

# Annual Delivery Report

2025



# Contents

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Adult Social Care	2
3.	Communities, Heritage and Libraries, Regulatory Services	5
4.	Highways and Transport	9
5.	Environment, Flooding and Waste	12
6.	Children and Families	16
7.	Economy and Strategic Planning	21
8.	Public Health and Wellbeing	24

### 1. Introduction

This progress and performance report covers the period from September 2024 to September 2025, reflecting on recent progress and achievements made by the Council at that point.

A separate Performance Compendium looks at service data and outcomes in more detail, including a range of performance indicators and comparative benchmarking data, as well as some of the risks to service outcomes and delivery.

Over the last 12 months, the Council has continued to adapt to an evolving landscape, including responding to national policy changes, economic pressures and the evolving needs of our residents. Despite these challenges, and with the continued low funding provided to Leicestershire, our focus has been on delivering high quality public services.

Following the County Council elections in May good progress has been made including lobbying government for a better deal for Leicestershire, progressing work towards a fundamental Efficiency Review and new Efficiencies Plan to help drive down the budget gap, a focus on public services, seeking to find new business for Beaumanor Hall and consulting on a new working arrangements policy.

The Government is also proposing a shake-up of Council structures in two-tier areas. Our detailed work on the best option for Local Government Reorganisation in Leicestershire proposes a new single council for the County and Rutland, including joint work with the City Council that demonstrates there would be significant savings of c£40 million each year. Options analysis also highlights significant wider service benefits that will accrue from the changes.

### 2. Adult Social Care

We continue work to ensure that people have the opportunities and support they need to live active, independent, and fulfilling lives. We are also working to ensure improvements in the experiences of those who receive adult social care.

It is important that people find it easy to access information about social care services and that service users are satisfied with their care and support, live as independently as possible and report a good quality of life. The Council also aspires for unpaid carers in the community to feel more recognised, valued and supported to undertake their caring roles.

It is also critical that adults who may be disadvantaged due to learning disabilities and/or mental health issues are able to live as independently as possible and access suitable employment. Also, that vulnerable adults are supported and safeguarded.

# **Vulnerable Adults and Safeguarding**

# Progress in 2024/25

- We have continued to work alongside the Integrated Care Board (ICB) on neighbourhood offers for Mental Health support with a focus on prevention and wellbeing.
- There has been a review of our Adult Mental Health Provision (AMHP) service to ensure that we are able to better meet demand over a 24/7 period.
- Work has continued to update leaflets and guidance around safeguarding to
  educate people on how to keep safe from abuse and neglect. This was
  completed in collaboration with people who draw on services and the LLR
  Safeguarding subgroup.
- 94% of people who were supported through Adult Safeguarding reported their safeguarding personal objectives as achieved.
- Our Legal Services Contracts Team assisted with the procurement of a new Home Care framework with a view to taking care of vulnerable adults and fulfilling the Council's obligations under the Care Act 2014.
- The Homecare Assessment and Reablement Team (HART) supported people to remain at home or return home and continues to receive positive feedback.
- The positive impact of prevention services and measures through the use of community spaces, Occupational Therapy and the Local Area Coordination services has continued, to reduce and delay the need for formal support.

# **Adult Social Care Services, Information and Advice**

### Progress in 2024/25

 Our customer feedback form, for use following involvement from adult social care, has been updated, and is being piloted and rolled out. This has been developed in co-production with people who access services, and the feedback is being used to improve service experiences.

- In January 2025, we launched a brand-new website to help people find support to help them to continue to live independently at home. The website helps residents match with carers.
- The Engagement Panel, made up of people with lived experience, have directly influenced and supported change in ways of working to improve the experiences of people accessing services. This includes developing questions for homecare re-commissioning, supporting with an AI pilot of assessment writing and developing paper-based information packs.
- Work commenced with York University to research and develop value based situational judgement tests for Adult Social Care provider recruitment. This work has concluded with results expected to be published in Autumn 2025.
- Our Adult Social Care Service was subject to inspection by the Care Quality Commission earlier this year. The Inspection highlighted a number of service strengths as well as areas for improvement. Strengths highlighted in the report include:
  - Case records reflect people's right to choice, build on their strengths and assets and reflect what they want to achieve and how they wish to live their lives.
  - People's experiences of assessment are positive, with a professional, respectful approach and a clear focus on them as individuals.
  - The Homecare Assessment and Reablement Team (HART) supporting people to remain or return home received positive feedback.
  - The positive impact of prevention services and measures through the use of community spaces, Occupational Therapy and the Local Area Coordination services to reduce and delay the need for formal support.
  - Our commitment to partnership working with evidence of positive relationships and examples of effective partnership working, including Home First, Occupational Therapists, Care Coordination, CQC (provider quality), and the Learning Disabilities Collaborative.
  - People had good access to safe, effective support options, particularly home care.
  - A clear understanding of the safeguarding risks and issues in the area, with senior leadership oversight.
  - o An inclusive and positive culture of continuous learning and improvement.
  - A strong culture of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) with a clear strategy and actions across the organisation.
- Following the inspection we have reviewed and updated our improvement plans.
   The focus for improvement includes:
  - Reducing waiting lists.
  - Improving access, information, advice and guidance, including digital exclusion.
  - o The carers assessment pathway and support offer.
  - o Further understanding and addressing gaps in support services.
  - o Reviewing safeguarding pathways and processes.
  - A demand and capacity management review aiming to ensure manageable workloads across all teams.

# **Supporting Carers**

- The Care Technology Service has completed a project introducing care technology to people with early onset dementia and their unpaid carer. The findings were reviewed by Social Finance and showed, along with qualitative feedback, a reduction of stress experienced by the carer. This is leading to a second project looking at the use of technology to support carers in their caring role and also benefiting the cared for in remaining at home and being supported as they wish.
- A commissioning review of the Carer's Support Service is being undertaken. We have started working in partnership with carers to develop a future service model.
- Carer's contingency planning has progressed, supported by the Accelerated Reform Fund. This will support carers if they are suddenly unable to meet their caring obligations in a time of emergency.
- A review of our Carers' Strategy has started.
- In February 2025, we opened applications for grants to support carers facing costs arising from supporting adults recently discharged from hospital. The grant offers much needed support to carers looking after their loved ones.
- There was increased engagement with carers who receive support and advice on a range of wrap around services such as benefits, carers passports, dementia and cancer support.
- Local Area Coordinators continued to identify carers in the community and support them to access their community, to live active, independent lives.
- In Autumn 2024 the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland partnership 'Connected Care Programme' was highly commended at the Health Service Journal Awards. The programme uses remote technology to reduce avoidable hospital admissions for care home residents, saving almost £1m in avoided hospital admission costs. The programme was also shortlisted in the Local Government Chronicle awards.
- There was a Comprehensive Infection Prevention and Control audit of care homes who contract with the Council with specialist support to make improvements to protect those at risk of harm.

