



## **County Councillor Annual Report**

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during the year 2022-2023.

**Name of Councillor : Louise Richardson**

**Electoral Division activities for Enderby and Lubbethorpe Division (including Enderby, St Johns, Thorpe Astley and Lubbethorpe)**

### **Main Activities and the impact during the past year:**

Being a member of the Cabinet at Leicestershire County Council, with the responsibility of the health portfolio, I, and other councillors, take responsibility for the strategic direction of the council and to try to ensure that services are delivered efficiently and effectively within the law and guidance issued by government and other regulatory bodies. We also ensure good budget scrutiny at the beginning and during the year and that policies and procedures are reviewed, updated and are current to new legislation and regulation. Budgets are extremely tight, and we are having to look at the services we provide and how to deliver them differently to save costs. We have already made significant savings across the council and now we are having to make really difficult decisions on whether certain services remain or not. We are impacted by high costs of materials and services especially in the environment and transport areas where material prices have increased massively, and resources are stretched. Still we strive to ensure we protect the vulnerable in our society and by redesigning and co-designing we do our best to provide what our residents need whilst maintaining all statutory functions. This year we still have areas of recovery from the Covid pandemic, cost of living is still having a large impact, and we are still receiving Ukrainians fleeing the war into the county which means the council has a duty to accommodate, manage health and education requirements whilst settling them into a new country. We must be grateful to our officers for the resilience shown with all the changes required and continual transforming of our services. We are still lobbying MPs and the government for fairer funding for Leicestershire and for the levelling up agenda as you would expect us to do. A meeting was held with the Chancellor recently and follow up meetings are expected. We work collegiately with our partners across the county and regional areas.

In my role as Lead Member of Health and Wellbeing I have been attending many meetings related to the strategic direction of the Integrated Care System for Leicestershire working with all tiers of health and care. The focus during the year has been to set up the ICB (Integrated Care Board) however in the following year I want to see the Integrated Care Partnership taking priority as this is where the opportunities are to make real change to areas that require improvement across the health system. One priority, on which I am very keen to see improvement, is Mental Health, especially in children. We are looking at health inequalities and ensuring that mental health and physical health have equity and are very focused on removing the stigma associated with mental health. This is a big transition and not without challenge. Bringing together different ways of working, governance etc in different organisations is difficult but can be overcome and the commitment to do this is evident. As I have Public Health within my portfolio, I wish to thank all the officers who continually review services and we have been more innovative in some areas than other authorities and this is down to the forward thinking and use of evidence within the department. I chair the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) for Leicestershire County and as such the board will lead the Place part of the Integrated Care System (ICS). I also attend the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and will co-chair the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) for the coming year. This will involve attending a regional forum for ICPs. The HWB and the ICS have

members from all tiers of the health system as well as Police, Healthwatch, Police Commissioner and officers across the departments in County. We have been running surveys and one-to-one meetings with members to ensure the HWB is fit for purpose and has all the right people around the table. Next week we will be hosting the first development session to move the HWB forward in line with being PLACE within the ICS. We have many services we provide such as weight management, suicide prevention, sexual health, domestic and sexual abuse, substance misuse to name a few and have the Local Area Coordinators and Recovery Workers in post to assist in communities with loneliness, engagement, housing etc. We have had a focus on vaping in children as we have seen the increase in accessibility and are working with trading standards. Whilst vapes are a good tool to move smokers away from cigarettes, they are not healthy for non-smokers and children to start using.

I have sat on the panel to distribute grants from the NHS to organisations regarding Adult Mental Health and also chaired our own panel to distribute grants for Mental health.

We are at present looking at our homelessness service which offers outreach and in-reach services but not the hostels accommodation. This is out for consultation at present.

More joint commissioning and work is happening between Public Health, Children and Families and Adult Social Care to maximise opportunities.

I also sit on one of the Foster panels at Leicestershire County Council.

I am available to all residents and have supported a large number with various issues, liaising with appropriate officers and organisations, businesses, police and enforcement and we have had successes. I also use Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to share information that may be of interest to residents and to spot any issues arising from residents' posts. During the year I have dealt with issues around child mental health, foodbanks, education and admissions, SEND, highways, HGVs in small villages which is still on-going, adults with mental health issues, overgrown hedges and clearance of footpaths, continual anti-social behaviour for a resident, as well as dealing with issues within the community regarding the Enderby Hub planning application and traffic issues. I have met with the Police and Crime Commissioner to discuss several issues in the area. I have also had a meeting with my MP, Alberto Costa, Cheryl Cashmore, district councillor and highways officers to discuss the road network in Enderby and surrounding area, pushing for the relief road which is a challenge with the route of the road involving a landfill site, suggesting some other improvements that can be made to try to make congestion a little easier such as Trinity Road, Leicester Lane etc. We also discussed the Foxhunter Roundabout and Desford crossroads.

