



DATE: 30 June 2026
MY REF: RW/CCouncil
PLEASE ASK FOR: Mrs. R. Whitelaw
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ORDER PAPER, QUESTIONS AND POSITION STATEMENTS
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA PACK

- Order Paper and Webcast. (Pages 3 – 22)
6. To receive position statements under Standing Order 8. (Pages 23 - 30)
- (i) Position Statement from the Leader
 - (ii) Position Statement from the Lead Member for Children and Family Services



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MEETING OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 2026 AT 2.00 P.M.

ORDER PAPER

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of having to evacuate officers will be able to advise and be on hand to assist any disabled persons.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1
CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The CHAIRMAN will make his announcements.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2
MINUTES
(Pages 7 – 8)

The CHAIRMAN will move and the VICE CHAIRMAN will second:

“That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 13 May 2026, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3
MINUTES
(Pages 9 - 22)

The CHAIRMAN will move and the VICE CHAIRMAN will second:

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 May 2026, copies of which have been circulated to members, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The CHAIRMAN will invite members who wish to do so to make declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5
QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1) (2) & (5)

(A) Question by MR POLAND

“Leicestershire County Council has recently carried out a consultation into school term dates for Leicestershire schools to be in place between August 2027 and the summer of 2032. Can the Lead Member advise, if Leicestershire decides to go

for an option which is different to the school term dates of Leicester City, what happens to those schools which are currently in Leicestershire but may find themselves within the boundary of Leicester City as a consequence of local government reorganisation? Would those schools be required to change their term dates before 2032 in order to align with the City, or would they remain out of step with City schools until this matter is next reviewed?"

Reply by MR PUGSLEY

"Following the recent consultation on school term dates for Autumn 2027 to Summer 2032, officers have met with colleagues from Leicester City Council to review the feedback received from both consultations. Work is continuing to explore the potential for a shared term date model, informed by consultation responses.

The uncertainty surrounding local government reorganisation presents an additional consideration. However, an announcement on the future structure of local government across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is expected in July 2026, ahead of any decision being made on the future pattern of term dates.

A summary of the consultation feedback, along with a recommended model, will be reported to Cabinet in September 2026. This will support Cabinet in their decision making for Leicestershire schools and families, taking into account both the ongoing discussions with Leicester City Council and the impact of decisions on local government reorganisation."

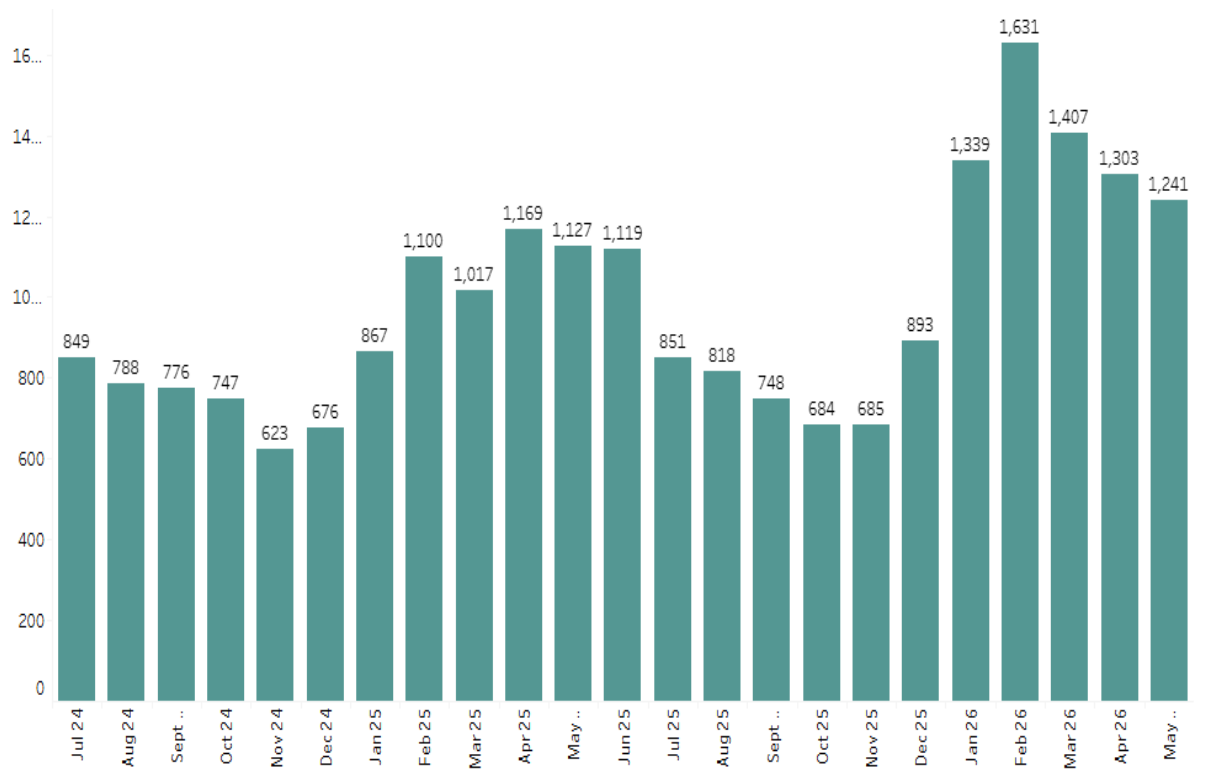
(B) Question by MRS TAYLOR

- “1. Can the administration provide the current backlog of pothole repairs across Leicestershire, and how this has changed over the past 12 months?
2. What is the average repair time for potholes, and is this meeting the Council’s own targets?
3. Why do residents continue to report repeated pothole failures on the same roads?
4. What proportion of repairs are temporary rather than permanent?
5. How much is being spent on reactive repairs compared with long-term resurfacing?”

