



Leicestershire  
County Council

**2024/2025**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**BRADGATE DIVISION**



**Prepared by:  
Deborah Taylor**

## *Electoral Division Activities and Impact*

Impact – I was visible, involved, approachable, worked hard for my residents.

### **Casework**

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

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



### *Acting Leader*

In July 2024, the Leader of the County Council announced he was stepping back due to health issues. As the Deputy Leader, I immediately stepped into the role of Acting Leader. This occurred just after the general election, so I was busy meeting all the new and returning MPs, getting to know various partners, and beginning to build professional relationships. I also met senior officers to understand their Directorates. I continued to serve as the Lead Member for Children and Families, and as there was nothing in our Constitution to allow me to appoint a Deputy Leader, it was a very full year. I thoroughly enjoyed my new role; it was a steep learning curve, but I learned so much about the complexity of running a county council.

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

Leicestershire County Council, along with other local authorities in Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland, is undergoing a significant local government reorganisation prompted by the UK Government's English Devolution White Paper, published in December 2024. The goal is to replace the existing two-tier system of county and district councils with larger unitary authorities to streamline services, reduce costs, and facilitate devolution of powers and funding.

An Interim Business Case was required to be submitted to the government by March 2025. There was a huge piece of work for the council to undertake. Following meetings and discussions with all the councils within Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland (LLR), it became clear that agreement would not be possible across the area; therefore, three different proposals were submitted to the government for the LLR area.



Leicestershire County Council Proposal: Advocates for a single unitary authority for Leicestershire (excluding Leicester City and Rutland), serving approximately 720,000 residents. This "doughnut" model would maintain existing boundaries for Leicester City and Rutland, aiming to simplify services like recycling and social care whilst saving costs by reducing management and elections. The council argues this avoids risks to service stability, particularly in social care, and maximizes economies of scale.

All the details can be found here:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/council-plans/local-government-reorganisation>

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

## MAY 2024

I attended a regional training session on Counter Terrorism, and I also chaired a briefing on the 'Prevent' agenda for all County Councillors.



On 5<sup>th</sup> May on a lovely sunny Sunday, I popped along to Woodhouse Eaves to visit the Woodhouse Eaves Sustainable Living Fair. The fair was being held at the local village halls.

There were some great stalls to visit and lots of information to take away. It was busy when I visited, which was good to see, and the homemade cakes were delicious.

## Stalking



I raise awareness of local and national campaigns. Here is an example of one of the campaigns I shared on stalking.

Following National Stalking Awareness week held in April (an annual event that is led by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust) the Violence Reduction Unit shared some useful information from the University of Leicester.

## What is Stalking?

Stalking is defined as persistent and unwanted attention by any person including; partner, family member or stranger.

To be defined as stalking, the behaviour needs to be seen as; fixated, obsessive, unwanted, and repeated. This can result in the victim experiencing; alarm, distress, fear and significantly impact their quality of life.

The website is packed with insights and support services for students and the wider community: <https://reportandsupport.le.ac.uk/campaigns/national-stalking-awareness-campaign-2024>



On Monday 20th May, as a Trustee at Bradgate Park Trust, I was delighted to attend Bradgate Park as it was declared a National Nature Reserve (NNR) to protect its geological and archaeological treasures.

Natural England announced the new status for Bradgate Park as part of His Majesty The King's series of National Nature Reserves. The 830-acre (336-hectare) park was recognised as part of a project to celebrate King Charles III's coronation the previous year. The park, home to some of England's most important geology dating back to the Precambrian period, more than half a billion years ago, and a herd of 550 deer and trees up to 800 years old, was already a protected Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The NNR will protect geological and archaeological treasures and create a bigger and better-connected area for wildlife.

## JUNE 2024

I joined the Bradgate Park volunteers' summer barbecue celebration event on Friday 14th June. The Trust has over 210 active volunteers, and the park would not function without their support and work across the park and Swithland Woods. It was great to chat with some of the volunteers and thank them for their hard work to ensure the park is looked after for generations to come.



On the morning of Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June, I attended, with some of my fellow councillors, the flag raising at the Stand Easy Memorial at County Hall to commemorate 80 years of the D-Day landings.

In the evening, I attended the D-Day service at Leicester Cathedral.





