



**Leicestershire  
County Council**

**DEBORAH  
TAYLOR**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
BRADGATE DIVISION  
2023/2024**

## *Electoral Division Activities and Impact*

Impact – Visible, involved, approachable, working hard for my residents.

### **Casework**

I have dealt with many issues raised by residents that have affected them personally and the wider community. I take on challenges daily and try to be fair with all parties involved. I am not always able to find the perfect answers, but I always work to achieve a satisfactory compromise for all parties involved.

Impact – Working together with residents, partners, and local authorities to find solutions and make improvements to my residents' lives.



### *Family Hubs*

Leicestershire County Council received £1m of government investment to create new spaces across the County called 'Family Hubs'.

'Family hubs' will be 'one-stop-shops' where parents and carers can access family advice and support services in Leicestershire.

The hubs will be a mixture of physical and virtual spaces, where people can have easy access to a range of guidance on issues such as social care, education, debt management and mental and physical health.

Leicestershire is one of twelve local authorities to secure a slice of a £12m pot of grant funding to transform the way services are delivered for families. The scheme will benefit families with 0–19-year-olds (or 25 for young people with special educational needs or disabilities).

The physical hubs will be in existing buildings such as libraries, and children and family wellbeing centres, where staff will be specially trained to offer and signpost to the right support.

It is envisaged that information, advice, and guidance will also be available at the time families need it through outreach, a catch-all website with a long-term ambition of adding virtual support such as video calling.

The county's family hubs are now set up and running very well for our families.

Between May 2023 and April 2024, we have opened 36 Family Hubs. I have attended most of the openings, cut the ribbons and cakes and enjoyed spending time with all our families that supported our openings.

The new Family Hubs website (<https://www.familyhubsleicestershire.org.uk/>) is now launched.

The 'Big Six' Hubs opened are:

- Coalville Children and Family Wellbeing Centre
- Loughborough West Children and Family Wellbeing Centre
- Venture House Melton Children and Family Wellbeing Centre
- Hinckley Granville Children and Family Wellbeing Centre
- Market Harborough Children and Family Wellbeing Centre
- Wigston Magna Children and Family Wellbeing Centre



## Here is a snapshot of some of my activities throughout the year

### MAY 2023

I have now been approved as a Peer Mentor for the Local Government Association (LGA). This involves sharing my experiences and knowledge with other Local Authorities and Councillors to help them make improvements and changes to their operations to support their residents. I undertook my first assignment at the end of May and spent an enjoyable morning with fellow Councillors at Staffordshire County Council to look at all their scrutiny work. I really enjoyed the session, and I took a lot of learning away with me.

I led a cross party working group at the council, trialling some new software to enable all elected members to keep track of their personal casework that they do for their residents. This software will improve how we work for our residents. Following a successful trial and personalisation, this software has been rolled out to all councillors and training has now been provided.

I attended a regional meeting with my East Midlands colleagues in my capacity as Chair of the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland Police and Crime Panel. This is a useful opportunity for us to share issues affecting us all and to share good practices. I always get a lot out of meetings with my peers.

### JUNE 2023



At the end of June, I enjoyed a visit to Warning Zone, a life skills centre, in Leicester. This is a fantastic charity that is to all year 6 primary school children.



Their mission is to deliver life-saving messages to children aged 10-11, catching them on a key transition in their lives as they venture into secondary schools where they are introduced to many new experiences.

We were shown around all the different zones, including water safety, online safety, and drug and alcohol use.



I attended the ceremony at County Hall to mark Armed Forces Day.



I attended the first Family Hub Conference in Kegworth with all our partners to learn about the early work of the Family Hubs and our key programmes such as 'Reducing Parental Conflict' and 'Start for Life'. Both these programmes support families and early childhood. The response from partners was very encouraging and this will ensure our Family Hubs are a very successful project and support all our families and their children.



## JULY 2023



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, I enjoyed attending our Children in Care Choir, Beacon Voices, summer concert.

They sang beautifully, and I particularly enjoyed the Abba Medley at the end!

It is great to see this group of vulnerable children forming friendships and gaining confidence as they progress throughout their lives.

