

Leader's Statement

18 November 2025

Local government reorganisation

Our draft plan to reorganise councils, accelerate devolution and unlock economic growth across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland was published on 20 October.

The North, City, South plan sets out a vision for three unitary councils and a mayoral strategic authority to lead the area into a more prosperous future.

The three unitary authorities, which would deliver all council services, would cover North Leicestershire and Rutland, South Leicestershire, and Leicester City. Each would have a population of around 400,000 residents.

The proposal would:

- create more prevention focused services to improve lives and reduce demand
- save £44 million a year
- keep councils connected to communities
- deliver devolution at pace by holding a Mayoral election in 2027
- accelerate economic growth
- retain Leicester's current City boundary

Following the publication I also held a public event for residents to learn more about the proposals and to ask questions. I would like to thank everyone who attended and asked for more details and clarification. And a thanks to the officers who organised the evening. This is certainly an event format I would like to use again in the future.



The proposal is now going through our governance process before being submitted to government on 28 November.

I would also like to thank our local MPs who have publicly shown their support for this bid. I had a very productive meeting with South Leicestershire MP Alberto Costa at Westminster recently and was pleased to hear his endorsement of the three-unitary approach.





Enabling our communities and supporting our vulnerable residents

Our Community Awards are back

We once again launched our annual search for the selfless, unsung heroes who go that extra mile to make a real difference in their community.

The Blaby District Council Community Awards will be held in January 2026, and I cannot wait to meet and learn more about the local volunteers and groups who work tirelessly across the District to support others.

Voting for the Community Group of the Year is now open, and I am sure you will agree that every organisation on the list is a potential worthy winner.



Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment

Solar panels at Enderby Leisure Centre

More than 490 solar panels now provide power for Enderby Leisure Centre following our most recent solar panel project.

Funding of £140,000 from the UK Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, alongside our own investment of £109,000 has supported the project.

Read the full story <https://www.blaby.gov.uk/your-council/news-and-awards/news/solar-panels-project-complete/>.

Huncote open space plans

It's been a busy few months at the former Huncote BMX track, with work to ensure the area is safe for future public use taking place.

We are committed to responsible management and monitoring of the site, maintaining safety remains a key priority for future users of the space and the surrounding area. The former track has now been levelled and we are moving onto the planning stage of rewilding the site.

This change will mean that we will be able to open the full site for public access for everyone to enjoy.





Growing and supporting our economy

Jobs and Skills fair

A specialised workshop to help job seekers sharpen their CV writing, interview technique and hone their application skills was trialled at our most recent job and skills fair.

The new initiative proved very popular and was a great addition to the many stands from local employers and training providers. The event once-again proved popular and I am pleased to report that 129 people came to the drop-in, many of whom were interested in some of our very own council vacancies.

World of Work visit

Inspiring the potential next generation of council staff was the order of the day at our World of Work visit. We welcomed students from Forest House Special Educational Needs school in October to learn more about the services we run and what it's like working for a local council.

I was delighted to see the students learning more about the many services we provide our communities. The highlight was seeing their crafting session with local veterans which resulted in the Remembrance Day display featured in the Council Chamber and memorial garden.



Keeping you safe and healthy

Still going strong at 101

Our Active Blaby team has really shown that age is just a number, with the news of centenarian Eileen Loftus attending our Steady Steps classes for the last five years.

Eileen is an inspiration and is just one of the 2,185 people the Active team has worked with over the last two years.

Read Eileen's story: <https://www.blaby.gov.uk/your-council/news-and-awards/news/still-going-strong-at-101/>

White ribbon

Letting sexism slide puts women and girls at risk. Sexist jokes, catcalling, staring, and comments might seem harmless, but they are serious because they can lead to violence and abuse.

This White Ribbon Day, 25 November, male councillors including myself and staff are using their voices and speaking up to create a world where everyone is safe, equal and



respected. Every time we ignore something that doesn't feel right, we miss a chance to set a better example.

A programme of events, including sessions with staff and visits to local schools, will begin later this month to support individuals to stand up against violence towards women and girls.



Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

Recruitment for Waste Services

None of our services are possible without our hard-working and dedicated teams, and our most visible service for residents is waste and recycling.

I'm delighted that our recent recruitment drive, complete with Depot open-evening and video, for new waste loaders and drivers received an excellent response. I understand more than 130 applications were received across the two roles and we're soon to welcome 14 new people to the team.

In-house ICT update

It's four months since our ICT moved fully in-house, and what a difference the team has made. Along with introducing new and innovative ways of working, the team has continued to offer a professional and responsive service to staff and councillors. Feedback for September to now shows high satisfaction levels and I am sure this will continue.

ICT gains cyber-secure accreditation

As we've seen over the last year, nationally cybercrime is increasing, so I would like to congratulate our ICT team and to reassure our residents that we have received Cyber Essentials Accreditation.

This is a nationally recognised badge of honour in the world of cybersecurity and demonstrates our commitment to protecting our organisation, our data and our residents from the most common cyber threats. But this isn't the end, we will continue to review our systems and processes to keep ourselves as secure from cyber threats as possible.

Cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility, please remain alert to suspicious emails, unexpected attachments and unusual system behaviour.