# 3. Communities, Heritage and Libraries, Regulatory Services

Our work with communities aims for Leicestershire to have active and inclusive communities in which people support each other and participate in service design and delivery. Communities also need to be resilient; able to avoid, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. We are working to ensure Council services are more accessible and inclusive and working with partners to increase community cohesion and tackle hate crime.

We are also working to ensure that our cultural and historical heritage are enjoyed and conserved and that people support each other through volunteering. We aim to protect consumers and promote a fair and safe trading environment through our Regulatory Services.

# Participation in service design and delivery

- A Series of 'Parish Briefings' were held, covering topics such as the Councill's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), Environment & Transport, Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) and local government reorganisation
- There have been a range of public consultations through the year to engage with residents on a variety of topics, including Rights of Way, Adults Social Care Strategy, SEND and Inclusion Strategy and Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4).
- We worked to improve the information on the website relating to people asking
  questions at Council committee meetings to make this clearer and provide more
  guidance for members of the public about how the process works. The website
  now includes a form where people can submit their questions to public meetings
  of the Council's overview and scrutiny committees.
- During the 2024/25 municipal year, 74 questions were submitted to overview and scrutiny meetings by Members and the public, an increase of 56 from the previous year.
- Work took place during the year to promote the County Council election
- Adult learning ran four engagement events during the academic year which provided the opportunity for communities to shape the curriculum offer.
- 1650 residents contributed to the co-produced activities in Communities and Wellbeing venues over the last 12 months.
- Ongoing support was provided to the Culture Leicestershire Community
  Connectors group. The group is made up of volunteers from different parts of the
  service (Charnwood Museum, Home Library service etc). This helped to provide
  insight and feedback on service wide activity and generate ideas and
  suggestions.
- There was co-production with volunteers of workshops as part of the Museum Collections Development Policy Review.
- We led the Suicide Prevention Lived Experience Network, which co-produced the refreshed Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (LLR) Suicide Prevention Strategy.

# Cultural and historic heritage and libraries

# Progress in 2024/25

- There were over 900,000 visits to our libraries and museums between April 2024 and March 2025.
- In September 2024, the 1620s House and Garden achieved its highest score to date (of 93%) from the VisitEngland team. Melton Carneige Museum also received its highest ever score of 94% in March 2025.
- Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, 1620s House and Garden and Beaumanor Hall all also celebrated success at the Leicestershire Tourism and Hospitality Awards.
- In December 2024, Harborough Museum achieved a national award for its display and exhibition of the historic Hallaton Helmet.
- In February 2025 we launched a new free scheme to enable eligible people to experience the Council's unique art and museum collections from their own home. The project 'Culture to You' is being trialled in Oadby and Wigston with 26 clients and 10 new volunteers recruited to deliver to people's homes.
- There were over 2.5million library loans between April 2024 and March 2025
- 5 Culture Leicestershire websites have been improved and updated to meet accessibility guidance and support residents in accessing information.
- Learning for Independence programmes, designed to support adults with additional needs, make use of cultural/historical heritage resources at Melton Mowbray, Hinckley, Charnwood and Coalville. Projects and performances have helped learners develop self-advocacy, confidence and independence.
- A new section named 'Protecting Heritage' has been added to Leicestershire Highway Design Guide, asking developers to ensure that they have considered protection of heritage in their design and construction activities.
- We continued to promote Leicestershire cultural and heritage activities via the Leicestershire Communities website, social media platforms and established networks.

### Volunteering

- The Leicestershire Lieutenancy promoted the King's Award for Voluntary Service which is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities.
- We procured and implemented a corporate volunteer management database to improve data security and consistency of our volunteer offer.
- A toolkit, checklist and training programme were developed to support the management of volunteers.
- We continued to support volunteering at a strategic and operational level through the Volunteering Operational Group (VOG), the Volunteer Managers Network and weekly drop-in sessions.

- There was continued growth in the number of Council volunteers and volunteering hours, as well as the variety of Council managed volunteer roles.
- The Leicestershire Lieutenancy ran a reservist event in June 2024, to coincide with Armed Forces week where a number of businesses were invited to discuss the benefit of businesses allowing their staff to be reservists.
- We supported Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE)
  organisations to embed asset based and Friendly Connected Community
  approaches within their organisations.
- Local area coordinators (LACs), alongside partner organisations, supported a pilot work experience programme in Public Health via the Career Ready programme.
- In March 2025, the Chairmans Volunteer Event took place which celebrated the Council's volunteers.
- The Environment and Transport Parish Partnership Initiative continued to support parishes and residents to improve their area by enabling additional services such as sign cleaning, grass cutting and asset maintenance to be provided.
- There continues to be a range of services delivered through our volunteer programmes in Targeted Family Help, Youth and Justice Services and the Fostering Service for children in care, including the Independent Visitors Scheme.
- The Quorn Community Managed Library received the Kings Award for volunteering.
- The Community Managed Libraries (CML) network was maintained and there was renewed support agreements with CML groups.
- Culture Leicestershire benefitted from over 21,000 hours of volunteer support between April 2024 and March 2025.
- The Home Library Service took on an additional 26 clients and recruited 12 new volunteers.