I was invited to the Anstey WI annual garden party in July. The weather was not kind to us and on a very wet Wednesday afternoon we headed off inside. I did manage to enjoy some lovely homemade cakes before I had to rush off for a scheduled meeting. It was great to see all the ladies enjoying getting together outside of their regular meetings to enjoy a social afternoon.



Community spirit at its best!

I enjoy learning and training so this year I decided to embark on an accredited LGA Leadership course at Warwick University. The course was broken down into three modules, each covering two days per module.

I attended the first module of Leadership Training in July and the second and third modules in September and October to complete the course this year. It was great to finish the course and I have learnt so many new skills to enhance my current leadership within the County Council. I now look forward to my graduation in June 2024 with fellow councillors who have also completed the course in 2023.

Over the school summer holidays, I visited a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme at Fearon Hall, Loughborough. I enjoyed watching the dancing session, joined the children for a colouring session (I was told to stay within the lines!), and then headed outside to enjoy the football session. It was a great day, and the children were delighted I joined in their fun.



I was pleased to be re-elected as the Chair of Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland, Police and Crime Panel at the AGM held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023. We welcomed many new members following the local elections, so I will support them over the next few months to get them up to speed on this important panel.

### **AUGUST 2023**

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August, I was delighted to attend the opening of the new Youth and Community Hall, Woodhouse Eaves. The Woodhouse Eaves Scouts received £100,000 to put towards the new hall and the rest of the money was raised through the local community fundraising and some very generous donations.

The hall is a great space for everyone to enjoy and the next project is to create a lovely open garden at the front.



### **SEPTEMBER 2023**



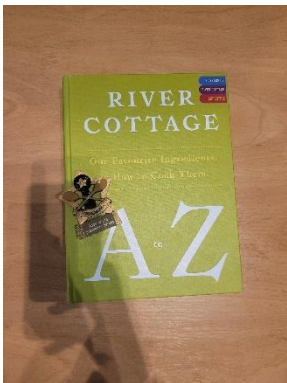
On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September, I visited Belvoirdale School in Coalville with my Cabinet Support Member, Craig Smith. The Head Teacher, Richard Dax, showed us around and I learned about the wonderful things that this school is doing. The children and staff enjoyed telling us all about the school and the things they love to do.



On an extremely hot Saturday afternoon on 9<sup>th</sup> September, I attended the Anstey Gala and the Swithland Flower and Vegetable Show. Both events were very busy, and it is always enjoyable to get out and about and chat to local residents.



I also attended the Anstey Gala Service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September on the recreation ground, organised by Churches Together in Anstey.



A waste recipe competition was launched in March as part of Food Waste Action Week. The competition was to highlight how great food can be created from leftovers.

With research estimating that wasting food costs the average UK family more than £700 a year, the competition joins the Food Waste Action Week's theme of 'Win, Don't Bin', showing that everyday actions and simple recipes can avoid unnecessary food waste.

I was delighted to award a member of our staff the 'food waste prevention hero' prize from our internal competition for staff members. The winner made a delicious lime drizzle cake from a large quantity of limes donated to one of our community fridges.

It was great to welcome the Road Safety Partnership to County Hall to hear all about the work they do to improve the safety of our roads. The team showed us all the equipment at their disposal, but the highlight of their visit was the new camera van with a 360-degree roof camera.



## OCTOBER 2023



On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October, I got into the Christmas spirit and headed over to Hinckley Fire Station to join the launch of Hinckley and Bosworth's Toy and Food Appeal.

The Fire service support this event every year and started off the appeal with a cheque for £1,000 that the station had raised. It's a fantastic appeal, which supported families in need over the Christmas period.





In my role as Chair of the Police and Crime Panel, I am keen for the panel to familiarise themselves with the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). To do this I encourage regular visits by the panel to Leicestershire Police HQ to see how the police operate on the budget allocated to them by the PCC.

On this visit, on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023, we were hosted by Chief Inspector Botte, who gave us a great insight into the Leicestershire Training Academy.

We also visited Victim First run by Catch 22, a service commissioned by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), who help victims and witnesses in Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland to cope and recover from the impact of crime, regardless of how long ago it happened, or whether it was reported to the police.