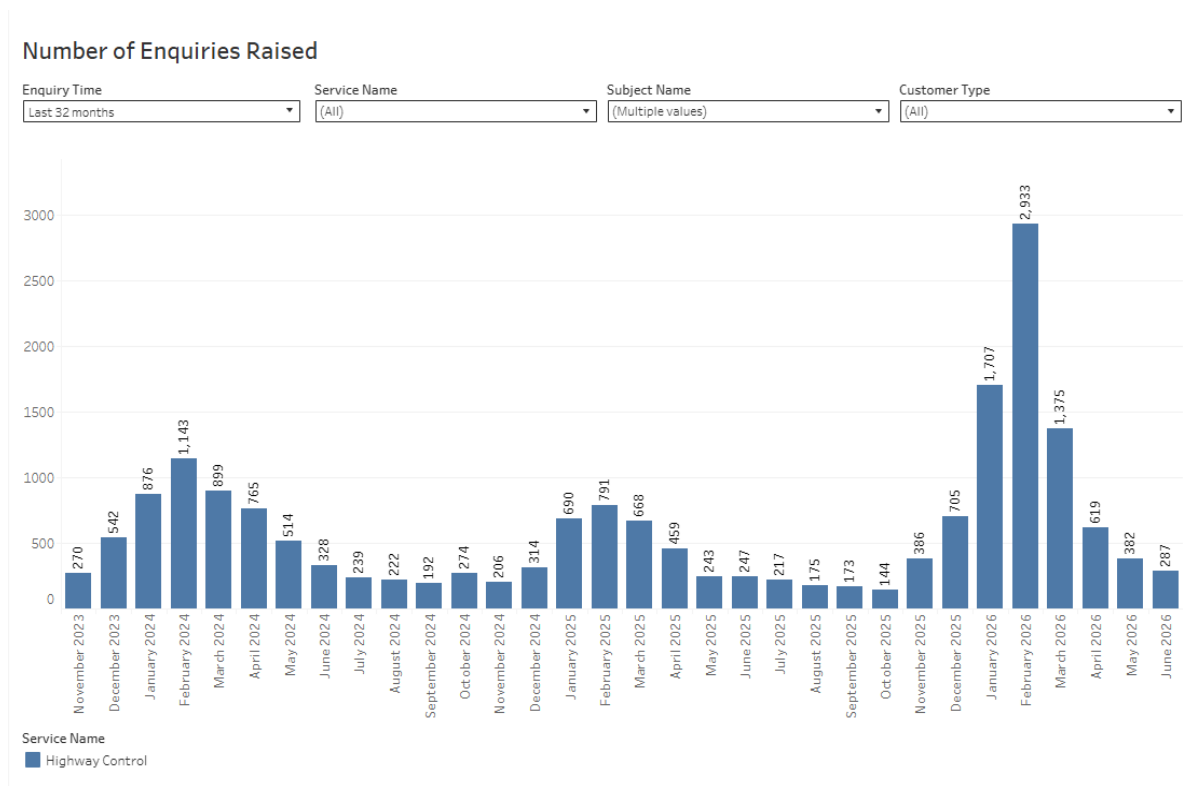
Reply by MR HAMILTON-GRAY

- “1. As of 9 June 2026, there are 910 outstanding pothole repair jobs.

The number of outstanding jobs at the end of each month is shown on the graph below:



Number of enquiries raised in the last 32 months:



- The average time taken to fill a Category 1 pothole (over 40mm deep) in 2025/26 is 2.51 days. The target is 3 days.

3. Under investment, the funding that has been available for highway maintenance in real terms has declined over the last decade. This inability to invest as needed has led to the road network deteriorating which has led to more defect repair work being required. Due to the limited funding, repairs need to be prioritised hence at times we will repair parts of a road but not other less severe defects in that same road. In short, we have insufficient funding to resurface the whole road.
4. In 2025/26: 23.67% of pothole repairs were temporary (winter 2025/26 was particularly challenging; in previous years less than 5% of repairs have been temporary),

The “default” is to use hot quarried material in Roadmenders for permanent reactive repairs – temporary repairs are only carried out for anything that needs to be made safe quickly (e.g. while we wait for a permit, road-space, traffic management or the road is going to be resurfaced), out of hours or emergency responses, or if demand peaks like it did over winter 2025/26.

5. Budgets for this financial year 2026/27:
 - a) Reactive repairs:
 - £3,355,313 Roadmender repairs
 - b) Proactive carriageway repairs:
 - £1,900,000 (inhouse) patching gangs
 - £9,081,571 (external) machine lay patching
 - £6,957,931 Surface Dressing (including pre-patching)
 - £200,000 joint sealing
 - £495,275 micro asphalt and asphalt preservation
 - £4,783,519 Carriageway resurfacing schemes

Total: £23,418,296

(C) Question by MRS TAYLOR

- “1. What measurable improvements in public health outcomes have been delivered over the past year?”
2. How is the Council addressing inequalities in health outcomes across Leicestershire?
3. What proportion of the public health budget is allocated to prevention compared with crisis intervention?”

Reply by MR PAUL HARRISON

- “1. The latest version of the national Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) was published in May of this year. This lists the most up to date for a wide range of public health indicators. For Leicestershire, this shows

improvement in performance since the last published PHOF in:

- Children in absolute low income families
- The rate of complaints about noise
- Breastfeeding prevalence at 6-8 weeks
- Smoking status at time of delivery
- Proportion of the population meeting the recommended '5 a day' on a 'usual day'
- Cervical cancer screening coverage (aged 25 to 49 years)
- Bowel cancer screening coverage
- Cumulative percentage of the eligible population aged 40 to 74 who received an NHS health check
- New sexually transmitted infection diagnoses
- HPV vaccination coverage for two doses (13 to 14 years old), males and females
- Meningococcal ACWY conjugate vaccine coverage (14 to 15 years)

Across the 149 indicators in the PHOF for which comparative data is available, Leicestershire is significantly better than the England average in 72 indicators, significantly worse in 20 and comparable to the England average in 57 indicators

2. The Council applies the principle of proportionate universalism to its work on inequalities: services are available to all residents, while more intensive or tailored support is directed to those with the greatest need.

The Council delivers targeted, evidence-based prevention and health improvement programmes. These include work on healthy weight, food and nutrition, oral health, Making Every Contact Count, suicide prevention, Healthy Leicestershire communications, harmful gambling, sexual health and substance use. These programmes are informed by evidence, local intelligence and community insight, so that activity is targeted towards priority populations and neighbourhoods where it can have the greatest impact. Public communications are also designed to improve health literacy, increase awareness of support and improve uptake among groups that may otherwise be less likely to access services.