### **Consumer Safety and Regulatory Services**

- In the past year, Trading Standards officers conducted over 70 enforcement visits
  to Leicestershire retailers, seizing over 9,000 tobacco products. Enforcement
  typically results in prosecutions and premises closure orders. This year, a
  business proprietor involved in the distribution of illicit products was sentenced to
  eight months' imprisonment.
- Supported by central government resources, Trading Standards maintain an operational presence at East Midlands Airport, where we routinely inspect imported consignments to ensure compliance with UK regulations. Over the past year, nearly 1,100 shipments were intercepted by trading standards officers, resulting in 240,000 unsafe items being prevented from entering the UK market.
- The Litigation Team supported this by continuing to be involved in fire safety
  prosecutions to ensure compliance with fire safety legislation which protects the
  public, but which also helps to act as a deterrent to others with a view to driving up

- safety standards generally. The Litigation Team also supports work undertaken by Trading Standards with the principal aim of ensuring that markets for consumers operate in a fair and lawful manner.
- Trading Standards continued to address the growing challenge of doorstep crime, responding to a noticeable rise in rogue traders targeting residents. Close collaboration with the police and other partner agencies is essential to reduce crime, educate potential victims, and enforce action against persistent or serious offenders. A recent Trading Standards investigation led to a rogue builder receiving a five-year prison sentence for fraudulent trading
- Our Trading Standards Service remain committed to proactive prevention, with a
  particular focus on supporting vulnerable residents. Their efforts include the
  installation of call blockers in homes to significantly reduce the volume of scam
  calls, helping to safeguard those most at risk.
- The Learning Disability Partnership Board delivered support and guidance to people with a learning disability including how to keep safe from scams and attended the Victim First event.

### **Customer Service, Community Cohesion and Hate Crime**

- In November 2024, we agreed a new Customer Experience Strategy to ensure people can communicate with our services more quickly. Nearly half a million people have contact with the Council every month, with around 130,000 phone calls received monthly.
- We organised meetings of the Leicestershire Equalities Challenge Group of community representatives and co-ordinated the development and implementation of the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.
- In July 2025 we agreed a new approach to flying flags at County Hall to focus on the Union flag, County flag, St George's flag or Lord Lieutenant's flag, to celebrate values that unite us all.
- We organised a Leicestershire Faiths Seminar with a keynote speech from the Bishop of Loughborough.
- A total of 25 people received a Personal Honour during the year.
- We encouraged communities to apply for free road closures and host street parties to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day in May 2025.
- In June 2025 we honoured the huge contribution made by current and former members of the armed forces, their families, reservists and adult cadet volunteers through a key Armed Forces Day event.
- We held an internal session for staff to highlight and promote methods of reporting Hate Crime and sharing best practice.
- Local Area Coordinators supported engagement events in Braunstone to support the recovery of the community after the death of Bhim Kohli.
- Over 4000 adults have engaged in learning activities across the county, engaging a broad demographic to learn about cultures, whilst embedding British fundamental values during the induction of all classes.

# 4. Highways and Transport

We need our transport, and infrastructure to support the economy and enable housing and employment growth, whilst helping to reduce emissions. The ongoing forecast high population and housing growth will continue to place pressure on our highways and transport services and exacerbate funding challenges.

# **Major Schemes and Maintenance Supporting Growth**

- Our Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) aims to provide a transport network that
  delivers economic prosperity and supports local, regional and international
  markets. We adopted the Core Document in July 2025 (stage 1). Work has begun
  on stage 2, which includes development of focused strategies and multi modal
  area investment plans.
- Major construction work continued on the north and east Melton Mowbray distributor road to reduce congestion and support new homes and employment growth in the town. The new road is expected to open in early 2026.
- The A511 major road network growth corridor scheme will make significant highway improvements to 9 locations between A42 junction 13 near Ashby-de-la-Zouch and the A50 Field Head roundabout.
- A programme of maintenance and improvement works is being delivered in the 2025/26 financial year that provides benefits for communities and supports growth. This includes Section 106 funding to deliver junction improvements identified in the Market Harborough Transport Strategy.
- Design work continues to progress on the Desford Crossroads junction improvements to reduce congestion, improve journey time reliability on the A47/B582 corridor and re-distribute traffic away.
- Temporary work began on the Zouch Bridge replacement scheme in July 2024 to accommodate Environment Agency "in river" working restrictions. The main construction programme began in February 2025 and is scheduled to complete in January 2027.
- In 2024/25 a total of £22m was invested in Highways Asset Maintenance including £18m on carriageways, £1.6m on footways and rights of way, £0.8m on bridge maintenance and strengthening, £1.2m on street lighting, £0.1m on flood alleviation and £0.3m on traffic signal renewal.
- In 2024/25 our highways teams were out across Leicestershire as part of a £3.3m summer maintenance programme of surface dressing covering more than 751,000m2 (around 70 miles) of road. The process sealed cracks, prevented potholes, restored road texture and will keep roads waterproof.
- In November 2024, 23 gritters were on standby to grit 1,300 miles of highway with 16,500 tonnes of salt stored in grit barns across the county. The team carried out 53 runs on 17 routes in 2024/25.
- In March 2025 five new 'hotbox' roadmenders were deployed to maintain Leicestershire's highways. They ensure good quality repairs are done effectively and efficiently. The Council completed 8,764 road repairs last year, an average of 168 jobs a week.

### **Public Transport**

# Progress in 2024/25

- Following a refresh of the Council's Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy in October 2023 and Bus Service Improvement Plan in September 2024, progress has been made with an extensive review of the county's passenger transport network. The receipt of £7m of Government Bus Grant Funding along with a range of Section 106 funding has provided an opportunity to reshape the network for Leicestershire's residents as part of this review.
- The review has seen extensive improvements to the network including the introduction of 11 new Digital Demand Responsive Transport services covering areas across Melton, Harborough and North and Southwest Leicestershire. We have launched a new FoxConnect app for flexible journey booking alongside a package of community-based support for passengers. Several new bus routes have started including town services across Melton, Harborough and Loughborough, new pilot services for shoppers, new journeys to access education, employment and medical care as well as additional evenings journeys for leisure purposes.
- In addition, Bus Fare promotions included free bus travel during the first month of
  operation of the new FoxConnect services, free youth travel during school
  holidays, festive free bus services and free travel for all for fixed periods on all
  supported services. We also launched new Leicestershire Buses branding and
  area bus information booklets with wide distribution to residents.
- Further support has been provided for park and ride services and enhancements to cross-boundary services in partnership with neighbouring authorities.
- Funding of £8.1 million was awarded for electric buses, following a successful Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) bid. This was rolled out in partnership with two commercial bus operators. Progress has been made by the ZEBRA schemes which will see the introduction of 46 new electric buses by July 2026.
- In November 2024 new figures showed that 1 million miles had been clocked up since the electric Park and Ride buses launched in May 2021. The 10 electric buses operate on routes linking Birstall, Enderby and Meynell's Gorse with the city centre.