On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June, I headed to Warwick University to graduate from the Leadership Diploma I completed last year. It was great to meet with my colleagues from around the country who completed the course with me last year.



Over 100 councillors were attending their graduation. We received our certificates, took part in some workshops, and enjoyed dinner together, taking some time out to discuss how we would use our knowledge and training gained from our diploma for the benefit of our residents and councils.

## JULY 2024

I visited Chesterfield to meet the newly elected Mayor of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and discussed how we could work together for the benefit of all our residents. I also met with a couple of our new MPs for the County and established relationships between parliament and the county council to ensure a good working relationship. As Acting Leader, I was invited to several of the new government's webinars, which covered the proposed new planning framework and the early release of prisoners. There was also a flurry of letters sent to the local authority from the new government regarding plans and changes that were being put in place, and we await further details.



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 2024. 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.



The Leicester Scouts' Annual duck race was a highlight of the year. Held in Anstey, the ducks raced along the Rothley Brook to win for their supporters. The ducks were recovered from the big catch net by brave collectors wading in the brook. The event drew crowds, who enjoyed a barbecue and games.

## AUGUST 2024



I spent much of the summer visiting activities and events supported by the council. This included a visit to one of our Family Hubs, where I enjoyed meeting the Rapid Relief Team, who supported communities in times of need. They also make a great burger!



## SEPTEMBER 2024

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, I was invited to Parliament by our MP, Peter Bedford. I sat in the public gallery in the House of Commons (HoC) and watched Prime Minister's Question Time. I also had a tour of the Palace of Westminster, visited Peter's office to meet some of his staff, and enjoyed lunch in Stranger's restaurant. It was a very enjoyable day, and I was in awe to see the traditions upheld in the HoC, which felt very British to me.



Peter Bedford MP, the MP for my Division, is always happy to attend events and support our local area. This was at a quiz night held locally, which we both attended.

I continued to meet new and returning MPs for Leicestershire, including Edward Argar MP, Luke Evans MP, and Amanda Hack MP. These meetings are useful to build relationships and ensure the council's views on issues are fed back to the government.



I attended Anstey Gala on 14th September, along with fellow councillors, Paul Baines, and David Snartt. Our MP, Peter Bedford, spent an hour with us, and it was great to introduce him to many of our residents. I am in regular contact with Peter, which makes for great partnership working on issues that matter to us and our residents.



On the following Sunday morning, I attended the Churches Together Gala Service. I was honoured to be asked by our Revd, Matthew Gough, to do a reading and to nominate a charity to receive half of the collection on the day. I nominated 'Living without Abuse' (LWA), a charity based in Loughborough, who provide help and support for anyone suffering abuse.



I was delighted to hear that £220 had been raised at the service and that LWA had received £110, with the other £110 donated to Churches Together in Anstey.

## OCTOBER 2024

### *Flooding*

I share valuable information with my residents, either in published reports in local magazines or via my social media platforms and website. For example, I shared information about flooding.



Key agencies across Leicestershire teamed up and called on communities to protect their homes from flooding as part of an updated social media campaign.

You can get yourself prepared for flooding by:

- Ensuring your home insurance policy for flood cover
- Signing up for flood warning - [www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings)
- Making a flood plan - [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/prepare-for-flooding](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/prepare-for-flooding)
- Checking your flood risk - [www.gov.uk/check-flooding](https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding)
- Preparing your home - <https://www.llrprepared.org.uk/be-aware/flooding/>

Residents could also follow Leicestershire County Council on social media for live updates and warnings on flooding and weather throughout the year. Experts from Leicestershire County Council, the Environment Agency, district and borough councils, water companies, and other key organisations were on hand to help.



I was delighted to receive my pin badge from the Violence Reduction Network to celebrate five years since its formation. I was there right from the start, and the work they have achieved in such a short period has been amazing. I am honoured to have been part of their journey

## NOVEMBER 2024



With the support of my team, we delivered my Autumn update newsletter to residents across my Division. Residents can also read my update by scanning this QR code.



On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, the senior leadership team at the council and I met with the East Midlands Mayor, Claire Ward, to discuss further partnership work.