For example, our Quit Ready stop smoking service is open to the wider population but includes targeted support for groups at higher risk of smoking or who may face greater barriers to quitting, such as routine and manual workers and pregnant women.

Reducing health inequalities cannot be achieved by one organisation acting alone. We therefore work closely with NHS partners, district councils and voluntary and community sector organisations to align activity, reduce fragmentation and ensure programmes are shaped by lived experience. Through our statutory role in providing public health advice to the Integrated Care Board, we also support wider system action to address inequalities in access, experience and outcomes.

Overall, the Council's approach is to act both upstream and locally: preventing avoidable ill health, targeting support where need is greatest, working with partners and communities to reduce gaps in outcomes across Leicestershire.

3. The whole of the public health budget is spent accordance with the Department of Health's conditions attached to the public health grant. None of the grant is spent on 'crisis resolution'. Broadly there are three main levels of prevention:
- Primary prevention, where the objective is to prevent problems arising in the first place
 - Secondary prevention, where the aim is to identify those at risk and intervene to enable people to remain in good health as long as possible
 - Tertiary prevention, where the aim is to reduce the impact of an ongoing issue, focussing on helping individuals manage and improve their quality of life

Within public health around two thirds is spent on 'treatment services' in the secondary and tertiary prevention levels (for instance treating sexually transmitted infections where the aim would be to prevent infection being passed on to others), a quarter is spent on primary prevention and the remainder is spent on community based initiatives where the aim is to build community resilience to enable communities to support each other and build their own capacity, which can be considered as a pre-primary prevention level intervention."

(D) Question by MRS TAYLOR

"I was disappointed to learn that since May 2025, this Council has withdrawn its commitment to the Elected Members East Midlands Prevent Group—an initiative I helped establish in partnership with other East Midlands councils, the Home Office, and Counter Terrorism Policing to strengthen community safety.

Given that keeping residents safe is a core priority of this Council, can the Lead Member explain why this commitment has lapsed, and will they now commit to rejoining and actively participating in this important regional partnership?"

Reply by MR ABBOTT

"During 2025 the East Midlands Elected Members Prevent Group was Chaired by the Lead Member for Safer Communities from Nottinghamshire County Council and Co-Chaired by Leicestershire County Council. The meetings were managed and led by the Home Office.

Following the May 2025 local elections both elected members stood down, and the meeting was put on hold by the Home Office.

Leicestershire County Council has discussed re-convening the meeting with the

Home Office who have confirmed that resurrecting this meeting is not a current priority for them.

The Home Office went on to say that they are reassured by the annual benchmarking conversation with East Midlands local authorities that Prevent leads are regularly briefing their lead members, therefore, for the time being the Home Office do not have any plans to reinstate this meeting.

In my capacity as the Portfolio Lead for Communities and Community Safety I assure Mrs Taylor that should the Home Office reinstate this meeting I will be happy to support it.”

(E) Question by MRS PAGE

“Our Leicestershire roundabouts used to be fine features to enhance and promoting the realm, pride of place and indeed generating some income to the County Council. Roundabouts are now looking untidy and poorly maintained. Whilst I appreciate the County Council changed contractor and there may have been a time delay, I ask the following questions:

1. When did the changeover take place and why did this happen when the previous contractor delivered a good service?
2. Is there a Service Level Agreement with the new contractor and what is it?
3. When will a full Leicestershire wide maintenance program be scheduled, commenced and what are the timelines?
4. Will this be posted on the County Council’s website?
5. On a personal division basis, when will the grass and the overgrown shrubs on the Whittle Roundabout in Lutterworth be sorted out and what is the continual schedule?”

Reply by MR HAMILTON-GRAY

- “1. The ESPO contract for the maintenance of roundabouts was renewed on 1st December 2024 to comply with contractual procedure and was awarded to CP Media, now trading as Outdo Media. The previous contractor Keegan Ford ceased operating.
2. There is a schedule of maintenance which specifies two visits per month to each roundabout to include grass cutting, shrub maintenance and pruning, inspecting trees, applying weed treatment, cleaning signs and litter picking – all as required.
3. A full Leicestershire program has been in place from the commencement of the contract.

4. There is no intention to publish on the County Council website.
5. The Frank Whittle Roundabout is scheduled a visit on 15th June and will be visited twice monthly.”

(F) Question by MR CHARLESWORTH

“In the UK, the level of antisemitism is at its highest level since the height of the war in Gaza. There was some time ago a series of incidents at County Hall that all members were alerted to. Have there been any more incidents and does the council have a robust plan to deter and deal with any such incidents?”

Reply by MR DAN HARRISON

“The Council takes all forms of hate-related behaviour, including antisemitism, extremely seriously. We have a clear and consistent position of zero tolerance towards such conduct, whether it occurs within our workplaces or in the communities we serve.

In terms of recent incidents, there have been no repeat incidents of the kind previously reported at County Hall. It would not be appropriate to comment on specific matters, particularly where these may involve internal processes or individuals. Where any concerns of this nature are raised, they are dealt with promptly and in accordance with our established policies and procedures. It would not be appropriate to comment on individual cases or internal processes

More broadly, the Council has in place a range of measures to help prevent and respond to hate-related incidents. These include promoting awareness and respectful behaviour, supporting staff and members, and ensuring that appropriate reporting and response mechanisms are available.

We also keep our arrangements under review, including security and safeguarding measures where necessary, to ensure that they remain effective and proportionate. Through this approach, the Council seeks both to deter such behaviour and to respond appropriately where concerns are raised.”

(G) Question from MR ORSON

“Regarding the £50,000 announced for the fast response grass cutting crew, can the Lead Member please tell me:

1. Whether this funding is one-off or recurring?
2. What additional capacity, equipment or service improvements are expected to be delivered?
3. How the impact of the extra funding will be measured across the county?”

Reply by MR HAMILTON-GRAY

“Please note that the MTFs amendments included £80,000 (rather than £50,000) for two years for the additional “reactive” grass cutting crew.

