

County Councillors Report December 2024.

Budget update impact on the County Council.

The recent Government budget announcement by the Government was not good news for the County Council the increase in employer's National Insurance contributions added 5m to our already stretch budget and the Minimum Wage increase added an extra 11m to the budget. We are still awaiting the Government's settlement.

Icy Weather.

The winter has arrived with Icy morning. The County Councils gritting teams are on standby every night to keep our roads moving and our bus routes open. When not required they are out filling potholes. Don't forget to get your winter check up on your car making sure your anti-freeze is topped up. If you are going on a long journey, I would advise you take a flask with a warm drink and blanket with you in case of emergencies. I was talking to a gentleman the other day who had been stuck on the motorway for two hours after a serious accident it can happen unfortunately at any time without warning.

Have your say on the refreshed Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) draft Suicide Prevention Strategy, 2024-2029.

This consultation runs from Monday 28 October to Sunday 22 December 2024

Suicide is not inevitable. The strategy describes how we plan to work together as a system across LLR to prevent suicide over the next 5 years.

The draft Suicide Prevention Strategy 2024-2029 sets out a shared vision and priorities with the overall aim of reducing the number and rates of suicide deaths across LLR, which have remained at similar levels over recent years.

The strategy was built on available data, evidence of best practice, intelligence and input from a wide range of stakeholders and experts with experience.

Suicide prevention is a shared responsibility and requires meaningful collaboration between organisations and communities so that support is embedded within our communities. In short, suicide prevention is everyone's business.

That is why we want to hear your views on the draft Suicide Prevention Strategy for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Your views will be used to

inform the final version of the strategy, and the corresponding action plan which will detail how the priorities will be achieved.

Have your say.

<https://surveys.leics.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=172898377095>

Thank you for taking the time to have your say. Your views are important to us.

Please be aware that the theme of this strategy and survey is an emotive one and includes information on suicide and self-harm. Please prioritise your own wellbeing whilst completing this survey. Please take care of yourself and seek help if you need it. If you feel that you require support, please consider visiting the [Start a Conversation](https://www.startaconversation.co.uk/) website <https://www.startaconversation.co.uk/> which provides a wealth of information on matters relating to topics discussed in this survey. This includes providing contact details for sources of mental health support.

If you wish to request a hard copy of this survey, please email phconsultations@leics.gov.uk

The Winter Fuel Payment Scam

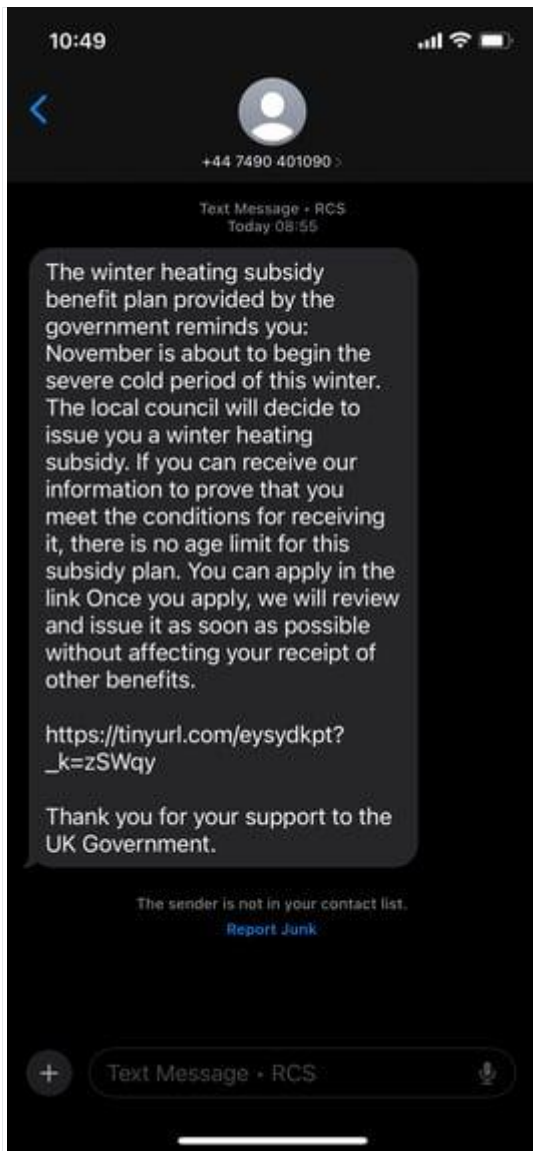
This scam encourages you to click on a link to 'update' or 'provide' your details to receive the payment - these details will likely include asking for your bank account information.

Unfortunately the link doesn't go to the UK Government website, and certainly doesn't have anything to do with Winter Fuel Payments.

Please be aware that these messages can arrive either as a SMS Text Message to your phone or as an email to your email account on your computer or your phone.

The text message in the image below was received - fortunately the recipient was not entitled to the Winter Fuel Payment, so the text immediately rang alarm bells as a potential scam.

Remember The government will not text or email you they will write to you directly.



What are some common types of phone scams?

It can be hard to tell the difference between a scam and cold calling. But, it's good to know some common scams so you can be prepared.

Bank scams

Watch out for calls supposedly from your bank about fraudulent use of your bank account or bank cards. Scammers might ask you for your PIN and tell you to give your bank card to a courier. Your bank would never do this.

Undercover police scams

These can be calls from someone claiming to be the 'undercover police', claiming that they're investigating a member of staff at your bank and asking for

your card details. The police would never ask you to take part in an investigation like this.

Computer or mobile phone repair scams

The person may call and tell you that your device has a virus, and that you need to download software to fix it. This is actually spyware – an unwanted programme that runs on your device and can give scammers access to all your online information.

HMRC scams

You may get a call from someone claiming to be from HMRC saying there's an issue with your tax refund or an unpaid tax bill. They may leave a message and ask you to call back. HMRC would never contact you this way and would never ask you to reveal personal financial information such as your bank account details.

Council Tax scams

Calls claiming to be about correcting your Council Tax band or giving you a Council Tax rebate. Your council would never call you about a rebate out of the blue.

Compensation calls

This is a call from a company asking about a car accident you've supposedly had claiming you may be entitled to compensation. Don't engage in these calls. If you've had an accident, call your own insurance company on the phone number provided on your policy.

Texts with fake links

You might receive a text asking you to follow a link to fix a problem with one of your accounts or to track a parcel. These links will often take you to a fake website and get you to log in, which scammers can then use to access your information.

Telephone Preference Service scams

Watch out for calls asking you to pay to renew your membership of the Telephone Preference Service. The service is free and any calls asking you to pay for it are scams.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank councillors and residents for your continued support and wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a very Happy Healthy and prosperous New Year.

Remember I am only an Email or a phone call away.



Ozzy O'shea.

Always Working for you Locally.

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