# **Active Travel, Cycling and Walking**

- Work continued with Active Travel England to further the Council's commitment to active travel in Leicestershire, with associated walking and cycling facilities and behaviour change programmes. We have received £2.6m in funding from Active Travel England (ATE) since March 2024.
- Active Travel Fund monies were secured to deliver an active travel improvement at The Parade junction in Oadby. We carried out consultation on the proposal and have continued to work with ATE to explore options to revise the scheme in a way that maintains the benefits of the proposed scheme.

- Work has begun on a proposal for a £1m capital funding allocation, directed to Market Harborough to enhance existing Section 106 programmes.
- Active Travel 5 funding continues to focus on enhancing routes to schools, to
  encourage families to walk and wheel to school. Such improvements will have a
  positive impact on journeys to school that encourage active travel to schools and
  help reduce school gate congestion.
- In September 2024 and February 2025, the Council held local forums showcasing active and sustainable transport initiatives including local walking and cycling plans. This included a free course to allow people to have a go on an electric powered bike alongside a guide.
- In April 2025, the signalised junction at Hollier's Walk in Hinckley was upgraded to meet planning obligations associated with nearby developments. The project replaced outdated infrastructure and reconfigured the junction layout to improve traffic flow and provide enhanced, more accessible crossing facilities for both pedestrians and cyclists.
- The 'Betterpoints' regular driver campaign saw 100 drivers targeted with specific messaging and incentives. 52% of drivers changed behaviour, resulting in a 25% drop in single occupancy car journeys. The 'Betterpoints' general programme continues to run successfully with a total of 4,915 users. More than 930,000 active and sustainable journeys have been recorded, and approximately 586,000 active and sustainable journeys have directly replaced single occupancy car trips.
- The Leicestershire Highway Design Guide Review was developed in December 2024 and provides an Active Travel Matrix that helps designers to make decisions on suitable provision for development sites.

# **Road Safety**

- The LLR Road Safety Partnership continued to deliver a programme of targeted road safety initiatives across the area. Social media campaigns as well as press and radio interviews focused on e-scooter use/legality, the Fatal4 (speeding, drink, and drug driving, driving whilst distracted, non-wearing of seatbelts) and educating drivers about vulnerable road users.
- Our Traffic and Safety Team developed and trialled the Road Safety Education programme, a series of road safety presentations and messages to a number of schools during Autumn 2024. After a review, this was rolled out to all schools in February 2025. The programme aims to provide young people with the skills they need to stay safe.
- Bikeability courses were delivered to 3,225 primary school children throughout the year to equip young riders with practical skills of how to cycle safely.
- The Driver Education Workshop team administered and delivered National Driver Offender Scheme (NDORS) courses to 40,000 clients.
- 'School Streets' were adopted at two schools in Leicestershire. The trial led to permanent schemes being introduced with 93% of parents saying that the scheme was positive, attendance improving and parents feeling confident to let their children walk to school independently.

# 5. Environment, Flooding and Waste

We are working to ensure that nature and the local environment are valued, protected and enhanced, resources are used in an environmentally sustainable way, the economy and infrastructure are environmentally friendly and there is a stronger response to incidents of local flooding.

### **Environment**

- Working in partnership with other local authorities, public bodies, environmental groups, farmers, landowners, and residents, we led the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland, which was launched in July 2025.
- Our first Biodiversity Duty Plan was produced, in compliance with the new strengthened biodiversity duty introduced through the Environment Act 2021.
   It sets out the current and future actions to meet the biodiversity duty.
- We continued to support the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme and its bid to become a UNESCO Global Geopark.
- Our partnership with local wildlife charity, Nature Spot, continues to boost biodiversity and wildlife by planting wildflowers on urban roadside verges across the County. The Wildlife Verge scheme now includes 79 verges across 60 parishes.
- We delivered the Communities Summit 2025, which focused on recognising the achievements of various local groups, champions and businesses in showcasing innovative approaches to supporting biodiversity and the environment.
- In January 2025 we secured £445,000 in grant funding from the Forestry Commission to support more tree planting including new tiny forests. As of July 2025, over 494,000 trees have been planted as part of our Tree for Every Person scheme.
- In November 2024, our project to restore a reedbed at a Leicestershire country park won a national 'Green Apple' environmental award. The reedbed provides a natural and sustainable water filtration system as well as enhancing the environment.
- A review of the Country Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) in Northwest Leicestershire was completed, to make sure they were up to date and improve the efficiency of the TPO service.
- In September 2024, we opened our popular scheme, run in conjunction with the Woodland Trust, which offers free trees and hedges to landowners and farmers in a bid to encourage more planting across Leicestershire. Each free tree pack includes 50 native trees. In 2023 alone, we gave away 50,000 trees.
- In partnership with the Green Living Leicestershire Group, Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society and others, the Natural England funded Swift Action for Swifts project (worth £60,000) was completed. The project installed

- over 350 Swift boxes and 150 Swift callers. The aim of the project was to provide more homes for the birds and inform residents about the importance of Swifts, to increase their population.
- Working with the County Invasive and Non-Native Species (INNS) Local Action Group, we completed a project, funded by Natural England and DEFRA worth £17,000, to record invasive and non-native species as well as for controlling the spread of certain species such as Himalayan Balsam, Floating Pennywort, American Mink, and Japanese Knotweed.
- In November 2024, an environmental project to remove trees affected by ash dieback and allow the remaining trees to thrive commenced along the A511. A comprehensive replanting programme will replace the felled trees with native species.
- Work was completed to review our Tree Strategy to ensure it reflects the changes in national and local policy.
- The delivery of the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Improvement programme continued, having completed the second year of the grant.
- There was ongoing maintenance of the gardens at the 1620s House to promote indigenous plants and a variety of habitats.
- Old technology streetlights have been replaced with new energy efficient LED streetlights. There has also been a reduction in energy costs, energy consumption and carbon production through the street lighting dimming trial. In December 2024, the project was given the prestigious Highway Electrical Association award for Sustainable Project of the Year. Total emissions from street lighting in Leicestershire have reduced by 84% since 2008.
- Our Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy was adopted in September 2024. Its goals include promoting a healthy environment, improving air quality and helping to create better places.
- The Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme progressed, with appointment of a charge point operator to deliver the project. The first batch of electric vehicle points are scheduled for installation.
- A pilot study was developed to investigate opportunities for electrification of the Councils fleet vehicles.
- In April 2025 community groups and organisations were invited to apply for funding to kickstart renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in their local areas. The Get Ready Community Energy Fund is part of the Greener Future Leicestershire project led by the County Council.
- Work was carried out with teams within the authority that drive high mileages to consider how business mileage can be reduced, saving the Council money and reducing emissions to improve air quality in communities.
- A heat decarbonisation plan has been completed for 62 County Council properties which have fossil fuelled heating systems.
- There was a successful application for £115,000 Phase 4 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding to install solar panels and air-source-heat pumps at 4 Family Hub properties.
- We acted as a key partner in the delivery of the Leicestershire Collaborate to Accelerate Net Zero (LCAN) Project. The project is delivering 4 key work