1. Funding for the additional grass cutting crew has initially been secured for two years.
2. During the grass cutting season (April – September), an additional crew of two operatives with vehicle, trailer and ride on mower will have access to additional equipment like a strimmer and hedge cutter etc to respond to priority reports of grass or vegetation blocking visibility or causing a safety concern.
3. The work completed by the additional gang will be recorded in the Council's Highway Management System."

(H) Question by MR PAGE

"Weeds growing on our county's roads are something many residents are concerned about. Can the Lead Member please tell me:

1. What treatment frequency and methods used for weed control on our roads and pathways?
2. What inspection and follow-up arrangements are in place for areas where weed growth is a problem?
3. What is the Council's plan to prevent further deterioration of highways and footway?"

Reply by MR HAMILTON-GRAY

- "1. This year, roads and pathways will be treated three times throughout the growing season with a spray applied herbicide. There is a supplementary treatment for noxious and invasive weeds. Street sweeping, which is a district authority function, also contributes to the control of weed growth.
2. There is no statutory requirement for the County Council to remove perennial weeds from the highway. To arrest and control weed growth, which prevents structural damage to highway assets, the Council employs a contractor to spray perennial weeds in the road channels and footways three times a year, as above. This process is not designed to achieve weed-free roads all year round.
3. The standard for the Council is to treat weeds in the highway twice a year with a spray applied herbicide, however funding has been made available for three treatments over the next two years."

(I) Question by MR PAGE

"Can the Lead Member please provide the following information regarding this authority's grass cutting and weed control:

1. Current resident satisfaction levels for grass cutting and weed control.
2. The number of complaints received over the past 18 months.

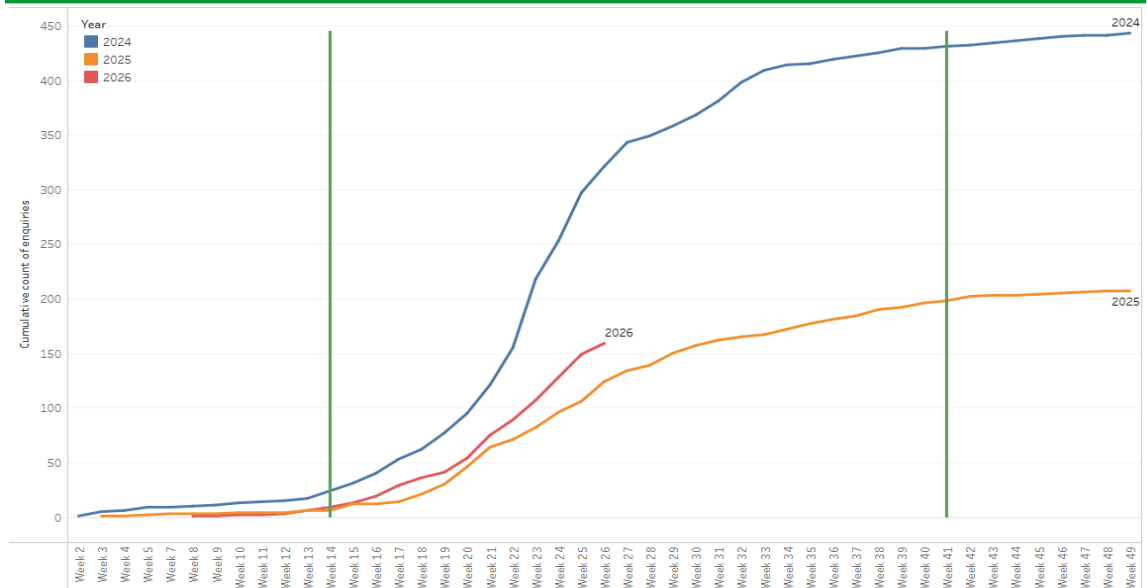
3. Current inspection and monitoring regimes.
4. Performance standards and how they are measured.
5. Processes for identifying and addressing underperformance.
6. Confirmation of the approach to maintaining visibility at junctions, corners and other high-risk locations.
7. Whether any changes have been made to safety-related cutting schedules or standards.”

Reply by MR HAMILTON-GRAY

- “1. The number of customer enquiries could be considered a measure of customer satisfaction; however, the enquiries can cover a range of topics that are not all related to dissatisfaction. The number of enquiries is more closely aligned to the rate of growth usually seen during peak growing season in May / June. At the week ending 20th June 2026, the Council had received approximately 150 enquiries – around 40 more than the same time in 2025, but half the amount received in 2024.

Customer enquiry levels are where we would expect them to be at this point in the season considering the weather conditions and rate of growth this year.

Sheet 2: Cumulative number of enquiries and information provisions (IPs) by year and week over the calendar year



2. During the period 1 December 2024 to 19 June 2026, the Council received and logged 38 initial complaints under the category of ‘grass and hedge cutting and weed spraying’.
3. The Council has two supervisors (based north and south) who carry out daily monitoring and supervision of our environmental works programmes.
4. Performance is measured against delivery of agreed programmes of work. There are separate programmes for urban grass cutting (up to six cuts a

year), rural grass cutting (three cuts a year) and weed spraying (three treatments a year).

5. The Council supervisors will identify any quality or underperformance issues and ensure remedial action is agreed and completed.
6. Rural verges are cut three times a year. The first cut of the year is visibility locations only i.e. junctions, bends and brows of hills. The second cut is a single swathe cut of all verges, also including cutting of visibility areas. The third cut carried out this year will be a full width cut, i.e. hedge to hedge, which is carried out every third year. In years one and two, the third cut is also a single swathe and visibility cut. An additional resource is available to address any immediate safety concerns. Urban verges are cut up to six times a year, with the entirety of the verge cut on each occasion.
7. No changes have been made to the programme safety related cutting schedules or standards.”

(J) Question by MRS TAYLOR

“Can the Leader confirm whether any documentation, including contracts, correspondence, or other official materials belonging to Leicestershire County Council, has been shared with Reform UK headquarters, or with any Reform UK politicians or officials who are not part of Leicestershire County Council, either in an official capacity or privately?

If so, could the Leader please provide details of:

1. The specific information or documents that have been shared; and
2. The purpose and justification for sharing this information.”