### *Beaumanor Hall*

I was delighted to hear that Beaumanor Hall's (Woodhouse) educational school activity programme was honoured for the 14th year in a row. Beaumanor Hall, in my Division, is a valued resource. Many Leicestershire school children enjoyed the council-run Beaumanor Hall's array of learning experiences from the foundation stage up to post-16. As the Lead Member for Children and Families, it was important to me that young people had this experience.

The venue marked its 50th year of hosting young people from across Leicestershire and other parts of the country and received the 'Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge' – the only nationally recognised scheme highlighting the quality of learning for all types of learning outside the classroom. The LOtC Quality Badge was endorsed by the Department of Education.



On Remembrance Sunday, I laid a wreath on behalf of the people of Leicestershire at the Anstey War Memorial.



## DECEMBER 2024



To kick start the festive season, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, I visited the Christmas Event at Jubilee Hall in Anstey. It was great to see the new extension being well used by the community. I enjoyed seeing the nicely decorated trees on display, and well done to everyone who made the effort to take part.



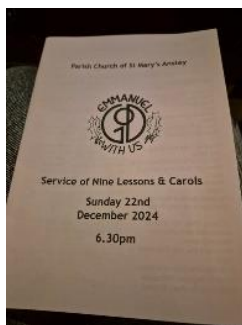
Peter Bedford MP joined me at the weekly 'coffee and cake' morning in Newtown Linford, run by volunteers to bring residents together for coffee, cake, a chat, and to ensure everyone was looked after.



I was delighted to join the Councillor Nick, Chair of Glenfield Parish Council, to switch on the Christmas lights. It was remarkably busy, and it was great to see so many families enjoying the festive period.



My final week at work before the festive break included helping pack bags of toys and food vouchers for our vulnerable families in the Hinckley and Bosworth area, thanks to the generous donations to the Hinckley and Bosworth Toy Appeal.



On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, I was invited to read one of the Nine Lessons at the church service at St Mary's church in Anstey. It was lovely to be with the local community, singing carols and getting in the Christmas spirit.

## JANUARY 2025



On Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, along with my fellow Borough councillor, Paul Baines, we hosted another Burn's Night to raise money for 'Living Without Abuse', a local charity that supports victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. We were delighted that the Mayor of Charnwood attended, and we raised over £800 on the night.



Another charity event, organised by the Bradgate Rotary Club, 'Freeze Your Bits Off,' was a sponsored walk in aid of breast and prostate cancer charities. The three-mile walk through Bradgate Park was undertaken by 300 walkers, and I won a prize for the best-dressed female! The event raised over £7,000 for the charities, an amazing result.



On Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, I was invited to appear on the BBC East Midlands Politics Show, recorded in Nottingham.

This was my second appearance on the show, and I thoroughly enjoyed the debate.

## FEBRUARY 2025



Following the third year of the county council hosting the 'Expression of Freedom' exhibition in the Highcross shopping centre in Leicester city, part of the exhibit was brought to County Hall to be displayed in the Members' lounge.

The exhibition was a partnership work to explore the context of domestic abuse, including artwork from young people and survivors of domestic abuse, using art to reflect, heal and empower.



Deborah Taylor @CLLRDTaylor · Feb 24

Promote



### NEWS UPDATE

Finally!! After 4 years of work, the public consultation is live for a new signalised pedestrian crossing on Cropston Road, Anstey.

**NEWS UPDATE**

Cropston Road, Anstey

I have been working on the issues of speeding traffic and pedestrian safety on Cropston Road. After 4 years of work, I have finally managed to get the funding from Leicester City Council released, which they have been sitting on for several years. This funding is from the developers of the Ashton Green estate, just over the boundary with Thurmaston.

Leicestershire County Council proposes to install a signalised pedestrian crossing on Cropston Road, between its junctions with Rowan Drive and Link Road as shown on the plan. The crossing is to provide connectivity for pedestrians across Cropston Road and a safe crossing point for students from The Martin High School and Woodson Hill Primary School. The public consultation will be launched on Monday 24th February, and closes on 17th March.

Objections to the proposals, specifying the grounds on which they are made, should be sent in writing to Lauren Harman, Director of Law and Governance, Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 9BA by not later than 17th March 2025, quoting reference: KJHTMST0313.

