

County Councillors Report March 2024.

Budget Meeting Council Tax Increases April 24/25.

Major plans setting out multi-million-pound investment in services, wide-ranging savings and a Council Tax rise Has been in the spotlight as councillors met to finalise Leicestershire County Council's budget.

The four-year proposals were at the heart of full council meeting on Wednesday 21st March which included investing £129m more to meet growing demand, mainly in social care, and an extra £113m to cover inflation and the National Living Wage increase.

We propose balancing the books next year using £6m of reserves – the first time this has been required - and forecast a budget gap of £83m by 2028 after planned savings.

A three per cent Council Tax increase for core services - and a two per cent increase in the adult social care precept – generating in total £18m more for front line services – was passed this will take effect from April and equates to a £1.46 a week for a Band D home.

Councils across the country face eye-watering challenges. Thanks to taking tough decisions, and saving £262m since 2010, we're not at crisis point. We're proud about being open and highly efficient and we'll continue to work with Government ministers on the reform needed to help us do more for our residents.

This is our toughest ever budget but we're doing the best we can with the money we have, and I'm pleased that most people who responded to our consultation support the approach. And its good news that extra Government funding means we can scale back waste site closures and invest in tackling flooding.

Major service redesigns are already underway, but our focus is on challenging how we deliver in each and every area, so we can pinpoint options for bridging the longer term £83m budget gap.

The four-year budget proposals include:

A £6m budget shortfall next year – rising to £33m in 2026, £60m in 2027 and £83m in 2028

£127m more mainly to support vulnerable people – to pay for more home and residential care, and support people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health needs

An extra £113m - to cover inflation and the National Living Wage increase

Major redesigns of services to manage future demand, including:

- o Special educational needs and disabilities - a new approach balancing growing demand for support with getting children the right help
- o Working with Barnardo's to run children's homes locally
- o Boosting 'supported living' - over 100 new placements created since 2020, enabling people with learning and physical disabilities and mental health needs to learn life skills and live independently
- o Rolling out 'care technology' - over 2,600 pieces of equipment, including falls detectors and GPS location trackers, installed over last year, benefiting over 1,000 people

£39m of savings – including redesigning services, reducing the cost of back-office support services by maximising digital technology and smarter procurement

An extra £400k to help the council do more to tackle flooding - after 500 homes flooded across the county in the wake of Storm Henk in the New Year

£2.7m to maintain roads and fix potholes - including £2.2m of Government 'Network North' money

A £445m four-year capital pot – including £18m to improve bridges, roll out flood alleviation projects and improve road surfaces

I cannot emphasise how hard our officers work on behalf of the residents of Leicestershire. Balancing the budget is a major task when you are the lowest funded County Council in the Country. We have been fighting for fair funding since I became your Councillor, and I will continue to fight for fair funding for Leicestershire with whatever government is in power.

D Day Events and Road Closure Requests.

There will be celebrations marking the 80th D-Day anniversary with events in the UK and in Normandy on 6th June 2024, as well as with community events around the UK.

Thinking of holding an event to commemorate D-Day?

Detailed below is some information and key dates that you may find useful to get you started.

Planning on having a street party to celebrate the event?

You will need to apply to Leicestershire County Council to close your street/road to traffic by completing sections 3 and 4 of the D-Day 80th Anniversary application pack, attached to this email.

All fees associated with the legal application have been waived for D-Day 80th Anniversary and the application time reduced to 7 weeks, please note this is **ONLY** for D-Day 80th Anniversary and does not apply to other events.

If you wish to apply for a road closure or any other restrictions the last date for submission is **Friday 12th April 2024**. Applications after this date may not be able to be fulfilled.

Given the occasion and following Government guidance we will not be asking for the usual required documentation for a road closure such as an in-depth risk assessment, however consideration still needs to be given to ensure the safety of all attendees and an enjoyable event. Within the registration form you will find some additional information for you to consider. Further Government advice on road closures for street parties can be found

here; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party>

The information you supply to us regarding your event will be shared with the emergency services so they can put their own plans and resources in place.

Please submit your application form in good time, it is better to submit draft plans than nothing at all. It is essential that the emergency services are kept well informed of the events and we would rather know something is happening well in advance than finding out the day before.

Signs and Cones

Leicestershire County Council Highways is offering the loan of signs and cones, should you require these please complete section 5 of the D-Day

80th Anniversary application pack attached. Please be aware signs and cones must be collected from and returned to the LCC Mountsorrel Highways Depot. Appropriate arrangements will need to be made for collection. The deadline for your cones and signs applications is **Friday 12th April 2024**, after this date we cannot guarantee availability.

Please note that the fees for the loan of signs will be waived for all D-Day 80th Anniversary events but equipment must be returned or it will be invoiced for.

Council owned land and licences

If you would like to organise an event on Council land or a greenspace or to find out about licensable activities such as selling food and drink or having music on a stage please use this link where you will find details for each Borough or Districts page; <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/parks-and-outdoor-activities/plan-an-event/licensable-activities>

Leicestershire County Council pre driver days

Leicestershire County Council pre driver days are aimed at 16/17-year-olds who are thinking about getting behind the wheel for the first time.

#roadsafety #fatal4 Places filling fast for these that take place on Mallory Park Circuit. The dates for 2024: 25th Mar 2nd Apr 30th May 5th Aug 6th Aug and the 21st Oct Further details including

booking: <https://www.tjunction.org.uk/pre-driver-days/>

Grobby Flood Alleviation Project Update.

The team have been struggling with unexpected gas pipes, high voltage cables etc which is slowing them down. These things are normally mapped but They are finding ones that aren't, so the team are having to be extra cautious when digging.

Unfortunately, that's put the work back a bit and they now expect to finish mid-May.

The photo below shows the big storage pipes going into the verge on Leicester Road. That hole is 2.5m deep and the pipes are 1.2m diameter on the inside.

Severn Trent will be letting residents know about upcoming changes to traffic management on Dalby Drive/Marston Drive in the coming weeks.

I will continue to keep residents updated.



Extreme Weather Rogue Traders

Leicestershire Trading Standards is warning the public to be on guard against rogue traders looking to cash in on residents affected by floods and storm damage. Cold callers may prey on the most vulnerable members of our community that are faced with damaged properties. We advise the public to: • Never engage with cold callers knocking on your door or who call out of the blue. • Get 3 quotes from different and independently sourced traders, and make sure everything agreed is in writing. • Pay securely rather than by cash, including using a credit card. • Don't feel pressured into agreeing work or paying all money up front before work starts – these are red flags. Get more advice at: www.Citizensadvice.org.uk/getting-home-improvements

Finally, I would like to wish all residents and fellow councillors a very Happy, Healthy, and prosperous New Year. I would also like to thank you all for your continued support and remind you that should you need my help or advice, I always pride myself on making myself available to residents. Remember I am only a phone call or email away.

Ozzy O'shea.

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