Reply by MR DAN HARRISON

- “1. The only information that has been shared with Reform UK (RUK) headquarters or officials who are not part of Leicestershire County Council is a quarterly request from Ben Bradley, the Head of Local Government, for a “dashboard report” of statistics, including information on the Budget, performance, number of potholes filled, number of children and adults in care, which are supplied with the assistance of the S151 officer of the Council, and is information already available in the public domain. The only other information sent to RUK was an email already sent out by the Council entitled “*Better Leicestershire- Smarter Spending, Improving Lives*” which contained information across a wide range of Council activity, including the Better Leicestershire Programme, the £131M opening of Pork Pie Way, the Council’s biggest ever infrastructure project, £2.5M investment to tackle potholes, the Coalville Library refurbishment and the opening of the Ashby Banking Hub. All of which is in the public domain.

I can confirm that no documentation relating to contracts have been shared externally.

2. The information with regard to the “dashboard report” requested by RUK is disclosable and publicly available and in specific reference to the *Better Leicestershire* email, this was sent to RUK as an example of how the Reform-led administration in Leicestershire is leading by example, to showcase to other Reform-led and new Reform administrations how we are working and the positive impact achieved.”

(K) Question by MR BOOLS

“Following the announcement of the closure of Diseworth Church of England Primary School, many parents, staff and pupils in small village schools across Leicestershire are concerned that their school could be next.

Can the Lead Member for Children and Family Services reassure residents that there will be no further village school closures and explain what steps the Council is taking to ensure that small schools can remain viable long into the future?”

Reply by MR PUGSLEY

“I understand the concern that the governors’ decision to propose the closure of Diseworth Church of England Primary School may have caused for families, staff and pupils both at Diseworth and in other small village schools. The circumstances at the School were specific and exceptional: pupil numbers had been falling for several years, the school faced significant financial pressures, fewer than half of available places were expected to be filled in 2026/27, and by the end of May all current teaching staff had secured posts elsewhere, leaving no teaching staff for September. The immediate priority has been to support every affected child and family to secure their on-going education. A formal consultation on the governors’ decision to propose the closure of Diseworth will begin in due course.

It is important to be clear that the circumstances surrounding Diseworth are unprecedented and exceptional. The Council fully recognises the vital role that rural and village schools have in their communities. It is also important to recognise that all schools must be sustainable in terms of pupil numbers, finances, staffing, buildings and the quality of education provided.

The Council’s statutory duty is to ensure there are sufficient good quality school places available in the right place at the right time. We are working with maintained schools, dioceses and academy trusts to review pupil forecasts, school finances, education quality, building capacity and community need so that any issues can be identified early and support can be targeted where it is needed.

The Council has also commissioned school finance experts to review and offer support to our maintained schools in managing deficit budgets, and has

introduced additional guidance, training and advice to support schools to be financially sustainable.”

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6
TO RECEIVE POSITION STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

(Note: Standing Order 8 provides as follows: -

- (a) A position statement may give rise to an informal discussion by the Council. Each Member is permitted to speak once for a maximum of two minutes.
- (b) At the conclusion of the discussion a formal motion may be moved to the effect that a particular issue relevant to the statement be referred to the Cabinet, the Commission, a Board or a Committee for consideration. This shall be moved and seconded formally and put without discussion. No other motion or amendment may be moved.
- (c) The discussion of any position statement shall not exceed 30 minutes, but the Chairman may permit an extension to this period.)

LEADER

The Leader will make his statement.

LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Lead Member will make his statement.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION
(Pages 23 - 48)

Principal Speakers:
Chairman (Mrs D Taylor)
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson (Mr M Mullaney)
Leader of the Council (Mr D Harrison)

(A) OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

MRS TAYLOR will move and MR MULLANEY will second:

“That the information contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26, appended to this report, be noted.”

AGENDA ITEM NO.8
NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) PRIORITISING FRONTLINE POLICING AND VALUE FOR MONEY

MRS TAYLOR will move and MR O'SHEA will second:

- “1. This Council notes that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland has proposed an 18-month, £2 million scheme to fund private security marshals to patrol town centres across Leicestershire and Rutland.
2. This Council further notes that:
 - These marshals, while visible, do not possess police powers, including the power of arrest, formal investigation, or enforcement.
 - The £2 million funding comes directly from the existing policing budget, funded by local taxpayers.
 - There is significant concern from policing professionals, including the Leicestershire Police Federation, that this approach risks diverting funding away from frontline policing.
 - Residents and businesses consistently raise concerns about crime, anti-social behaviour, and the need for a stronger visible police presence, not a substitute service.
3. This Council believes that:
 - (a) Taxpayers' money must be used efficiently, transparently, and in ways that deliver tangible outcomes.
 - (b) Public confidence in community safety depends on visible, empowered, and accountable police officers, not private contractors with limited authority.
 - (c) Investment in fully trained police officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) provides better value for money, stronger legal enforcement, and long-term benefits to communities.
4. This Council is concerned that:
 - (a) The proposed scheme risks creating a two-tier system of public safety, where private security fills gaps that should be addressed by properly resourced policing.
 - (b) The effectiveness of such marshals is limited to deterrence, without the ability to follow through with enforcement action.
 - (c) At a time of financial pressure, this represents a questionable use of limited public funds.

5. This Council therefore resolves to:
- (a) Oppose the proposed £2 million private security marshal scheme as an inefficient use of policing resources.
 - (b) Call on the Police and Crime Commissioner to halt the procurement process and review the proposal.
 - (c) Urge that the £2 million be reallocated to recruit, train, and retain additional frontline police officers and PCSOs, increasing visible patrols and enforcement capability.
 - (d) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the PCC to formally convey this Council's position and seek a response."

An amendment will be moved by Mr Crook and seconded by Mr Hamilton-Gray

- "1. This Council notes that:
- (a) The Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland has proposed a scheme to fund Security Industry Authority licensed contractors to patrol town centres across Leicestershire and Rutland, with indicative funding of up to £2 million from the Crime Prevention Fund reserve.
 - (b) Residents and businesses consistently raise concerns about crime, anti-social behaviour, and the need for a stronger visible police presence in their communities.
 - (c) The Police and Crime Panel has considered this matter and has resolved to scrutinise the proposal by requesting that, ahead of any decision being made, it be presented with evidence of research undertaken, what that research indicates, and the Temporary Chief Constable's proposals in full in a disclosable format.
 - (d) No final decision has yet been made by the PCC regarding this scheme.
 - (e) Leicestershire County Council has no direct jurisdiction over decisions made by the Police and Crime Commissioner, who is independently scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel and held accountable by the electorate.
 - (f) The Crime Prevention Fund is a distinct reserve within the policing budget, and any utilisation of such funds would be subject to policing budget rules and relevant legal and regulatory requirements.
2. This Council believes that:
- (a) Taxpayers money must be used efficiently, transparently, and in ways

that deliver tangible outcomes for communities.

