

Leicestershire County Council Monthly Report – November 2024

Flooding – be ready, be prepared.



Sources of flood risk
and responsibilities pr

Please see the attached poster produced by LCC to help residents and Parishes understand who to contact regarding areas of responsibility in times of flooding. Please put on your website(s) or notice boards to help residents. If you require any “hard copy” posters I can obtain them.

A drop in event is being held at County Hall in Glenfield on Thursday 7th November from 2pm to 6pm. At the event, officers from the County Council and representatives from the Environment Agency, District Councils, water companies and other key organisations will be on hand to offer advice on preparing to reduce the risk of flooding. Anyone with questions ahead of the drop-in event may contact the flood team by emailing: flooding@leics.gov.uk

This information is very timely in light of the terrible flooding that has recently occurred in Spain and the wettest September experienced here in Great Britain. Please continue to publish emergency contact details on your website.

Be flood ready by:-

[Checking your home insurance policy for flood cover](#)

[sign up for flood warnings](#)

[Making a flood plan](#)

[Checking your flood risk](#)

[Preparing your home](#)

Follow Leicestershire County Council on social media for live updates and warnings on flooding and weather throughout the year or [visit our flooding web page](#).

Budget Summary, SOME Headlines – Local Government Implications – More detail will be known when the Local Government Finance Settlement is released later in the year.

- Employers’ National Insurance contributions to be increased by 1.2% to 15% with the starting threshold reduced from £9,100 to £5,000. An early estimate of the impact on this for the County Council is £5m.
- The National Living Wage will increase to £12.21 (6.7%) which will need to be funded by local government.
- Additional funding announced for transport, SEND, education/schools and homelessness. No reference to DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant) statutory override being extended.
- 3.2% real term increases in core spending power (CSP) for the whole sector for 2025-2026. This will include £1.3bn additional grant funding, of which at least £600m will be directed to social care. As expected, the budget only covered 24/25 and 25/26 with the Spending Review due to report in Spring 2025. There will be a multi-year settlement from 2026/27.

- The Budget was silent on council tax referendum limits, but expectation is that referendum principles will stay the same for now.
- £233m new funding for homelessness prevention. This will be in addition to the £1.3bn grant funding.
- £1bn to extend the Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments into 2025-26.
- £1.1bn new funding through implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for recycling.
- An additional £500m maintain and renew local roads.
- £1 billion funding to support local bus services and bus operators in 2025/2026.
- Confirmed the extension of the bus cap running from January 2025 to December 2025 at the higher rate of £3.
- Reduction of the Right to Buy discounts and enabling councils to keep 100% of receipts, allowing homes to be replaced.
- £1bn extension to the Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments.
- The government also indicates that, through its Devolution White Paper, it will look to move to “simpler structures” of local government to deliver “efficiency savings from council reorganisation”. The government will also simplify the wider local funding landscape, reducing the number of grants and consolidating them into the Local Government Finance Settlement, as well as moving towards a multi-year settlement for local government so authorities can plan more effectively. The first integrated settlements for greater Manchester and the West Midlands Combined Authorities are being introduced from 2025-2026. Further Mayoral Combined Authorities will be eligible to receive them from 2026-2027.
- Funding for an additional 300 planners and to boost and upskill LPA capacity to deliver the government’s wider planning reform agenda.

Have a smashing time at pumpkin composting event.

The 'Pumpkin Smash' event at Stokes Wood Allotments, LE3 9BR takes place on Saturday 9 November, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Encouraging residents, organisations, and schools to bring pumpkins that have been carved and cannot be eaten, pumpkins will be smashed up and composted.

To learn more about our Halloween initiatives please visit the [Less Waste website](#). Details about the pumpkin smash event are available by [emailing the allotment](#).

Armistice Day service at County Hall

A service to mark Armistice Day and to pay tribute to all those who lost their lives in conflict is being held at Leicestershire County Council’s HQ, County Hall, on Monday, 11 November.

The short service will take place at the Stand Easy memorial, beginning at 10.40am, and will incorporate the laying of wreaths and a two-minute silence at 11am.

Shop which sold illegal vapes and tobacco shut down for four weeks.

A Loughborough shop which was found to be selling illegal tobacco and illegal vapes has been closed for four weeks, following a joint operation by Leicestershire County Council’s Trading Standards service and Leicestershire Police.

Roman Express, in Church Gate, must close until 19 November under the terms of an order granted at Leicester Magistrates Court on Monday 21 October.

Illegal sales of vapes and tobacco can be [reported to Leicestershire Trading Standards anonymously](#).

Major step forward for Leicestershire's electric vehicle charging network.

Ambitious plans to roll out more electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints across Leicestershire have taken a major step forward.

The county council is part of a consortium, along with four other authorities, which has secured almost £1m of Government funding to install public chargepoints across the Midlands.

County councillors recently approved a new strategy for EVs and in collaboration with chargepoint operator Wenea, work can start on delivering new chargepoints at on-street locations across the county as part of the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot project.

A roll-out of chargepoints is planned from 2025 onwards, with more detail on locations to be released closer to the time.

For information on the latest developments, residents can visit our website: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/electric-vehicles-ev

Apply now for free tree and hedge packs.

The tree packs are being made available to anyone who lives in Leicestershire with suitable areas of land to plant.

Leicestershire County Council has once again teamed up with the Woodland Trust and Lloyds Banking Group to offer the free tree and hedgerow packs, which are designed to help renew and restore existing woodland and vegetation, as well as replacing trees which have been affected by diseases such as ash dieback.

Each free tree pack includes 50 native tree saplings – a mix of oak, wild cherry, crab apple, field maple and hazel, as well as tree guards and stakes. The hedgerow packs are made up of 250 native trees and shrubs, including a mix of hawthorn, hazel, field maple and oaks to plant at regular intervals along the hedgerow. Each hedgerow pack is enough to create a 50m-long hedge at five plants per metre.

The tree packs are being made available to anyone who lives in Leicestershire with suitable areas of land to plant – including community groups, parish councils and schools, landowners and farmers. Eligible applicants can register for their free tree and hedgerow packs, in a bid to help the county council reach its target of helping to plant 700,000 trees – one for every person in Leicestershire.

Anyone who would like to apply for a free tree or hedgerow pack is asked to apply on the [Woodland Trust website](#). Anyone with queries about the scheme should email lcctreepacks@woodlandtrust.org.uk.

The closing date for applications is Monday 11 November. Successful applicants will be able to collect their trees from Beaumanor Hall in Woodhouse on Wednesday 27 November 2024 or Wednesday 19 February 2025.



The Free Fares scheme has no age restriction and will run every Saturday until 30th November.

For more information on the Free Fare scheme, including what services are involved, visit the dedicated [Ticketing Schemes](#) page on the Choose How You Move website.