Alternatively, objections can be emailed to [leeds.jahes@leics.gov.uk](mailto:leeds.jahes@leics.gov.uk) or via the online comment form which may be accessed via the link above. Documents can be viewed online: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/traffic-management/consultations](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/traffic-management/consultations) or scan the QR Code

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I promoted the County Council's consultation on a new lighted pedestrian crossing in Anstey to provide a safe walk to school route for primary and secondary schools.

I worked for four years to get this funding from the Leicester City Council bank account. They received this money from a developer, just over the county boundary.

## MARCH 2025



I was honoured to be invited to the retirement of the Leicestershire Police Chief Constable, Rob Nixon. Many partners were present, and it was great to be involved in a heartfelt thank you for such a distinguished career and to wish Rob all the best for his future.



The LLR Resilience Forum respond to major incidents across LLR, with major transport incidents being one of their areas of expertise.

Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland have many important roads, railways, and air routes. Major accidents don't happen often, but our emergency services and partners are planned and prepared for them. I was invited by the Forum to one of their training exercises on a very cold and windy morning at Kendrew Barracks in Rutland. We were close to the action and watched how the emergency services worked together during a major incident. A lead firefighter talked us through the response, and I was one of the tiny dots in the aerial drone shot!





I did a lot of work this year to promote the work of the County Council. Here is an example of one of their posts on X.



APRIL 2025



Most of 2025 was spent on working through the government's Devolution White Paper and Local Government Reorganisation.

I was honoured to be interviewed for the Business Network East Midlands Chamber regarding the government's Devolution White Paper and Local Government Reorganisation, and you can read my article below.



LOCAL POLITICS
FOCUS

## DEVOLUTION COULD CLEAR WAY FOR GREATER FUNDING

**T**he leaders of Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council are working on devolution plans that could one day see an elected mayor covering the city, county and neighbouring Rutland.

Alongside national plans to cut bureaucracy among local councils – by bringing city, county, borough and district councils together into new unitary authorities – political leaders in Leicester and Leicestershire are also considering more long-term plans to devolve more powers from Westminster.

It could work along the same principles as the East Midlands Combined County Authority which covers Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, with responsibility for areas such as infrastructure investment, skills and employment, housing and economic development.

Acting Leicestershire County Council leader Councillor Deborah Taylor said the immediate priority was working with the city and district and borough councils on plans to create new unitary councils. But it was clear, she said, that devolution would come later down the line.

Cllr Taylor said: "We need to set ourselves up under the new system, whatever that might be, and then move on to devolution with that new unitary council or councils, depending on what the Government ask us to do first."

"A devolved mayor will bring powers and funding down from London – it would not do any of the local services that we deliver."

"The only thing the Government are talking about is it absorbing the Police and Crime Commission and the fire service – they have made muted noises that might sit under a devolved mayor, as it does in London. But whether that's something they pursue, I don't know."

**'I think we've missed out on so much. It's well documented that Leicestershire is one of the lowest funded county councils'**

Cllr Taylor said the timescale for devolution would depend on the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government which she suspected was going to be inundated with devolution proposals. She said a handful of areas around the UK wanted to have elections for mayors in May next year, and she suspected the earliest mayoral election for Leicester and Leicestershire could be 2028 or 2029. The benefits, she believed, would be numerous.

"I think we've missed out on so much. It's well



documented that Leicestershire is one of the lowest funded county councils. The funding is not kind to us at all, and not only us but health services and the police are all struggling, so we're all leaning on each other because our budgets are all so low. We need to sort that. We're also stuck when it comes to transport funding – we don't have any in the county. And we have skill shortages and employment issues which can all be looked at under devolution.

"We've seen how a devolved mayor has worked really well in Manchester and the West Midlands. If businesses want to invest, they know who to come and talk to – they know who pulls the strings."

**Acting Leicestershire County Council leader Councillor Deborah Taylor**

## Lead Member for Children and Families Activities and Impact

Impact – I raised the profile of Children and Families within Leicestershire and promoted the challenging work of the department.

**MAY 2024**



I attended the Leicestershire Music Hub spring concert at De Montfort Hall on 24th April. The evening's show featured six local primary schools performing a musical extravaganza, Leics Create, co-produced by Sinfonia Viva and Orchestras Live. It was an amazing production, and it was great to see two of our special schools joining in.