- (b) Public confidence in community safety depends on visible, empowered and accountable policing.
 - (c) Any significant investment in community safety should be preceded by robust evidence of its likely effectiveness, including comparison with alternative approaches such as investment in additional policing capacity.
 - (d) Proper governance and due process, including scrutiny by the Police and Crime Panel, should be respected and allowed to run its course before conclusions are drawn.
3. This Council is concerned that:
- (a) Private security contractors do not possess the constabulary powers, duties and operational responsibilities available to police officers
 - (b) The evidence supporting the proposal has not yet been made available publicly to demonstrate that the proposed scheme represents the best use of available Crime Prevention Fund reserve when compared with alternative approaches.
 - (c) At a time of financial pressure on public services, it is essential that all available options are rigorously assessed before committing significant funds.
4. This Council therefore resolves to:
- (a) Support the Police and Crime Panel's request that full evidence and the Temporary Chief Constable's proposals be made available in a disclosable format before any decision is taken.
 - (b) Request that the Chief Executive writes to the Police and Crime Commissioner to convey this Council's expectation that any proposal involving significant expenditure should be subject to transparent, evidence-based decision making, with full consideration given to alternative approaches, including investment in additional policing capacity.
 - (c) Request that the Chief Executive's letter makes clear that this Council would welcome the opportunity to understand the evidence base for any proposed scheme and its anticipated outcomes for Leicestershire communities.
 - (d) Reaffirm this Council's commitment to working constructively with the Police and Crime Commissioner and other partners to improve community safety across Leicestershire."

(B) COMMUNITY IMPACT OF ASYLUM ACCOMODATION

MR ENGLAND will move and MR BRAY will second:

“1. This Council notes that:

- (a) Residents across Leicestershire have raised concerns regarding the concentration of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and accommodation associated with national asylum dispersal arrangements.
- (b) Residents have expressed concerns regarding pressures on local services, parking, waste management, neighbourhood amenity, community cohesion and the pace of change within established communities.
- (c) Local residents and community organisations continue to seek greater transparency regarding the scale and operation of asylum accommodation arrangements within their communities.
- (d) Effective democratic governance is strengthened when members are able to bring forward matters arising from their representational responsibilities, ensuring that local experience continues to inform the deliberations of the authority.
- (e) Leicestershire County Council is responsible for a range of services which may be affected by significant population changes, including education, public health, transport, social care and community wellbeing.

2. This Council believes that:

- (a) Existing residents should be appropriately informed and consulted where significant changes are taking place within their communities.
- (b) Public confidence is strengthened when decisions affecting local communities are accompanied by transparency, accountability and meaningful engagement.
- (c) Local authorities should be provided with sufficient information to understand and plan for any impact on local services arising from national asylum accommodation policies.
- (d) Communities function best when residents feel informed, listened to and represented.

3. This Council resolves to:

- (a) Write to the Home Secretary seeking greater transparency regarding asylum accommodation arrangements affecting Leicestershire and

requesting that local authorities be given meaningful engagement and advance notification where placements may have a significant impact on local communities.

- (b) Request that the Chief Executive writes to the Home Office seeking information regarding asylum accommodation provision within Leicestershire, including any available information on the use of HMOs associated with Government accommodation contracts and the potential impact on County Council services.
- (c) Request that the relevant Director prepares a report for consideration by the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee outlining any known or anticipated impacts of asylum accommodation arrangements and concentrations of HMOs on County Council services, where such information is available.
- (d) Request that the Home Office and its contractors engage openly with local authorities and communities where accommodation arrangements are proposed or expanded, recognising the importance of maintaining community confidence.
- (e) Reaffirm this Council's commitment to transparency, democratic accountability, community cohesion and ensuring that the concerns of local residents are properly considered when national policies have significant local consequences."

(C) MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS, WORKFORCE SUSTAINABILITY AND FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES IN LEICESTERSHIRE'S SPECIALIST SEND SERVICES

MR MIAH will move and MR MULLANEY will second:

"1. This Council notes:

- (a) The vital role that specialist Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services play in supporting vulnerable children across the county.
- (b) That the Council should seek to maintain high professional standards in specialist SEND services.
- (c) That, when reviewing service delivery models, the Council should have regard to service quality, safeguarding, workforce stability, recruitment and retention, and value for money.
- (d) That significant workforce changes in critical specialist services should be considered in a way that maintains confidence among service users and residents.
- (e) That concerns have been raised regarding possible changes to staffing

structures and role requirements within specialist SEND services.

- (f) That poorly managed restructuring can adversely affect workforce morale, retention and service continuity.
2. This Council resolves to request a report to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on:
- (a) The proposed future model of early years SEND advisory support.
 - (b) How service quality, continuity, and workforce sustainability will be maintained, including the role of professional qualifications where relevant.
 - (c) What consideration has been given to maintaining appropriate professional qualifications in role requirements.
 - (d) How the views of staff and recognised trade unions have been considered, including alternative models proposed by staff to secure year-round delivery.
 - (e) Assurance that any workforce changes will be undertaken in accordance with applicable employment law and the Council's policies and procedures."

(D) BUS SERVICES IN WIGSTON

With the consent of the council, MR CHARLESWORTH will move and MR HAMILTON-GRAY will second the following altered motion:

- "1. This Council notes that:
- (a) The recent significant changes to the bus services in Wigston.
 - (b) The poor level of any consultation undertaken by the operator concerning these changes.
 - (c) The impact on some service users who now must catch 2 buses with the inevitable longer journey times and additional costs.
 - (d) The disconnect this has caused to the local community with 2 large estates effectively cut off from each other, with the resultant family and friends having to make alternative arrangements.
 - (e) It has made journeys to the local GP, the LRI and train station more difficult and for some impossible (especially the elderly) due to the removal of some routes.
 - (f) That the 47/48 and 49 services have been replaced with a changed 47/48 and a 44/44a/44b and 44s service. These more complex services

have caused confusion, with users unable to make much sense of the difficult timetables and unsure which stops are for which services. This is verified by the drivers taking the incorrect route on many occasions.