The Fostering Team at the County Council regularly hold 'Find out about Fostering' events, in person and virtually. I like to join them to support this important work in recruiting new fosters carers. On this evening in October, the Fostering team were also joined by Beacon Voices, our Children in Care choir. It was a lovely evening to meet some of the families attending but also to enjoy the singing of our choir. The biscuits are always very nice as well!

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> I was invited to 'Leicestershire Cares', who are a charity with a vision for an inclusive and safe Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland where nobody is left behind, and all children and young people are supported to reach their full potential ( [www.leicestershirecares.co.uk/](http://www.leicestershirecares.co.uk/) ).

I went to listen to the research the young people had completed about making Care Leavers a Protected Characteristic. This will ensure that care leavers are given the right support to move into their adult life, fully supported.





## NOVEMBER 2023



I had an enjoyable day at De Montfort University attending our 'Pride in Practice' event. This is an annual event where the whole Social Care Team for Children comes together and celebrates some of the excellent work we do all year with our families. There is also an award ceremony for those members of staff who have gone above and beyond.

We also share some wellbeing sessions and enjoy the day together.



I was delighted to be invited to St Paul's Church of England Primary School in Woodhouse to enjoy a lovely school dinner.

It was a roast dinner day, so roast pork was on the menu.



The children were very welcoming, and they were very chatty as we enjoyed lunch together.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, I paid my respects to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice defending their country. I attended the church in Anstey for the Roll of Honour Service before heading to Swithland to join the residents and lay my wreath on behalf of the residents of the County.



I visited one of our two Oakfield School's which are our Pupil Referral Units. It was great to have a tour of the school, meet the staff and meet the children.

It was all very calm and productive in the classrooms, and I learned of some of the successes in enabling some children to return to mainstream school.



At the end of November, I travelled to Bournemouth for the annual National Children and Adult Services Conference.



This conference enables me to mix with my peers from other local authorities around the UK, attend many events that relate to my work, and gives me an opportunity to speak to Government Ministers.



I attended the National Police and Crime Panels Conference at Warwick University. This is a great opportunity to meet other Chairs of panels, share good practices and gain an understanding of the national picture.

I was invited to chair the closing plenary to draw the day to a close and to discuss the issues/any actions that arose from the morning and next steps. This was slightly out of my comfort zone, but a good challenge for me to gain new skills.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable (CC) held public meetings across Leicestershire to hear from local residents about their local area and how the PCC and CC could do more to support them. I attended the public meeting held within Charnwood at Fearon Hall, Loughborough. It was a useful evening to meet the police team for the area and listen to resident's concerns.



I was contacted by a local resident who had lost her partner very young, and her young son was struggling to cope with the loss of his father.

She asked for help into the possibility of getting a 'letterbox to heaven' in Anstey Cemetery so her son could write letters and cards to his daddy. I worked with the Parish Council to see if this was possible. They, in turn, then worked with our local funeral directors who very kindly offered to pay for the letterbox.

It was an emotional moment when I saw the letterbox in place, and I hope this brings comfort to those who are sadly bereaved.

## DECEMBER 2023



I attended many Christmas events in December. One of the many highlights for me, was the Christmas concert by Beacon Voices, our Children in Care Choir.



I regularly share our Trading Standards newsletters and promote the work of our small but efficient team.



## Welcome to our Spring 2024 Newsletter

The latest news of our work and advice on scams and consumer issues.

## JANUARY 2024



I promoted the 'Make Your Mark Campaign'. This is an opportunity for 11-18 year olds across the UK to have their say and begin their democratic journey by voting on the policies they want to introduce or change.

The issues that they vote on as the most important will be debated by Members of Youth Parliament. They campaign to influence the UK Parliament and their local representatives, ensuring that the views of young people are listened to by decision makers. This is a great opportunity for our young people to influence decision makers who can make a real difference on the issues that matter to them.

## FEBRUARY 2024

On 27<sup>th</sup> February I went over to Derby City Council to join colleagues from across the East Midlands for a quarterly update on Counter Terrorism (CT) and the Prevent Duty. Due to the events happening across the world currently, and as the Lead for CT at Leicestershire



County Council (LCC), it is vital that I keep up to date in this important area concerning public safety for all our residents in Leicestershire.

