

County Councillors Report May 2024.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy

This aims to make space for nature and bring long-term benefits for people and the environment. It is primarily aimed at landowners, farmers, local authorities, and environmental groups.

We want to work together with communities to deal with the problems and impacts of global warming and the loss of species and habitats, therefore we seek your input to help us agree the strategy and, based on this, to create a plan to deliver it.

We're asking:

- **residents** for their views about nature
- **environmental groups** with a special interest for their ideas and concerns
- **those responsible for managing land** for their views on what is achievable, that they could contribute to, and any help or support they need to deliver on those commitments, to help make more space for nature

All these views and ideas will contribute to the final strategy. It's the only way to produce something that brings about the benefits we all agree for people and nature in Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland. After all, nature's future is our future too.

Have your say

We're seeking views to influence the priorities in the strategy. We're doing this through:

- gathering your feedback on existing and planned actions for nature, ideas for where and how we could make more space for nature, and any pressures or concerns -
- Surveys for the public and stakeholders to share their views:

Stakeholders and key partners

For organisations, including:

- farmers
- landowners
- land managers
- developers
- environmental charities

- non-government organisations
- public sector organisations
- schools
- community groups

Members of the public

If you're a member of the public, please have your say using the resident survey

If you type in the following or copy and paste it into your space bar it will take to the two surveys. The consultation closes on the 26th May,

[Local Nature Recovery Strategy development | Leicestershire County Council](#)

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order, Leicester Road, Groby.

A Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) is to be made for the following location: **Leicester Road, Groby** (see weblink or scan QR code).

The purpose of the TTRO is to allow **Leicestershire County Council** to undertake footway patching works.

The TTRO will incorporate temporary parking restrictions.

The duration of the restriction is not anticipated to exceed a period of 8 days commencing on the 24th June 2024 between the hours of 9am and 3pm.

A Press Release will be issued to confirm these details approximately two weeks prior to the works commencing.

Weblink: <https://one.network/?tm=GB138605886>

Network North Money

Last year the government announced the cancellation of the HS2 north of Birmingham and the reallocation of the funds to the Midlands and the North under the umbrella of the network North Plan.

Funding awarded as part of the Network North Plan should be additional to existing resources to ensure that the benefits are realised within the North and Midlands regions.

Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP+) and Network North Public Transport Funding.

The BISP+ is a revenue-based grant funding that consists of two tranches of £1.79 million-the first was received in October 2023 and the second is due to be received in July 2024,

The network North Public Transport is a funding of £4.05 million due to be received in July 2024.

This means a total of £7.63 is available over 2023/2024 and 2024/25 financial years.

The focus of this funding is to improve passenger transport by delivering the best overall outcomes in growing long-term patronage, revenues and therefore maintaining bus service levels and providing essential social and economic connectivity for local communities.

A further four-year capital and revenue funding announcement for the period from 2025/26 onwards is anticipated in the near future, which could provide an opportunity to carry out improvement schemes that may not be covered in the current BSIP+ and Network North Public Transport funding.

Road Resurfacing Fund,

Again, under the Network North Funding Plan, the County Council has received an additional £2.258 million of funding in 2023/2024 from the Road Resurfacing Fund for the local highways maintenance, particularly for the resurfacing of carriageways, cycleways and footways to prevent potholes and other road defects. I have been told the Council will receive the same funding for 2024/2025.

Network North Funding.