- packages aimed at improving energy security locally, supporting communities to develop their own energy generation methods via renewables and helping businesses and residents to be energy efficient and save money.
- Our Warm Homes Service delivered a demonstrator project (Home Energy Retrofit Offer) funded by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to encourage engagement with government grant initiatives. The Service provided tailored home energy advice visits to 288 households and advice to 1,401 residents with a 97% satisfaction rate.
- Our Adult Learning Service delivered 902 courses that included content to encourage behaviours that help to protect the environment.
- We recruited further Environment Action Volunteers and expanded the scheme to include Sustainable Travel.

### **Waste**

- Working in partnership with the district councils, the Leicestershire Resources and Waste Strategy was progressed which sets out how the Leicestershire Waste Partnership intends to manage municipal waste up to 2050. Work continues on implementing pledges in the strategy, including action to reduce waste and the amount of waste sent to landfill.
- A campaign to reduce contamination in recycling was delivered during 2024/25 utilising social media platforms and ensuring clear and consistent information to residents on what can be recycled. The Council also developed a video demonstrating the recycling sorting facility to increase awareness.
- We supported the national Recycle Week 2025 campaign with the theme of rescuing recyclable items from the rubbish bin.
- We ran a series of cross-cutting seasonal campaigns across the year associated with religious and cultural festivals such as Christmas, Easter, Ramadan, Diwali and Halloween focusing on a range of waste prevention behaviours.
- The provision of ReHome Zones was extended to all but one of the county's Household Waste Recycling Centres. Working with Alupro, (Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation) we delivered a 6-week social media campaign called #MetalMatters to encourage the recycling of metals at home and change recycling behaviour.
- An online waste prevention map was created where residents can find reuse, refill and repair services easily. Organisations are also encouraged to sign up if they offer services to help Leicestershire residents to reduce waste.
- We promoted campaigns to reduce food waste such as 'Love Food Hate Waste.' This included Food Waste Action Week 2025 with the theme of 'Buy Loose, Waste Less' encouraging people to only buy loose fruit and vegetables to prevent food waste.
- We continued to prepare for transfer and treatment of household food waste from April 2026, as part of the Simpler Recycling reforms.

 There has been increased direct engagement with Leicestershire residents, speaking to 3,973 people at 173 talks and roadshows and a series of composting workshops to support people in their home composting activities.

# **Flooding**

- In July 2025 we decided to allocate £2m of extra money into tackling flooding, including expanding investment to undertake more investigations, find the causes of flooding, identify potential solutions and fund drainage repairs.
- Since the publication of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in November 2023 we have continued to support work with communities and partners to prevent and respond to flooding events.
- Work continued on building a new website for the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to encourage and support community education around flood risk and how best to be prepared for severe storm events.
- January 2025 saw the worst flooding event in recent history in Leicestershire with over 700 properties flooded internally. Working with partners, we provided support to communities to get back to normal afterwards. Work included setting up rest centres, visiting flooded homes to support and signpost, and pumping water from flooded areas.
- A series of multi-agency flooding drop-in sessions were held in March and April 2025 across the most impacted areas. This provided the opportunity for people to report and discuss flooding impacts, hear about actions being taken and to learn about how to be prepared and more flood resilient. It also provided the opportunity to learn about which agency does what and explain the role of the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and Highway Authority with respect to highway drainage. Further winter preparedness events are happening in autumn 2025.
- In our role as LLFA, we have continued to progress with formal investigations into flooding events throughout 2024 and the event in 2025 is triggering further investigations.
- Around £500,000 of Local Transport Grant has been allocated to projects in Long Whatton and Oakthorpe to help better protect residents from future flood risk. The LLFA was also successful in a bid to the Environment Agency and was awarded around £1m towards flood alleviation measures in Stoney Stanton.

# 6. Children and Families

We work to ensure that all children and young people get the best start for life and have the opportunities they need to fulfil their potential, regardless of their circumstances. Children are best supported to grow within their own families, and this reflects an aspiration for families to be self-sufficient. We want every child to have access to good quality education and young people to aim high and reach their potential. In addition, that vulnerable children are identified and protected from harm and abuse.

### Best start in life

- Since the introduction of the government's Expansion of Childcare programme for working parents, 4,095 two-year-olds and 3,911 children under two have accessed funded childcare places.
- More infants received a New Birth Visit within 14 days, and more infants received a 6–8-week review within 8 weeks, ensuring early identification of issues or concerns and early help support.
- Our Public Health service continued to commission Health Visitors who
  provide advice and support to parents, promote child development such as
  bonding and attachment; feeding; and protecting babies from harm by
  promoting the importance of immunisations. Health visitors assess and
  monitor growth and development and encourage the development of healthy
  lifestyles and good nutrition.
- The Healthy Tots programme has continued to support health and wellbeing recognition within early years settings
- The Oral Health Team has continued to deliver Occupational Health training and establish supervised toothbrushing in early years settings.
- There was continued delivery of the HENRY (health eating, nutrition in the really young) programme which has seen 6 programmes delivered within family hubs.
- Leicestershire's Maternity and Early Years Strategy Group created a plan aimed at supporting early communication in children from birth to two years old.
- We used two-year health review data to identify childcare providers where children missed milestones, aiming to target training in communication, language and physical touch.
- Training was organised by our Children and Family Services on behalf of the Department for Education, for the Early Years sector to support best practices in the development of two-year-olds.
- A 'Baby Fortnight' campaign was delivered with 138 families with children under two by encouraging participation in events and activities including messy play, sensory sessions and speech and language support.

