

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 7TH DECEMBER 2022**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE LEAD MEMBER FOR
COMMUNITIES AND STAFF RELATIONS**

It is a pleasure to introduce this Communities Annual Report which brings together and celebrates work within my portfolio that has been carried out working with and alongside Leicestershire communities. Whilst the period of the report was one where we felt the continuing impact of the Covid pandemic, later in the year, as the impact of Covid lessened, it was heartening to see a resumption of community activities, with increased community links, meetings, and events to support and bring people together. During the last year we have also seen an increased council and community focus on responding to the cost-of-living crisis. This has included increased and ongoing crisis and hardship support delivered jointly with community organisations and health and government partners.

Working with Leicestershire communities is central to how all our services are designed and delivered, and I am delighted that this ethos has been encapsulated in the recent review and update of the Council's Communities Strategy: Our Communities Approach. Communities are at the forefront of all that the council does, and it is encouraging that the 'Approach' is centred on an increased and ongoing commitment to building on the strength of local people and places. Since the 'Approach' was adopted, we have made particularly good progress with development of the Council's Volunteering Strategy supporting volunteers and continuing support for voluntary sector organisations. We are also continuing to provide information and support for our communities through our Leicestershire Communities website which has recently been refreshed with an emphasis on an interactive, accessible, and engaging experience for users.

I am sure that the work outlined in this Annual Report provides the inspiration for us all to continue with, and to build on, our work to help promote and sustain strong, resilient, happy, and healthy communities in Leicestershire. The Annual Report is available on the Leicestershire Communities website and on the Members Hub.

Mrs Pam Posnett CC

**Lead Member for Communities and
Staff Relations**

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