- ❑ The department for transport has announced that a total additional funding for the Council. The Council has been allocated a total of £238m to cover seven years from 2025, although no annual amounts have been specified to date. However, we have been told that the yearly allocation will be backloaded meaning larger funding allocations will be provided in the later years of the funding period.
- ❑ The funding covers the period from 2025/26 until 2031/32 and has been provided to:
 - a) Drive better connectivity within local towns, suburbs and cities;
 - b) Drive better connectivity between local towns and cities; and
 - c) Improve everyday local journeys for people.
- ❑ The DfT has been clear that the LTF funding will be backloaded. In recognition of this, the DfT will initially require a delivery plan for the first two years of the programme to be developed and submitted by the end of the 2024 calendar year, with high level plans for the remaining five years.
- ❑ More detailed plans for the later years of the fund will then be required before 2027. This will allow the alignment of that long-term programme with the Council's Local Transport Plan 4.
- ❑ The DfT has advised that it anticipates that annual allocations for this fund should be published in May 2024 along with guidance to ensure that

local authorities can make the most of this funding and be ready to deliver improvements with the LTF from April 2025.

- ❑ **As might be anticipated, future allocations may also be dependent on the outcome of the next Government Spending Review. It may be that a new Labour government may take this funding away from the already poorly funded County Council.**

Another Record Year For Primary School First Choices.

Parents across Leicestershire have today (Tuesday, 16 April) been finding out which primary school their child will attend this autumn.

With 7,012 applications received this year, a record 99% of children across the county have been offered a place at one of their top three school preferences.

94.6% of youngsters due to start school for the first time have secured a place at their first preference school, with 3.6% being offered their second preference and 0.9% being offered their third preference primary school.

Jane Moore, director of children and family services at Leicestershire County Council, said: “We’re so pleased that nearly all children in Leicestershire are finding out that they’ve got a place at one of their top three primary school preferences.

“It’s especially fantastic that there have been so many first choice places awarded, too.”

“We’re pleased for everyone with a successful outcome and recognise also that not every pupil has secured one of the places they had hoped for.

“There is support for families who want to talk about alternative school options or making an appeal. We want anyone needing this help to get in touch with us as soon as they can.

“I’d like to wish all children starting school for the first time a successful and enjoyable start to their schooling.”

The county council is also reminding parents that if a school place

has been refused, the child will have been placed on the school's waiting list. If a place becomes available parents will be contacted automatically.

For more information visit <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>.

Primary school offers for autumn 2024 were revealed across the country on Tuesday 16 April.

The admissions process in Leicestershire adheres to central government rules and gives parents the right to have an appeal heard by an Independent Appeal Panel.

Parents who applied on paper will receive a letter and those who applied online will receive an email about the decision. To find out more, visit: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place>

There were 7,012 applications received this year, compared to 7,169 in 2023, of which:

- 94.8 per cent (6664) secured their first preference (94.2 per cent in 2023)
- 3.6 per cent (253) secured their second preference (3.7 per cent in 2023)
- 0.8 per cent (55) secured their third preference (1 per cent in 2023)
- 99% per cent (6,972) secured one of their top three preferences (98.9 automatically agreed at the next nearest school to their home address. They per cent in 2023)
- 0.9 per cent (60) did not secure one of their preferences and were can appeal or contact the LA to discuss other school options (1 per cent in 2023)

Protect your vehicle and contents thefts are on the rise.

Crime prevention advice:

1. Always lock it

Ensure that you always secure your vehicle, even if you're only going to be away from it for a moment. If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked, make sure you lock it properly. Criminal gangs are looking for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked.

2. Close windows and sunroofs to prevent "fishing"

Leaving windows and the sunroof open invites fishing for items through the gap by hand or with, say, a bent coat hanger, which could also be used to unlock a door for them to get in. Thieves can be ingenious. Don't give them the opportunity.

3. Secure your number plates with tamper-resistant screws

The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle or avoid speeding tickets and parking tickets is to fit stolen number plates. Using security screws to attach your vehicle's number plates makes it harder for thieves to get your number plate.

4. Fit locking, anti-tamper wheel nuts to secure alloy wheels

Stolen wheels are valuable, either as parts or for their scrap value. Using locking wheel nuts reduces the risk of your vehicle's wheels being stolen.

5. Secure anything that's on the outside of your vehicle

Anything left on roof-racks, tailgate racks, holiday top boxes or in tool chests are easily stolen when the vehicle is parked. The use of cable locks, padlocks and self-locking tools chests, which are secured to the vehicle, makes them more secure, but still, don't leave things in them if you can avoid it.