- (g) The Leicestershire Bus Service Improvement Plan 2025 had as one of its objectives 'to encourage bus use to local facilities', the recent changes could undermine this.
- (h) The limited ability of the Council to influence the decisions of commercial operators.

2. Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- (a) Continue to engage with Arriva to request a review of the recent changes taking into account the concerns and views of Wigston residents.
- (b) Work via the Enhanced Bus Partnership to seek to develop an approach to community engagement ahead of bus service changes."

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 1ST JULY 2026**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL****Growth and Supporting Businesses****(a) Breakfast Briefings**

The county council remains firmly committed to working positively with local businesses, helping to create jobs, drive growth, and open up opportunities across Leicestershire. We are proud to promote Leicestershire as open for business, and our ongoing engagement is central to this. Recently, we have held two very successful Breakfast Briefing events, bringing together a diverse range of local businesses and employer organisations. These sessions have provided a valuable platform for the administration to listen directly to employers and business stakeholders, strengthening our understanding of their needs and priorities. During these briefings, we discussed key topics such as the Local Growth Plan, Enterprise Zones, access to funding and grants, infrastructure requirements, skills development, and tailored business advice. The insights gained from these conversations have been instrumental in identifying the challenges faced by local businesses, and our officers are now working up proposals to address these concerns and support ongoing growth.

(b) Bardon Warehousing Unit

In May I had the pleasure of attending a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new warehousing unit at Bardon. The development represents another positive step forward in strengthening our local economy. Once operational, it will generate jobs, support supply chains, and help create the conditions for further business growth across the area. That matters because good-quality employment is at the heart of thriving communities, giving people the opportunity to build skills, progress in their careers, and contribute to the prosperity of the County. I was delighted that a developer new to Leicestershire has chosen to invest here. This is a clear signal of confidence in the County, of the work of our Officers, and in our workforce and in the opportunities that Leicestershire has to offer.

(c) Broadnook School

Last week I took part in a special turf-cutting ceremony in Broadnook to mark the start of work on a new, 420-place school which is due to open next September. It has been funded by Davidsons Homes and Cora Homes as part of their contribution towards the roads, care homes and community facilities required to support a new village.

The new primary academy will help meet demand for places and give local families greater choice. It shows how house builders can help fund the infrastructure communities need as Leicestershire grows.

(d) Beef Expo

Beef Expo is a flagship agricultural event, and this year was held in Melton Mowbray. I was invited to be on a Panel for a seminar about what the Government's commitment to Food Security looks like.

The County Council is actively investing in and expanding our rural estate and own more farmland today than we did a decade ago. We are supporting the 'farm to fork' journey through public health initiatives that make fresh, locally produced food more accessible for everyone. Our environment leads are working hard to provide help, advice and support on challenges like flooding, drainage and biodiversity, making sure our rural communities are resilient and sustainable.

Leicestershire's farmers are the backbone of our countryside, economy and food chain and I'm proud to back them.

(e) Zouch Bridge Development

On 2nd July, I will have the pleasure of attending an event to open the new £19.6m Zouch bridge.

The bridge forms part of the A6006 which is an important part of the road network, linking the region's transport and trade routes, including the strategic road network, East Midlands Freeport and East Midlands Airport. It links Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire by crossing the River Soar between the villages of Hathern in Charnwood, and Zouch in the Rushcliffe Borough. Loughborough is about 4 miles to the south.

This replacement bridge is a significant investment to replace the previous bridge along this route that was built in 1930. This bridge is about something very practical keeping Leicestershire moving. The route matters and it connects communities, supports local businesses and helps people get where they need to go every day.

The replacement is taking a long-term approach. Back in 2023, an 18T weight restriction was imposed on the bridge to enable it to stay open safely enabling as many vehicles as possible to continue using this route whilst the long-term replacement was procured and constructed.

As part of the project, we've made sure the benefits stay local:

- Local businesses have been part of delivering this project
- New jobs have been created
- Hundreds of young people have had the chance to see how a major project like this works.

I also want to recognise the work behind the scenes to keep things running during construction. Managing roads, closures and traffic is never easy, especially with other nearby works happening at the same time. A lot of effort has gone into making that work as smoothly as possible.

What we have here now is simple in one way – it's a bridge. But it's also something bigger. It's a sign of planning ahead, investing in our infrastructure, and making sure Leicestershire continues to grow in the best.

Local Government Reorganisation Update

We continue with our work with colleagues in councils across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland on preliminary work for local government reorganisation, ensuring that our information and data on our assets is in the best possible position. We are awaiting the decision of the government minister which we anticipate receiving in mid-July.

Melton Mowbray Distributor Road Successes

In June each year, the East Midlands region of the Institution of Civil Engineers celebrates the region's best civil engineering projects and teams. The Large Project Award specifically recognises outstanding infrastructures and engineering achievements valued over £3m.

Following the opening of the North and East Melton Mowbray Distributor Road, known as Pork Pie Way, in May 2026, the project was submitted for several awards and won the Large Project and Social Value awards. The project was recognised for delivering real change for local communities and showing innovative and sustainable construction. The social value award recognises the team's meaningful commitment to the community during construction.

The awards reflect the collaboration and teamwork evolved through the project and I would like to congratulate all the staff and wider supply chain that has made this award winning project a success.

MTFS and Better Leicestershire Update

The outturn position for the 2025/26 financial year was a £7m underspend, which was delivered without needing to use £4.6m of reserves originally expected when the budget was set in February 2025. The £7m underspend will be redirected into priority areas, including £2.5m to reduce the Council's debt, £2.5m towards delivering the savings from the Better Leicestershire Programme and £2.5m for road repairs following severe winter damage. The outturn reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny in May and June reflected that finances are stable despite rising service pressures, with the Council's external debt now the lowest it has ever been.