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 was shared, including their useful toolkit:

<https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/toolkit/>.

I was invited to the Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group to speak about Leicestershire County Council supporting the motion to treat Care Experienced young people as a protected characteristic. They were extremely interested in the work I had done on this subject, and they were delighted to have a care-experienced young person attend to share his personal experience.



On Monday 15th April, the County Council's Children and Families Department received notice that their services would be inspected by Ofsted. As this was within my portfolio, the Lead Inspector interviewed me to share my thoughts on the department and how we provided support to families and children across the county. I also attended the feedback meeting on 3rd May. The 3-week inspection went well, and all the staff were keen to show their work to the inspectors. The Inspector's report was published on 11th July and can be read here: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/outstanding-rating-for-leicestershires-children-and-family-services>.

It was fantastic that our Children Services have moved from the Ofsted rating of 'Requires Improvement' to 'Outstanding.' I am incredibly proud to lead our fantastic team for the past five years and deliver excellent services for all our families.



On Thursday 16th May, I attended the Leicestershire Carers Annual Awards ceremony and took part in a Q&A in front of the business community audience. This gave the peer researchers involved with 'Joining Up Joining In' an opportunity to ask me questions about how I led a motion to recognise those of care experience as if they were protected under the Equality Act (2010).



They were keen to hear my motivation for change and what that might look like moving forward. They gave me a good grilling, and the report can be read here:

<https://www.leicestershirecares.co.uk/about-charity/news-events/-/voice-lived-experience-and-building-connection-business-community/>.

## JUNE 2024

### Family Hubs....one year on



More than 7,000 families were supported since Leicestershire County Council's first ever 'Family Hub' opened its doors just over a year ago.

In 12 months, 37 hubs opened in the county. They hosted 741 stay-and-play groups, 180 volunteers gave up around 7,000 hours of their time, and nearly 43 tonnes of food were saved from landfill thanks to 'community fridges' based at the sites. There were 37 hubs, including 21 family hub buildings and 16 libraries, as well as a new website that served as a virtual space where people could access information all in one place.

The next steps included installing public access computers in 20 Family Hub buildings, so people could access the Family Hubs website <https://www.familyhubsleicestershire.org.uk/>, which included information about local family hubs and a what's on guide for events held at them.

## JULY 2024



I attended the 'Care to Dance' performance at the Sue Townsend Theatre in Leicester. It was amazing to see some of our young care-experienced people taking part and performing to an audience. Speaking to the young people afterwards, I could feel their excitement and sense of belonging to this group. The instructors were so patient with all the young people, and I don't think there was a dry eye in the theatre.



## AUGUST 2024



I visited one of our venues for our Holiday Activities and Food Schemes at Richmond Primary School in Hinckley. I enjoyed meeting the staff from Kidspace and all the children enjoying their time there. I enjoyed visiting one of our venues for our Holiday Activities and Food Schemes.

I joined the children in playing dodge ball, making fruit skewers, painting plant pots, and making a windmill (that I was allowed to bring home!).

## SEPTEMBER 2024



On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September we held a Macmillan coffee morning in our Children and Families department. We had some lovely cakes baked by colleagues and we made £244 for Macmillan Cancer support.



### *Bowman Academy*



I attended the official opening of a new specialist school in Leicestershire after their first pupils started attending at the start of term in September. The school was officially opened by former Paralympic swimmer Tim Reddish CBE, who brought his Olympic medals and torches to show the children.

A time capsule was buried at the event containing items such as drawings and work by the pupils, photos of staff and students, a dated newspaper, a football, toys, and even a packet of Walkers crisps to reflect the year 2024.



The school, run by the Community Inclusive Trust (CIT), will cater for up to 65 pupils aged four to 16 with social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) needs. The trust



provides a tailored curriculum designed to prepare pupils to be confident, successful, resilient, and ready for adult life, offering a wide range of therapies and extra-curricular activities to promote personal development. The school was built using sustainable methods, where 'modules' were constructed off-site and then assembled and installed on-site, reducing waste, transportation, and using renewable materials.