I was delighted to attend Rosemary & Michael's retirement party. They have been fostering with us for over 30 years and we wanted to recognise the wonderful role they have played in caring for our children and their wider role within the LCC Fostering Service. It was a lovely tea party for them and several of the children they had cared for in the past were able to join us.

### MARCH 2024



On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, I was invited to attend the Leicester Riders basketball game against the Cheshire Phoenix at the Mattioli Arena Leicester as Lead Member for Children and Families at LCC.



The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, Mike Kapur very kindly provided 50 tickets for Children in Care and their carers from across Leicester and Leicestershire to enjoy the game. All the children and their families had a fantastic time. Not only did I enjoy the match, but I saw our children having such an exciting time, and the Leicester Riders won!



Invest in women: accelerate progress  
International Women's Day 2024

International Women's Day shines a spotlight on some of the incredible women and girls we have in our communities.

I can sometimes be the only female at meetings and I know that investing more time and energy to encourage women into politics will have a ripple effect for families and communities.

Societies that value both women and men as equals are safer, healthier and children are protected – that is why it is so important.

Councillor Deborah Taylor  
Lead Member for Children and Families  
Leicestershire County Council  
www.lcc.gov.uk/leicester-and-rutland/12-106-uk

On International Women's Day 2024, I was delighted to be asked to feature in the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland's Health and Wellbeing Partnership celebrations, also appearing on their X feed.

On St Patrick's Day, 17th March, I was one of the panel guests on the BBC Politics East Midlands TV show. I was rather nervous during the recording, but I was pleased to be part of the program to speak on behalf of Leicestershire residents. The topics covered were Local Government Funding, Women in Business, Childcare, Mayoral Elections for Nottinghamshire, and Derbyshire – quite an agenda!



This was another experience that was out of my comfort zone!

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, I attended our second Family Hub Conference. The conference was attended by many of our partners involved in our Family Hubs model and the day focused on our work with families and how we can move this to the next level now most of our Family Hubs are open. Everyone attending the conference was asked to share their pledge for the next year.

### My Pledge

To ensure that I spread the message far and wide about Family Hubs.

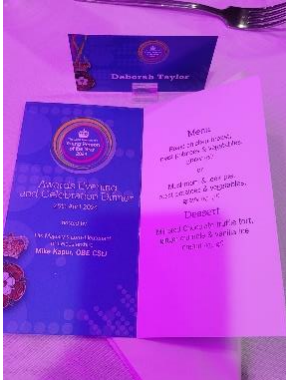
This is to ensure that every families living in Leicestershire has access to support and guidance to enable them to live long and happy lives together.

Deborah Taylor  
Leicestershire County Council

The Family Hub website has been launched and there is work ongoing to add more and more information on the website over the next few months.

<https://www.familyhubsleicestershire.org.uk/>

### APRIL 2024



I was honoured to be invited to the Lord-Lieutenant's Young Person of the Year 2024 awards ceremony. It was an inspirational evening and highlighted just a few of the amazing young people we have in Leicestershire.

I was delighted that Charlie won the Young Volunteer of the Year for all the work he does in supporting young carers. Charlie cares for his mum, and it was an honour to be seated with them for the celebration dinner.





I attended the Youth Endowment Fund Conference on 'What works to prevent children becoming involved in violence' in Birmingham.



It was an interesting day and lots of information shared, including their very useful toolkit: - An overview of existing research on approaches to preventing serious youth violence: - <https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/toolkit/>

I visited Brockington College in Enderby over the Easter holidays to join all the children who were attending the Football and Fitness Holiday Activities and Food Scheme (HAF). The HAF program is funded by the Department for Education to ensure that children who qualify for free school meals are fed healthy food over the school holidays.



This HAF program had 130 children attending on the day I was there, and there was a mixture of funded and non-funded children, but the team did a great job of being all inclusive.

I took part in a game dodge ball, learnt archery, made smoothies, and joined in the girl's football practice. It was an amazing morning, and all the children and staff were very welcoming and didn't want us to leave.

