

March 2023 – County Council Update

Dear Colleagues,

Please find below some updates from the County Council this March, which your Parishes may find useful.

Thanks to those of you who got in contact over the past month with questions in relation to updates I've provided in person or through my newsletter.

As always, please continue to stay in contact with me should you have an issue that needs addressing and I will investigate it as quickly as possible.

Budget supporting vulnerable people agreed:

- Councillors have agreed the authority's budget which features significant investment in support for vulnerable people.
- The financial plan, agreed at a full county council meeting in February, will see a 4.99 per cent Council Tax increase from April, generating £17.7m for frontline services.
- Following better than expected Government funding earlier this year, an extra £1m has also been earmarked to offset the impact of service cuts and boost road maintenance.
- Following the meeting, council leader, Nick Rushton, told the media:
 - *“Protecting the vulnerable and hefty investment in support people depend on – that's what our budget delivers.*
 - *“Unforeseen global issues such as war in Ukraine and rising energy costs make balancing our books challenging. We've spent a lot of time on it and asking people to pay more has been a tough decision. Not doing so would drastically reduce the money we can spend on social care, fixing roads and other frontline services.”*
 - *This has been a particularly complex budget, for the reasons Nick Rushton sets out above, plus uncertainty about Government funding. I know that it's also an unsettling time for staff and I'd like to thank you for putting forward ideas for savings and for continuing to deliver services during difficult times.*
 - *Service leads are looking in more detail about how the agreed savings can be made and no decisions will be made until after public consultation has taken place.*
- Unfortunately, the pressure on local government finance isn't lifting but it's important to stress though that looking at the position of other local authorities I still believe we are better placed than most to deal with the challenges ahead.

Members Group Room

Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8RA

Telephone: 0116 232 3232

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Work and Skills

- Work and skills is a free service available to Leicestershire residents who need help finding work or training.
- Book an appointment at one of our employment hubs
- Visit: <https://crowd.in/ohEpB5>
- Or call us on: 08009 880 308

Local Elections:

- Local elections are taking place across the county on Thursday 04 May.
- You'll need to bring photo ID to vote a polling station at these elections.
- Your ID can include a passport, driving licence or blue badge.

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