County Councillors August 2025 Report

Local Government Reorganisation.

The Conservative Group at the County Council called for an Extraordinary Council meeting which was held on Wednesday 30th July. It became obvious a couple of days after our last council meeting that the leader of the council Mr Dan Harrison was having meeting with the City mayor Sir Peter Soulsby negotiating the city taking part of the county into the city.
This was not shared at the Council meeting on the 2nd July.

Conservative Motion.

Following receipt of the Interim Plan Feedback document from the government in June on local government reorganisation proposals for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, and comments from the City Mayor of Leicester at the Full Council meeting of Leicester City Council on Thursday 3rd July that "both the County Council Leadership in public, and District Council Leaders in private acknowledge that the case for boundary revision for the city is unarguable", this County Council resolves to :

A) Require that proposals for, or agreements to Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation made on behalf of Leicestershire County Council by the Leader and/or Cabinet and/or Chief Executive, be subject to debate by and a vote of Full Council before submission to the Government. A Special Council meeting will be scheduled in November 2025 in anticipation of this vote;

B) Recognise that such a submission would only pass this County Council with the support of opposition Councillors and therefore requires the Leader to consult with all Group Leaders on a weekly basis to update them on progress of discussions with Leicester City Council and/or Rutland County Council and/or the Borough and District Councils;

C) Confirm that Leicestershire County Council does not support any expansion of the Leicester City Council area boundaries."
(A requisition for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council for the purpose of considering this motion was put forward by the following members of the Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 3: Mrs D. TaylorCC, Mr J. Poland CC, Mr N. Chapman CC, Mr D. Grimley CC, Mrs B. Seaton CC, Mr S. Bradshaw CC, Mr P. King CC, Mr O.O'Shea CC, Mr J. Melen CC.)

A Reform amendment was moved by Mr D Harrison and seconded by Mr Squires:

"That the County Council:

1. supports the Leader of the County Council in writing to the Government to request they hold a local referendum given the potential effect of local government reorganisation on Leicestershire and the importance of testing public support;

2. recognises that, if reorganisation is required by the Government, the key consideration in deciding on a new unitary structure for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland will be the proposed City boundary extension and therefore must be in an informed position about the consequences of a boundary extension in order to make a final submission for a new unitary structure to the Government in November 2025;

3. confirms its view that the best option is a two unitary model, one City, one County, and that both authorities must be financially sustainable with the capacity to enable strategic land use planning across the area, providing the optimum structure for devolution of powers, responsibilities and funding;

4. accordingly regards modelling of the different options for two unitary authorities, and other options, as a prerequisite for informed debate and decision, the initial results from the modelling to be shared with the opposition Group Leaders at the earliest opportunity.

5. notes that modelling the financial impact of an extended City boundary on the County is in line with the County Council's interim plan for reorganisation submitted by the previous administration to the Government in March 2025;

6. notes that the submission to be made to the Government in November 2025 is a matter for the Cabinet."

The amendment which included a red herring in relation to a referendum. The LGA has already said the Labour government would not consider any referendum, so this would be another waste of public money.
The Reform Amendment was lost 22/24.

At the meeting on the 30th I spoke against any land grab of the city. I explained that he residents of Leicestershire wanted to remain in the County and that the County needed to keep all its Council Tax base to fund the need for protecting children and families, education, which was rated as excellent. Social Services, adults and communities which was rated as Good and highways. The County Council has been well managed although poorly government funded over the past 20 yrs and needed to continue that way. The County Council cannot afford to lose its Council tax base to prop up the failing City.

The Conservative Substantive Motion was passed 22 to 23 with Labour abstaining.

Free bus travel will be available every weekend in August across Leicestershire.

People can enjoy summer days out to attractions such as Bradgate Park, Twycross Zoo, Gates Garden Centre, Fosse Park and the 1620s House and Gardens.

The offer is valid on selected routes, enabling travel to places including Leicester city centre, Corby, Loughborough, Hinckley and Coalville.

Participating services are those financially supported by the Leicestershire County Council using government cash, including the new FoxConnect on-demand buses.

All services have been launched this year as part of a county-wide bus network review.

Whether you're using bus services to commute, attend an appointment, socialise or enjoy a fun day out, leaving the car at home is one of the easiest ways to say goodbye to traffic and parking stress.

There is also the added benefit of cutting pollution and helping improve air quality in Leicestershire.

This is a brilliant opportunity to travel completely for free in August and try out new and improved bus service

This offer is available to everyone with no age restrictions and will run on all five weekends in August (2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 30-31).

The new routes have been designed to improve access to local amenities, tourist attractions, country parks and leisure destinations now also have improved accessibility.

For more information, visit the

Go to the following website
choosehowyoumove.co.uk

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.

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