You can take a look at how we got on in this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpdveLCPpmY>





As the lighter evenings start to stretch out, it was great to attend the Leicestershire Music Hub spring concert at De Montfort Hall. The evening's show I attended featured six local primary schools performing a musical extravaganza; Leics Create, co-produced by Sinfonia Viva and Orchestras Live. This was an amazing production, and it was great to see two of our special schools joining in on the stage.

There were also performances from the **Leicestershire** Music Strictly Strings, Junior Concert Band and Steel Pan Orchestras, along with Church Langton Primary School Taiko drummers.



## ***Lead Member for Children and Families Activities and Impact***

Impact – raising the profile of Children and Families within Leicestershire and promoting the hard work of the department.

### **MAY 2023**



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023 was the opening of our very first Family Hub in Coalville.

Here is an action shot of the first ribbon cutting!



And when ribbon cutting goes wrong!

## JUNE 2023



I had a lovely morning visiting Loughborough University Nursery to see the splendid work that they are doing there with their cohort of 102 preschool children. They are split into three areas to cover all the age ranges from babies to school-ready children.

I had a tour of the facilities and spoke to many of the children enjoying their time there. The 3-4-year-olds were learning all about bees on the day I visited and were thoroughly enjoying learning about how bees produce their honey.

## JULY 2023

I wanted to see how the Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) was operating out in the community. I was warmly welcomed at the Agar Nook Community Centre in Coalville, to meet the children enjoying activities provided by the HAF programme.

HAF is a free and exciting holiday programme for school-aged children and young people receiving benefits-related free school meals. HAF sessions offer a variety of fun activities alongside a nutritious meal.

I enjoyed painting 'Be Kind' stones and speaking to the children about how they were enjoying the activities provided by KISP (<https://www.active-together.org/directory/knowledge-is-power>).



HAF is a great programme to keep children entertained and learning throughout the school holidays.



## AUGUST 2023

I attended the 'Breaking the Ground' ceremony for the new Bowman Academy. In March 2019, the Department for Education confirmed that Leicestershire County Council's bid to

establish a special free school was approved. The Bowman Academy will be sited on the former St Botolphs Primary school site in Shepshed and is due to open in September 2024.

Leicestershire County Council were the only authority in the East Midlands to be successful in bidding for a special free school which will provide up to 60 places for children with Social, Emotional, and Mental Health needs.

Facilities will include a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), a variety of classrooms, including science and art studios, as well as a music room, a sensory / immersion room, and a quiet, calming room.



## SEPTEMBER 2023



On Wednesday 20th September, I visited the Hinckley Children and Families Centre, where they were hosting a visit from UK Harvest ([www.ukharvest.org.uk](http://www.ukharvest.org.uk)) a charity whose mission is to prevent food waste and food insecurity by enriching and educating our communities.

There is a wealth of information on their website, including some great recipes to use up left over food.

## OCTOBER 2023



On 10<sup>th</sup> October, I was over in Hugglescote for the group-breaking ceremony and ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new school and open spaces. This school is part of a large housing development and will be a Leicestershire's first Forest School. This enables teaching to take place outside as well as inside, enabling a more dynamic teaching environment.

## NOVEMBER 2023

I was delighted to help plant a magnolia acuminata tree, otherwise known as a cucumber tree, to show the council's commitment to supporting young people coming out of care.





The new tree has found its home outside of the County Hall offices, representing Leicestershire County Council's goals to help their care leavers grow and thrive. The tree - nicknamed a 'positivtree' - also acts as a promise to continue developing the support on offer for the future.



The council offers support to 442 care leavers aged 18-25 years, providing young people with a range of help, including a personal advisor, financial advice and support securing housing, employment or pursuing further education.

## DECEMBER 2023



It is always a great start to the festive period to attend one of Leicestershire Music Hub Christmas concert.

## JANUARY 2024



After putting the first spade in the ground back in August 2023 for the 'Breaking the Ground' ceremony for the new Bowman Academy special school, it was great to head back to the new Bowman Academy to see the great progress that has been made.