### *Volunteers Needed*

I share requests for support for our young people. For example, Leicestershire County Council issued a request for volunteers to help children and young people in care. Independent Visitors spent a few hours a month engaging in fun, simple activities, from walking in the park to going to the cinema or eating at a restaurant and were an important part of supporting vulnerable young people. More volunteers were needed to ensure support was available for all young people, offering consistency, fun, and connection with a responsible adult outside their immediate circle of foster carers, social workers, and teachers. Those interested could find out more and watch a video from volunteers about the role here:

[www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/fostering/different-ways-to-foster](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/fostering/different-ways-to-foster) or call 0116 305 0505.

## **OCTOBER 2024**



October was Party Conference season. I attended the Conservative Party Conference in Birmingham, attending events helpful for my role as Lead Member for Children and Families, such as talking to Guide Dogs about supporting children with vision loss and a seminar about fair funding for schools. I returned with a lot of learning to feed back to officers to see if we could make improvements within our department at County Hall.

## **NOVEMBER 2024**

On Tuesday 12th November, I attended our 'Pride in Practice' Conference at the King Power Stadium. This day was for all our social workers and frontline staff delivering important services for children and families. The theme was 'Hidden Fathers,' and we studied research about the importance of fathers in children's lives and how social workers could support fathers to be more involved. We also held an award ceremony for staff who went above and beyond in their roles, celebrating amazing team-players.



At the end of November, I travelled to Liverpool for the three-day Adults and Children National Conference, where I heard from Ministers and national organisations about work within this sector.



I enjoyed the conference and came away with some fresh ideas to carry forward in my role as the lead for Children and Families at the County Council.

## DECEMBER 2024



I visited the Holy Trinity Church in the city to enjoy the Leicestershire Music Christmas concert. The church was beautifully decorated, and the young people performing were amazing. We have exceptionally talented musicians in the city and county.

On Monday 9th December, I visited the Attenborough Arts Centre to enjoy the Beacon Voice Choir singing Christmas songs. This choir brings together children we care for with our foster families and residential homes, building lovely friendships for our children.

## JANUARY 2025



It was amazing to be back in North West Leicestershire to visit the completed Greenstone Primary School. I was there when we were on a muddy site, putting the first spade in the ground, so to go back to see a beautiful new forest school was great.

We had a tour of the building and the amazing outdoor space. The first lucky pupils to start at this new school will be in the building from September 2025.

Forest schools promote education through outdoor play and learning. The aim is to encourage and inspire children through outdoor experiences, enabling them to develop social skills, motivation, and confidence. Pupils will also benefit from a traditional curriculum, learning the tools required for academic success, with learning enriched by integrating the natural world into the curriculum.



## FEBRUARY 2025



I promoted the child care choices for families with young children, ensuring they apply for their childcare vouchers to ensure they get the support with their child care needs.

## MARCH 2025



I attended the spring concert of Leicestershire Music, involving children from across Leicester and Leicestershire, providing them with a fantastic opportunity to train their singing voices. I was particularly pleased to see one of our specialist schools involved, and the young people had a wonderful time.

It was also good to bump into the County Council's Chair!



March was our month of Achievement Awards for all our Children in Care. We held three events. The younger children had an enjoyable day at Twycross Zoo, where they were presented with their awards and received tickets to visit the zoo for the day, including ice cream. The older young people had two separate events at the Hinckley Rugby Club. The 11-16 year olds had a sparkling evening, and the 16 and overs chose neon as their theme. All the events were amazing, and seeing the

children succeed despite difficult childhoods always warmed my heart. I had an amazing time!



Twycross Zoo



Sparkle evening



Neon evening and  
silent disco



the



**APRIL 2025**

I couldn't undertake any public Lead Member work due to the local elections and operating under Purdah rules.

## *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 2024. 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 remarkably 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 Devolution Deal for Leicestershire. This has taken up a large amount of my time and energy during 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 Chair of the panel at the AGM in June 2024. 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 attended 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) collaborating 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 collaborate 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
- Local media 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 stay connected by email and telephone calls with the Clerks.

I have held in-person meetings with my residents when requested. I have been highly 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)

TikTok – [@cllr\\_deborah\\_taylor](https://www.tiktok.com/@cllr_deborah_taylor)

I also have 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*  
27/08/2025