- We continued to deliver the Bookstart offer in partnership with Booktrust, targeting vulnerable families.
- All libraries offered free weekly Wriggly Reader sessions to support early reader development.

### Families are self-sufficient and resilient

- We continued to support families to access services and improve their personal, family and household circumstances, for example, via the Household Support Fund, debt/money advice services, and access to furniture, white goods and other household essentials.
- Hundreds of local families received extra support for Christmas including food hampers, toys, and food vouchers through our Targeted Family Help service.
   We also opened up our wider Household Support Fund to enable eligible households to apply for an average of £200 for food and energy costs. The Family Help Service also runs Family Hubs across the County.
- Our Family Hub 'Start for Life' initiative offered a range of free sessions to parents and carers of babies and toddlers to help with early childhood development. Free stay and play sessions were run at more than 20 Family Hubs across the county.
- Our Community Delivery teams have supported access to services such as Citizens Advice, the Household Support Fund, and debt support, along with distribution of warm packs to those in crisis.
- Free holiday clubs and gym membership ran over Easter for eligible children, through the government funded Holiday Activities and Food programme, coordinated by the Council. Free holiday clubs and gym and swim memberships were also offered over the summer for eligible families at more than 90 venues across the county.
- Children and Family Service Targeted Help teams continued to provide support to families referred by partner organisations and offer phone advice, assistance and information on various parenting topics, with 10,764 contacts made with families during 2024/25.
- Information and Support Coordinators working in our 'front door' service supported 1,986 families with phone advice, support and signposting on issues including child behaviour and emotional well-being. In the locality teams, 257 families received support from a Family Wellbeing Worker.
- The Teen Health Service (ages 11–16) delivered early intervention and preventative initiatives, supporting healthier lifestyles and discouraging risktaking behaviour through individual support, group interventions, school-based drop-in sessions, and resources available on the Teen Health website.
- Specialist staff in the Youth and Justice Service provided ongoing emotional support, mentoring, and group activities for young carers across the County and organised SEND groups for children with special educational needs and

- disabilities, focusing on friendship, support and informal education to help develop life skills.
- A new Family Hubs website has been developed and serves as a universal self-help resource for families and professionals.
- Our Adult Learning Service worked with 9 Family Hubs and pathway groups across the county. 32 courses were delivered supporting 178 parents/carers and 251 children. There were 574 family learning enrolments in the 2024/25 academic year, with a range of courses including parent literacy and numeracy skills enabling them to support their children. These courses are targeted in areas of higher deprivation.
- Our Property Team have been active in dealing with loans to foster families to enable the adaptation of properties to ensure that there are sufficient places for children in the social care system.
- Our Independent Visitor scheme continued to support young people in care to make connections with a responsible adult and enjoy fun activities.

# Access to good quality education

- A new School Places Strategy is being developed and will set out our approach
  to delivering school places for 2025 to 2030. This will be supported by a revised
  Leicestershire Planning Obligations Policy which will help ensure developer
  contributions are received from developers for children from approximately
  52,000 homes expected to be delivered.
- There was a high level of success in meeting parent preferences for first time admissions into primary schools and phased transfer into secondary schools.
   95% of primary allocations secured their first choice and 99% one of their top 3 preferences.
   92% secured their first choice of secondary school, and 98% one of their top 3 preferences.
- Coalville Greenstone Primary School, the County's first forest school, opened in August 2025 with capacity for 420 pupils.
- There has been an expansion at four secondary schools providing 924 additional school places across Oadby Manor High, Hinckley Redmoor Academy, Burbage Hastings High and Shepshed Iveshead School.
- At the start of the academic year, Bowman Academy opened on the Shepshed lveshead campus providing 64 Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) places. In addition, new SEND provision for early years stage SEND children is being provided within mainstream primary schools, with 40 new places opening in 2025/26.
- In June 2025 we approved a new three-year SEND and Inclusion Strategy setting out how organisations representing education, health and social care will work together to improve support for children with special educational needs and disabilities. There has been a continued increase in applications, and improvement work has led to an improvement in issuing timeliness during 2025.

- Improved education attainment has remained a priority for the Council, with 91% of schools now rated good or outstanding, 6.5% higher than the national average.
- There are more pupils in good or better schools at the end of the 2024/25 academic year, and fewer pupils in Requires Improvement or Inadequate schools compared to the end of the 2023/24 academic year.
- Our Education Effectiveness Team have actively supported the education of County children who are disadvantaged through the development of a Pupil Premium Network to share expertise and good practice across schools.
- Tailored support, advice and resources were provided to Leicestershire schools through our Creative Learning Services, including a new SEND offer.
- In October 2024 Beaumanor Hall's education school activity programme was honoured with a learning outside the classroom quality badge. Activities offered include 'day in the life of a viking', 'Victorian day' and 'World War II experience'.

### Young people are able to reach their full potential

# Progress in 2024/25

- The Inclusion Service continues to provide advice and signposting to young people Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) in Leicestershire.
   Those who are vulnerable can access direct support from an Education Officer to explore their next steps and secure a place in education or training. In August 2025, 44 vulnerable NEET young people were receiving support from the service.
- The Inclusion Service carried out preventative work with Year 11 pupils who are at risk of becoming NEET when they leave school. This is to ensure the majority of Year 11 pupils that receive support have a post 16 destination in place at the end of the academic year.
- The Lord Lieutenant's Young Person of the Year Award took place celebrating achievements including Young Person of Courage, Young Volunteer, Young Artist, and Young Leader. There was a total of 70 nomination for the awards which were held in May 2025.
- During the academic year, our Adult Learning Service supported 97 apprentices over a variety of subject areas.

# Safeguarding

- In 2025, our Children and Family Service launched focused guidance to support
  practice in response to Domestic Abuse. This supplements the established
  extended domestic abuse team offer of early contact to families to avoid
  escalation of conflict and to understand the impact of domestic abuse on children.
- The Leicestershire Safeguarding Partnership has developed additional safeguarding responses to children with complex health needs in the context of

- parental neglect. This new procedure was endorsed by all partner agencies in July 2025 and will be launched in October 2025.
- Leicestershire's Family First Partnership was established to implement national social care reforms aimed at further enhancing the provision of support to children and families, including safeguarding vulnerable children.

