs and led to phishing websites designed to look like the official government site.

The £100 will be paid directly into your bank account if you are eligible.

If you do receive a suspicious message, you can report scam emails by forwarding them to report@phishing.gov.uk and scam texts to 7726.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank residents and councillors for your continued support. I am available at Parish Council meetings, or I can visit you if you need help or advice. Remember I am only an Email or a phone call away.

Ozzy O'shea.

Always Working for you Locally.

Cllr Ozzy O'Shea

Tel 0116 2394336 Mobile 07808585825

Email Ozzy.O'shea@leics.gov.uk

Email ozzyoshea@hotmail.com