We were invited to have a tour of the building and to also sign the wall before it was plastered. I look forward to the official opening of the school in September 2024.

## FEBRUARY 2024

I have been working with Leicestershire Cares, a charity that supports young people.

Their aim is for an inclusive and safe Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland where nobody is left behind, and where all children and young people are supported to reach their full potential.

Back in October 2023, I met with Peer researchers on the 'Joining Up Joining In' project at Leicestershire Cares to discuss how being care experienced impacts on adult lives.

After a considerable amount of work on this project, at the council meeting on 21st February 2024, I was delighted to put forward a Motion to Leicestershire County Council to recognise 'Care Experienced' as a protected characteristic. All the council members approved the motion put forward.

I am now encouraging and supporting all the local borough and district councils within Leicestershire to also approve this Motion. This should ensure that people who have been in care experience the same opportunities in life as everyone else.



## MARCH 2024



In March 2024 the government announced investment of £850 million for councils to create new places for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and in Alternative Provision (AP) in mainstream and special schools, and to improve the accessibility of existing buildings.

Leicestershire was allocated £11,235,469 and we are now planning on how that funding can be best spent to support our children in Leicestershire.

APRIL 2024



In April 2024, the Children and Families Department were visited by Ofsted for a three-week full Inspection of all our children services. The whole department worked very hard before and during the inspection.

We are now waiting for their full written report and our grading.

## *Community Work and Leadership*

Impact – Representing my community across the County

### *County Council Committees*

**County Council:** I have attended all meetings of the County Council throughout the year, and I have spoken on several issues, including being a champion for Children and Families.

**Deputy Leader:** I was re-elected as Deputy Leader in May 2023. I have been honoured to serve in this role for the past year and was delighted to be re-elected for another year. This role involves supporting the Leader, Chief Executive, and senior officers in all matters and guiding the direction of the council. It has been a very busy year and much of the time has been spent dealing with the financial pressures that the council faces as we are the lowest-funded county council in the country, but also one of the most efficient.

We have also worked closely with the government and our MPs to look at securing a 'County Deal' for Leicestershire. This has taken up a large amount of my time and energy and continues into 2024/25.

I attend the Senior Co-ordination Group (weekly) with the Leader and senior colleagues, Cabinet Briefing, Cabinet, Growth Advisory Board, Investing in Leicestershire Programme Board, Constitution Committee, and Group Leaders' Meeting.

I represent the Leader as and when required and I lead the council in the Leader's absence. I attend Star Chambers meetings – these meetings look at the forward finances for the department, in both the Children and Families Department and the Regulatory Services that are part of my Portfolio.

**Cabinet:** Lead Member for Children and Families, Community Safety and Regulatory Services: I attend a variety of meetings with partners and officers at LCC within my role. I attend a weekly Lead member meeting with the Children and Families Director, Assistant Directors, and my Support Cabinet Lead Member. Other Heads of Service also attend some of these meetings to provide updates. I attend a monthly catch-up with the Head of Regulatory Services, to discuss various service areas including Trading Standards, East Midlands Airport Import control, Registration services, and Coroners Service.



### **As part of my Lead Member role, I attend:**

Children Innovation Partnership Board (CIP) meeting; attended meetings with our partners. Barnardo's. We have now progressed the partnership to acquiring and running small children's homes to house some of our young people, including a parent and baby complex. The first buildings are now looking after our young people, and we also have our Parent and Baby home up and running.

Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership; Also work alongside Leicester Safeguarding Children Partnership Board. We also work together with both the above and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Adults Partnership and Leicester Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board.

**Police and Crime Panel (PCP);** I am the representative on the PCP for the council, as the lead for community safety. I was re-elected Chairman of the panel at the AGM in June 2023. We have held panels for the new Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer. The panel has made vast improvements over the year and is working well with the democratic support officers and the Office of the PCC. I have also worked on getting training in place to enable the panel to fulfil their duties with much more experience and knowledge.

**Prevent Executive;** I am the representative on the Prevent Executive for the council. This is to ensure the council meets their prevent duty. I have also undertaken some training this year on Prevent and now meet with regional colleagues and the Home Office Regional Prevent Lead.

**Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance (RIIA);** I am a member of the Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance (RIIA) Executive Board Meeting, which looks at how government improvement funding is spent across the region. I also attend the Department for Education RIIA Lead member/Chief Exec SEND sounding board for updates on the SEND and AP Change Programme

**Senior Management Group (SMG);** A meeting of the senior leadership in the Children and Families Department. High level issues are shared and discussed.

**East Midlands Council Lead Members;** I attend the regional meeting of Lead Member for Children and Families. Meetings are held to discuss regional issues affecting all the Local Authorities.

**LEEP;** Leicestershire Education Excellence Partnership; Partnership for ongoing education excellence.

**School Forum;** A termly meeting with partners from the education sector to discuss budgets and improvements needed.

**Head Teacher catch ups;** A regular catch up with Leicestershire School Head Teachers, once a term.

**KIT;** Attended many 'Keeping in Touch' meetings within various sections of the department. This enables me to meet the staff and find out what is working well and what areas need further work.

**DfE meetings at LCC;** attended various meetings during the year with Department of Education representatives.

**Defining Children Services for the Future;** attended meetings to have oversight of the work.

**TSIL;** Transforming Send and Inclusion in Leicestershire (TSIL) working with partners to provide SEND support for children in a timely way within the budget given to us by the government.

I also regularly attend:

Send and Inclusion Board; Health and Wellbeing Board; Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Board; Children in Care Council; Supporting Young People After Care (SYPAC); Scrutiny Commission when requested.

#### **As Lead Member I Chair:**

- Social Care Panel
- Children and Families Partnership
- Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board (LSCSB)
- Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board (DALPB)
- Corporate Parenting Board (Co-Chair with a young person).

#### **Local Committees/Outside Bodies:**

- Bradgate Park and Swithland Woods Committee of Management
- Bradgate Quarries Liaison Committee
- Groby Quarry Liaison Committee
- Loughborough Town Deal Board.

#### **Communications**

Contact with various departments and officers at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) for assistance with my casework. This has been via email, telephone calls and virtual/face-to-face meetings. I also deal with various departments at Charnwood Borough Council and Parish Councils within my division for casework. I also work with fellow councillors to solve local issues.

- Attended various information and catch-up meetings with officers from the Children and Families Service to gain information and advice and to move projects forward
- Dealt with developers regarding maintaining their estates whilst awaiting handovers to the relevant councils. This included rubbish, ground maintenance, vandalism and dog bins not being emptied
- Part of the Interview panel for new Academies to open new Special schools

- Contact with various utility companies to deal with local issues
- Contact with schools and businesses in my division
- Contact with Charnwood Police to deal with issues and prevent crime, deal with highway issues and Anti-Social Behaviour
- BBC Radio Leicester interviews
- Local Regional TV interviews.

I write and publish a monthly report in 'Your Local' magazine that is delivered to all villages within my division: <https://issuu.com/norwoodpress>

I write and publish a monthly report in 'Roundabout' magazine that is delivered to Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves:

<https://www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/news/tags/Roundabout>

In addition, I attend various coffee mornings and events within my division on a regular basis.

I have attended most of my parish council meetings and kept in touch by email and telephone calls with the Clerks.

I have held in-person meetings with my residents when requested. I have been very active with all my social media platforms and website. I have shared valuable information and guidance for residents.

I am on the following social media platforms:

X - [twitter.com/CllrDTaylor](https://twitter.com/CllrDTaylor)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/CllrDTaylor/](https://www.facebook.com/CllrDTaylor/)

Instagram – [instagram.com/cllr\\_deborah\\_taylor](https://www.instagram.com/cllr_deborah_taylor)

I have also produced a website ( <https://www.bradgateconservatives.org.uk/> ). This also includes my fellow borough councillors who are within my Bradgate division. I am promoting the website through my social media, by regular newsletters sent to subscribers and in my monthly articles in 'Your Local' magazine and the Woodhouse Eaves Roundabout magazine.

This is to ensure that I am as visible as possible for my residents, so that they can contact me easily, and they can obtain relevant up-to-date information as they need it.

For updated news scan here:



*Cllr Deborah Taylor*  
31/05/2024