The focus is now on refreshing the Medium Term Financial Strategy and ensuring that Better Leicestershire savings are delivered in line with expectations. Cabinet and Scrutiny will receive an MTFS update in September.

Celebrating Carers Week

The Council celebrated National Carers Week with the hosting of an event at County Hall on Tuesday 9th June for carers and professionals. The theme of the week was Building Carer Friendly Communities with discussions and workshops focussed on the new Leicestershire Carers Strategy and the Council's plans for supporting carers moving forward. Mr Squires attended the event as Cabinet Lead Member and outlined his commitment to supporting carers in Leicestershire.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 1 JULY 2026

POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

This position statement sets out the progress made and the priorities ahead in delivering high-quality, sustainable services for children and families in Leicestershire. Our focus remains on improving outcomes, strengthening early intervention, and ensuring that children, young people and families receive the right support at the right time through effective partnership working.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

Accelerated Progress Plan (APP)

Improving services and outcomes for children and young people with SEND has been a clear priority for the Council and its partners. Following the 2022 Ofsted and CQC Local Area SEND Inspection, the Local Area Partnership implemented an Accelerated Progress Plan to address identified weaknesses, particularly in relation to EHC plan quality, timeliness and quality assurance.

Over the past three years, the partnership has delivered sustained and measurable improvement through strengthened multi-agency working, improved governance, enhanced quality assurance arrangements, transformation of the SENA service, and a strong commitment to co-production with children, young people and families.

At the final review on 17 April 2026, the partnership demonstrated significant progress, including statutory timeliness exceeding 95%. In June 2026, the Department for Education and NHS England formally lifted the Accelerated Progress Plan. This represents a significant milestone and reflects the strengthened capacity, oversight and governance now in place to sustain improvement.

Our priority moving forward is to maintain this progress and continue to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND, ensuring services remain responsive, high quality and sustainable.

Education, Health and Care Plan Timeliness

Ensuring timely and high-quality Education, Health and Care plans remains a key priority. We have secured consistent compliance with the statutory 20-week timeframe for all initial plans, with average completion now achieved in under 18 weeks.

This progress has been delivered in the context of continued growth in demand for needs assessments and demonstrates the effectiveness of strengthened processes and service capacity.

We will continue to focus on maintaining timeliness alongside further improving quality and outcomes for children and young people.

Leicestershire SEND Reforms

The Council has submitted its SEND Reform Partnership Plan to the Department for Education and NHS England, setting out a clear and deliverable programme through to March 2029.

The plan focuses on two key priorities:

- Strengthening mainstream, early years and post-16 provision through improved education, health and care support
- Expanding local specialist provision to reduce travel, improve access and strengthen children and young people's sense of belonging

Approval of the plan is required to access High Needs Stability Grant funding, which would support up to 90% of historic Dedicated Schools Grant deficits accrued to March 2026. Feedback from the Department for Education is expected in September 2026.

Our priority is to secure approval of the plan and deliver a sustainable system that supports inclusion while ensuring sufficiency of provision within Leicestershire.

Belonging in Education

The Council has concluded consultation on the 'Belonging in Education' Strategy, which provides the overarching framework for education, inclusion and additional needs.

Co-produced with schools, partners and families, the strategy aligns policy and improvement activity to support children and young people to feel a strong sense of belonging in education. It reflects national policy direction, including 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving'.

The strategy focuses on strengthening relationships, autonomy and timely support where belonging breaks down. Delivery will be through partnership working, supported by reform funding and a strengthened governance framework.

Our priority is to embed this strategy across the system and ensure that inclusion and belonging are at the heart of all education provision in Leicestershire.

TARGETED FAMILY HELP AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

Joint Targeted Area Inspection

In December 2025, Children and Family Services were subject to a Joint Targeted Area Inspection focusing on child sexual abuse within the family environment. The inspection was undertaken by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services, and HM Inspectorate of Probation.

The findings highlighted the effectiveness of multi-agency working in Leicestershire. Inspectors recognised that work with this group of children is prioritised, that practitioners understand and identify risk effectively, and that strong relationships are built with children and families. Assessments, safety planning and direct work with children were all identified as areas of strength.

A multi-agency action plan is in place to build on this position. The outcome reflects the strength of partnership working across agencies, and we will continue to focus on sustaining and strengthening safeguarding practice.

Children in Care

Increasing sufficiency and improving outcomes for children in care remains a key priority.

The Council has worked in partnership with Barnardo's over a number of years to develop local residential provision. Seven of the eight planned children's homes are now operational, with the final home due to open by the end of July 2026. All homes are currently rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

Developing local provision enables children to remain closer to their communities and support networks, while also delivering financial sustainability, with projected savings of £2 million over the next four years.

We will continue to review and strengthen sufficiency through both in-house provision and commissioning arrangements to ensure that children receive the right care in the right place.

Alongside this, fostering remains a central priority. Campaigns to recruit and retain foster carers continue, supported by a range of incentives. The Council remains committed to its role as a fostering-friendly employer.

Families First Partnership Programme

The Families First Partnership Programme is the delivery mechanism for national reform of children's social care, with a strong emphasis on early help, multi-agency safeguarding, and supporting families to safely care for children at home.

Progress is being made with strong engagement across the partnership. This includes the secondment of police and health professionals, alongside education colleagues, to strengthen integrated multi-agency working.

The programme is now in the design phase, with two pilot models being implemented over the summer: one focused on the wider family help model, and one on a multi-agency child protection team.

Our priority is to ensure these reforms deliver a more joined-up, preventative system that improves outcomes and reduces escalation into statutory intervention.

Best Start in Life

The Best Start in Life programme sets out a whole-system approach to improving outcomes for children aged 0–5 and their families.

The programme focuses on early intervention and delivering accessible, integrated services across health, education and community partners. It aligns with national priorities, including achieving a 75% Good Level of Development by age five by 2028.

Delivery is through Family Hubs and Targeted Family Help services, bringing together universal, targeted and specialist support. There is a strong focus on early help, prevention and parental engagement from pregnancy onwards.

Our priority is to embed a coherent, evidence-led early years system that ensures families receive timely support and that children are well prepared for school and future learning.