# Young people involved in and impacted by criminal behaviour

- Our Youth Justice Service highlight that fewer children are entering the justice system and that custody rates are decreasing in Leicestershire. The service offers new pathways for child victims to receive help, aiming to reduce their risk of offending. A variety of restorative justice methods are available, including conferences, mediation, and regular updates for victims.
- Leicestershire's Diversion Offer, a collaboration between Leicestershire Police, Children's Social Care, the Council's Youth Justice teams, the Youth Court and the Crown Prosecution Service, continued to work on diverting children from criminal proceedings into support services, aiming to reduce re-offending and victim numbers.
- The Safer Returns Project continued to work with children reported missing in Leicestershire, exploring their circumstances, reducing repeat incidents, and supporting families and care providers through advice and empowerment sessions.
- The Children and Family Service Child Exploitation team continued to offer support to children affected by sexual and criminal exploitation. In 2024, there were 201 referrals for suspected child criminal exploitation and 161 for child sexual exploitation. Specialist child exploitation workers spend time building a positive working relationship with children.

# 7. Economy and Strategic Planning

We are working to use innovation and skills to build a productive, inclusive and sustainable economy at the cutting edge of science, technology and engineering. It is important to ensure that education and skills are aligned to employers' needs as this will drive economic growth and ensure people can get good jobs and make progress in their careers. With work to ensure fewer employers report skills shortages or gaps and to increase opportunities in the labour market. To support a flourishing economy, we need higher productivity rates facilitated by increased investment in research and development (R&D). There are also opportunities to capitalise on our prime location for international business. We also need housing and digital infrastructure to support the local population and economy.

# Progress in 2024/25

### **Skills and Work**

- In partnership with Leicester and Leicestershire Business and Skills Partnership and Leicester City Council we were awarded £3.2m Wave 6 Skills Bootcamp funding, to deliver a wide range of courses.
- In September 2024 it was announced that a new generation of students will be skilled up for careers in advanced manufacturing and clean energy through an investment of more than £2m by East Midlands Freeport. The Freeport is investing more than £2m in the Future Energy Skills Hub (FESH), with higher technical skills courses started in September 2025.
- Our Adult Learning Service continues to offer a huge catalogue of courses through GoLearn including free GCSE English and Maths for eligible residents.
- The Multiply Programme completed its third year providing people with the numeracy skills they need for everyday life, to allow them to be confident in things like budgeting, working out bills, helping with children's homework and improving job prospects. Nearly 7,500 people benefited from support with 98% reporting increased confidence with numbers.
- A range of local activities were highlighted during Number Confidence Week in November and a project celebration event in February recognising the hundreds of adults supported across Leicestershire.
- In March 2025, our Adult Learning Service was rated as 'Good' across all key
  areas in its latest Ofsted inspection. Inspectors praised the friendly and inclusive
  environment that helped learners feel welcome and valued. The service plays a
  crucial role in helping people gain new skills and enhance their career prospects.
- Referrals from the Work and Skills Leicestershire service have continued to progress into wider Adult Learning provision that supports employability, including CV writing and job searches.
- Our Adult Learning Service ran the Learning for Wellbeing programme, which supported 719 adults to develop and build confidence and improve their mental wellbeing, helping to remove barriers to employment and promote independence.
- We supported the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Workwell and Connect to Work programmes.

- The Armed Forces Covenant programme has supported two Armed Forces
  Voices webinars. The Forces Family Employee network, which we co-ordinated
  and supported, was attended by over 40 members offering peer support, advice
  and opportunities.
- A Female Veterans Working Group was established to identify and address the needs of the group, including social, physical, employment issues.
- In February 2025 we were rated 'excellent' as a training provider for the work we
  do to support our 225 apprenticeships in varied roles from chefs and forest
  operatives to social workers and business analysts. The approach enables staff
  to upskill whilst they work and helps retain a valued workforce.
- The Inspired to Care offer and uptake was reviewed and promoted. The number of views on posts on social media has increased 172% and the number of visitors to the website increased by 112%. The Inspired to Care Team passed on 3,117 candidate leads to members, a rise of 74% on last year.
- Inspired to Care developed a Sector Work based Academy Programme (SWAP), which offers training and work experience to those seeking work. The first successful programme started in June 2025.

# **Strategic Planning**

- The publication of the Leicestershire County Council Local Aggregate
   Assessment (LAA) in November 2024 forecasts demand for aggregates based
   on sales data and other relevant local information; analysis of aggregate supply
   options; and assessment of the balance between demand and supply.
- The fourth Leicestershire County Council Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) on the implementation of the Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan reviewed whether the evidence, assumptions and targets within the plan remain relevant.
- We delivered 100% of county planning applications for major developments in the statutory timescales.
- We continue to input to the Members' Advisory Group and Strategic Planning
  Group to ensure that strategic planning matters, in particular strategic land use
  planning and transport planning, across the County, City and other neighbouring
  authorities are considered and addressed to enable housing and economic
  growth to come forward supported by key infrastructure. Most recently this has
  been through the preparation of updated joint evidence to inform future
  Statements of Common Ground.

### **Business Support and Economic Development**

### Progress in 2024/2025

 We continue to be a key partner in the Enterprise Zone Programme which supports Research and Development businesses on 3 sites in the County: Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park, Charnwood Campus and MIRA Technology Park near Hinckley.

- In October 2024 progress on our Investing in Leicestershire Programme was noted, supporting economic growth in the county as well as income for the Council.
- The Freeport continued work to deliver tens of thousands of jobs and add billions to the regional economy by attracting inward investment at its three tax sites including the East Midlands Airport Gateway.
- In December 2024 the final phase of the Council's Airfield Business Park development got underway. The development, featuring sustainable construction methods including use of solar panels and electric car charging points, will help provide jobs and boost the local economy. The phase will see 10 new units and a coffee outlet drive-thru unit.
- Invest in Leicester, working in partnership with the public and private sector, has showcased major Leicestershire development sites at a key investment event, the UK's Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum (UKREiiF) conference. This highly regarded event connects people, places and businesses to accelerate and unlock sustainable, inclusive and transformational investment.
- Working in partnership with the Team Leicester Network, Invest in Leicester Shire has secured sponsorship to deliver events and promotional activities to showcase Leicestershire as a great place to live and work.
- We launched a new look 'Visit Leicester/Leicestershire' website with the City Council as part of the Place Marketing joint working agreement.
- The Leicestershire Lieutenancy promoted the King's Award for Enterprise which
  is presented annually to businesses across the Country who have made
  outstanding progress in the categories of innovation, international trade,
  sustainable development or promoting opportunity through social mobility.
- Trading Standards officers continued to provide support to the Leicestershire economy, offering regulatory guidance to over 1,000 businesses. When initial advice does not lead to compliance, the service has been prepared to take enforcement measures, ensuring fair competition for all.
- We are working closely with Building Digital UK on the delivery of Project Gigabit in Leicestershire. Gigabit-capable broadband will be rolled out to 14,400 homes and businesses in the County with the potential for more premises to be included in the project. The rollout began in Summer 2024 and is expected to conclude in 2029.
- A partnership with the universities of Leicester, DeMontfort and Loughborough was launched to support free access to academic libraries for Leicestershire residents.