6. Hide Electrical items and leave no clues

Leaving Sat nav mounts, suction cup marks on windows or cables on view gives it away that you have left a Sat Nav, smart phone or other device in your car. Even if they can't see the Sat Nav or iPad they might still break in to see if it is being stored in the car, out of sight.

There have also been reports received across the beat area reporting residential burglaries and breaks to outbuildings in the Groby, Desford, Odstone & Market Bosworth areas.

A helpful tip for further protecting your possessions:

Make your valuables less attractive to thieves by using property or police approved forensic marking solution only visible under Ultraviolet (UV) light. This can take the form of a special marker using ink or paint. Mark or etch your property with your postcode, house or flat number or the first three letters of your address. All these measures help police identify stolen goods, making it harder for thieves to sell. So, make your mark. For information on police approved marking products, visit the **[Secured by Design website](#)**.

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/>

And property marking isn't only for things like electrical items and bikes, you can also mark high value belongings like antiques. However, we recommend that you seek specialist advice.

Register your property for free on [Immobilise](#) – it helps the police identify the owners of recovered property. You can register anything that as a serial number with Immobilise.

<https://www.immobilise.com/>

How scammers hack accounts

Fraudsters can access your online accounts in a variety of ways. If you find that one of your accounts has been hacked, you may be wondering how they gained access.

Here are some of the main ways a hacker can gain access:

- **A data breach:** this is when hackers gain access to a system that holds confidential data on people. Fraudsters can then use this data to gain access to accounts.
- **Responding to a phishing message:** scam messages that impersonate legitimate companies and contain links leading to malicious websites can be used to harvest personal details. Links can download malware to your device that steals your personal data, or cons you into entering your information on a website.
- **On-platform chain hacking:** a fraudster posts links to dodgy websites in the comment section of social media posts, which then asks the victim to enter their social media account details, thereby giving the fraudster access to these details. The fraudster may also message the victim impersonating one of their contacts to try and get them to share their **two-factor authentication code**.
- **Credential stuffing:** this is when hackers use one password they've successfully used to access other accounts from the same person.

- **Shoulder surfing:** this is when a scammer looks over your shoulder and watches you log in to an account.
- **Malicious apps:** Dodgy apps created by fraudsters that install malware on your device, which is then used to steal login information for your accounts.

Protecting yourself from hacking

Some steps you can take to prevent your accounts from being hacked are:

- Use a unique password for each account – don't use the same password across different accounts.
- Use a reputable **password manager** – this will look after your passwords securely, so you don't have to memorise them.
- Create secure passwords.
- Download **antivirus software** on your devices.
- Update your devices – updates include protection from viruses.
- Set up **two-factor authentication** (2FA) or two-step verification (2SV). This is when you provide a separate form of identification – such as a code being sent via text – when you log into an account.

Recovering hacked accounts

If your account has been hacked, beware of **recovery scammers** contacting you on social media telling you that they can get your account back. They can't, and this is just another scam.

Go to the help page of the account provider and find out who to contact to get assistance with a hacked account. Ensure you change your password and log out of your account on all devices.

Check to see if any new 'rules' have been set up on your email account that you haven't created. These can control where emails about your account are forwarded to.

Let your contacts know that you've been hacked and that any messages they receive are not from you.

Make sure you change passwords on other accounts in case fraudsters have also hacked into them and check your bank statement for unauthorised transactions.

If you notice any unusual behaviour on your bank account, call your bank immediately using the number on the back of your bank card and report it to **Action Fraud** on 0300 123 20 40 – or call the police on 101

Finally, 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.

Always Working for you Locally.

Cllr Ozzy O'shea Tel 0116 2394336 Mobile 07808585825

Email Ozzy.O'shea@leics.gov.uk

Email ozzyoshea@hotmail.com