

## County Council July 2021 Report

### Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carers Strategy Review

Leicestershire County Council recognise the vital support unpaid carers provide to their family members, friends, and neighbours and want to hear your views on the LLR (Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland) Carers strategy which is due for review and update.

Your views will help to shape the LLR Carers Strategy 2022 – 2025 and ensure the priorities direct key areas of focus for carers for the coming years. There will be a formal consultation on the new strategy starting January 2022.

Please complete the survey at [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/carers-strategy-review](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/carers-strategy-review) to provide your views on the current strategy and life as a Leicestershire carer. **This engagement will run until 31st Aug 2021.**

### Members Highways Fund

A Members Highways Fund was approved at the County Council Cabinet meeting on 22nd June 2021. Each County Councillor will be allocated £25,000 to spend on highway and improvement works in their areas. Members may choose to use this fund to address specific community concerns in their localities which may not be funded through the highway maintenance budget.

Further information on this fund will be available soon and Cllr. Maggie Wright will be discussing the details with Parish Councils and Parish meeting representatives within the Stoney Stanton and Croft Division shortly.

### Have a say on bus services

The county council is working closely with local bus operators to come up with bold plans to improve public transport – and encouraging more people to use it. The Government has pledged £3 billion to help progress these plans across the country – and Leicestershire is aiming to secure a fair share of the funding.

However, to secure this funding, the council must develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The council needs input to help it develop the plan. It wants to find out what people think would improve local bus services and what would encourage them to use local buses more.

It would like to hear from people who already use buses, those who currently don't, as well as from public, private, and voluntary organisations.

Questionnaires at <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say/current-consultations/national-bus-strategy-engagement-survey> for people to have their say. The closing date is **Friday, 30th July 2021**.

### **Government's Kickstart Scheme**

Kickstart is aimed at getting young people into permanent employment. Twenty young people are to be given jobs with Leicestershire County Council as part of a scheme to help boost their chances of getting permanent work. The Government's Kickstart scheme is open to those aged between 16 and 24 who are currently claiming Universal Credit. It funds job placements for six months, but the county council is doubling the length of some placements to 12 months to give candidates the best possible start to their working lives.

### **Memorial walk for Leicester and Leicestershire is formally opened**

A tree trail in a country park that will provide a space for reflection and remembrance for those whose lives have been affected by coronavirus was formally opened on Monday 21st June.

The idea for a tree-lined memorial walk in Watermead Park was proposed by Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council last year, with dozens of individuals and businesses supporting the project through a crowdfunding campaign.

Since funding for the memorial walk was secured in January, 58 trees have been planted along a 2.6 mile route that links the city side of Watermead Park in the south, with the county side in the north.

### **Holiday Clubs**

Free holiday clubs are available this summer for children and young people who are eligible for free school meals. Leicestershire families can sign up by visiting [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/HAF)

Leicestershire County Council, together with Leicestershire and Rutland Sport are offering the places to both eligible primary and secondary school pupils as part of the government's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. Children and young people (aged five to 16) can access up to four sessions a week, for four weeks, throughout the summer holidays - free of charge. The council is working with local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to provide the HAF programme. For more information on the national programme visit:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-2021](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-2021) Opens another website in new window

### **Consultations**

**Shire Environmental Grant 2021/22 – deadline for applications is 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021**