# 8. Public Health and Wellbeing

We continue work to ensure that people live in a healthy environment and enjoy long lives in good health and with reduced health inequalities. That an increased proportion of residents have a healthy weight and that there is improved mental wellbeing and reduced prevalence of mental ill health.

Good health is a basic precondition for people to take an active role in family, community and work life. Health outcomes are influenced by a wide range of social, economic and environmental factors, known as 'wider determinants of health'. We are embedding a 'Health in all Policies' approach to systematically consider the health implications of all decisions.

### **Health Inequalities**

- In January 2025 the Council secured £5.25m of funding, in partnership with local universities, to deliver health and wellbeing research that improves people's health and tackles health inequalities. The funding is from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).
- Last year over 160 people each month across Leicestershire accessed stop smoking services for help and support to quit. The Smoke Free Generations initiative is targeting key groups and individuals including schools and pregnant women, to help reduce smoking and vaping.
- Quit Ready's enhanced stop smoking offer supports people with mental health conditions, pregnant women, young people, and routine and manual workers.
   Tailored pathways, workplace outreach, trauma-informed support, financial incentives, and flexible help empower people to quit smoking, tackle health inequalities, and live healthier lives.
- Through an integrated approach with our health partners (Learning Disability and Autism Collaborative and Learning Disability Partnership Board) work progressed to reduce health inequalities for people with a Learning Disability.
- In November 2024 a new partnership between the Council and Age UK Leicester Shire supported more people to claim pension credit, helping them to stay warm and well. The scheme uses some of the Government funded Household Support Fund.
- We supported the delivery of the Local Immunisation Street Team (LIST), which is a community-based immunisation initiative aimed at improving uptake of MMR and pertussis vaccines in areas with low coverage across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland.
- In December 2024, we established a new Leicestershire Air Quality and Health Action Plan to 2028 setting out plans to improve health inequality linked to air quality.
- The Air Quality and Health Partnership action plan was renewed in 2024 and focuses on groups most at risk of harm from poor air quality, informed by a needs assessment advocating for focus on these groups when planning interventions

- and programmes of work. An example is a multi-partner project around South Wigston schools and surrounding air quality.
- There was continued influence on wider policy work across the Council through the Health in all Policies (HiAP) wider determinants approach, including strategic health impact assessment.
- A Strategic Health Impact Assessment pilot focused on district and borough council Local Plans to enhance health outcomes and reduce negative health impacts. Our Public Health Service continued to provide support to all local planning authorities renewing their Local plans embedding considerations on food environments and active travel.
- In January 2025 our Healthy Workplaces programme signed up its 100<sup>th</sup> workplace to help keep employees' health a priority. Members receive health checks and training support.
- We developed the Leicestershire and Rutland Oral Health Steering Group and working groups to push forward the recommendations from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), working alongside partners from across the health system.
- We worked to increase the uptake of those with Serious Mental Illness to have health checks, breast cancer screening and access to the Quit Ready programme.
- We re-procured the Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) service to ensure local community access to LARC for women of Leicestershire and Rutland.
- Making every contact count has continued to deliver Healthy Conversation Skills training working with University Hospitals of Leicester and Adult Social Care to embed the training.
- Community Delivery teams continue to support trauma informed approaches and utilise asset-based community development approaches to deliver work directly to communities that meets their needs and aspirations as well as promoting good health.
- We supported screening initiatives for our learning disability and autism (LDA) community to increase coverage and uptake. This supports our local Learning from Lives and Deaths of those with LDA Review.
- Our Warm Homes Service implemented the local authority Flexible Eligibility mechanism to widen access to national Energy Company Obligation funding, providing energy efficiency upgrades to low income and energy inefficient households. The wider criteria supports those with health conditions exacerbated by cold homes. This resulted in an additional 967 households being able to access funding in 2024/25.
- The Warm Homes Service delivered approximately £1.2m of capital works installing energy efficiency measures via Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) funding from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. This provided 145 measures across 108 properties.
- We developed the Whole Systems Approach for Healthy Weight, Food and Nutrition which is bringing system partners together to address unhealthy weight and supporting residents to access healthy, nutritious and sustainable food.

 We launched 'Going for Gold' - Leicestershire's bid to become a Gold Sustainable Food Place which showcases Leicestershire's innovation and commitment to ensuring access to healthy and sustainable food for residents.

### **Mental Wellbeing**

- Over 79 organisations have now signed up across the county to be a Mental Health Friendly Place (MHFP) and over 170 people have received training via the programme – which includes MHFA awareness and suicide awareness training. The MHFP programmes offer low level mental health support, providing a safe space for people to seek support. In February 2025 we expanded a mental health initiative to offer dedicated help to football clubs to support adult males experiencing mental health challenges. Clubs receive mental health first aid awareness and suicide prevention training.
- The launch of the My Space My Game pilot project, developed in partnership with Leicestershire Football Association and the new Mental Health Friendly Clubs (MHFC) is specifically targeted towards men. The aim is to offer a safe space for men to be able to open up and start to 'normalise' conversations around mental health.
- In September 2024 the Council won two awards for its efforts in supporting employees in the workplace. The Menopause Friendly Employer of the Year Award and Best Peer to Peer Support Award for being a supportive workplace.
- 981 adults attended health and wellbeing programmes offered through our Adult Learning Service. These included: Learning for Confidence and Better Mental Health, Coping for Change and Five Ways to Wellbeing. 247 of the 981 adults attended programmes to support recovery and maintain positive mental health following poor mental health experiences.