I am a county councillor and a councillor for Enderby Parish Council too. I attend parish meetings in my division whenever I am available and attend any events I am invited to. I also attend the Business Breakfasts when I can, which are run for the whole area.

Some improvements to Mill Lane, Enderby have started to be implemented and some benches and bins have been installed with use of my Members Highways fund. Some additional improvements are in development.

It is positive to see that the extension of Fosse Park and the Everards development have really bedded in and are very successful. Job fairs are held regularly at Fosse Park and the district council and the leisure opportunities at Everards for walking, cycling etc are very well used.

I have also been working alongside County, District, Borough and City councillors with officers regarding cycle travel into and out from the city. It is important to work together to ensure a safe and clear route for those wishing to commute or for getting out into the open air and leaving the car behind. I attended the opening of the route through from Braunstone into Meridian leisure park beginning the join up from city all the way through to Lubbethorpe, including Thorpe Astley.

I still have some sensitive issues that I am working on so these will remain confidential.

I attended trustee meetings for SACRE whose work oversees Religious Education across Leicestershire when it was possible.

I continued to attend Rural Services Network meetings regarding the Health and Social Care in rural areas and work very closely with the Lead Members for health in Leicester city and Rutland.

I also run my own charity in Tanzania.

**Priorities for the immediate future are:**

To ensure a good outcome of multi-agency working on a sensitive issue in Enderby - on-going. This is moving forward but is complex.

To work collegiately and respectfully with our partner organisations acknowledging that communication and commitment is required to bring about the changes we wish to see.

To start moving the ICP forward now that the ICB is bedded in and to start highlighting areas that require joint work across organisations and to start implementing actions.

To strengthen the Health and Wellbeing Board to be fit for purpose as 'Place' in the ICS and to ensure great representation in the members of the board.

To maintain monitoring of the impact of Fosse Park extension and Everards Meadow on traffic flow and air. More car parking has been provided and the area is very popular. It is good to see them working well with the district council as usual.

To encourage forward action with our Net Zero strategy at Leicestershire County Council as councils can do so much but it requires all of us to make small changes too and engage with community groups regarding walking, cycling, chose how you move, environmental groups etc.

To sort out residents' issues as swiftly as I can and if I can't do anything to be open with them and try to refer them to someone who may be able to help.

To listen and assist residents wherever possible.

To ensure that public health continuously review services, change to better serve our residents wherever possible and to save where possible to assist the financial position of the council.

To do all we can to encourage everyone to be fit, healthy and mobile for as long as possible.

I attend all member training and information sessions unless I have other meetings already committed to and I attend cabinet briefings, cabinet meetings and full council meetings. I also attend group meetings and member briefings. I am invited to the Health Overview and Scrutiny committee meetings and ICB and ICP meetings. Meetings are now sometimes in person and sometimes virtual unless they are public meetings when we are required to be present at county hall, naturally. Having virtual meetings does have a beneficial impact on our carbon emissions and so councillors are supportive of this way of working. Meetings do still take place at County Hall when required.

To monitor the growth of Lubbethorpe and any impacts within surrounding villages to ensure traffic flows smoothly and that facilities e.g., doctors' surgery, schools, shops, leisure centre keep pace with new build.

To monitor fly tipping and ensure enforcement is carried out when possible.

To sit on Foster Panel as often as possible.

### **Local committees/Outside Bodies**

SACRE – Trustee

RCN

Enderby Parish Council

ICP

ICB

LLR Mental Health Collaborative

### **Other bodies – School governors/community and charity organisations etc**

Tumaini Jipya-New Hope – Trustee

Member of Rotary Club of Blaby

### **Leaning and development:**

As many members' workshops, training, etc that I could attend. I also attended Members briefings on varying subjects. I go to webinars and information sessions regarding Health/NHS/ICS/Kings Fund etc and try to utilise free opportunities as much as possible to retain as much as possible for services and reduce the carbon footprint.

### **Social Media**

Personal and charity accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn and my email address as councillor. Used to pick up on problem areas and to share any messages or information from LCC.

**Signed by Councillor H L Richardson**

**Date 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**