

## Leicestershire County Council July 2024 Report

### Independent Persons application now open

A recruitment drive is underway for up to six independent persons to support the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct by Councillors and Senior Chief Officers at Leicestershire County Council and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority.

The County Council and the Combined Fire Authority are required to seek the views of independent advisers before making decisions on cases relating to potential breaches of their codes of conduct, or any proposal to dismiss a senior officer.

Anyone with the ability to take a fair and objective view on complex issues and an interest in local government and politics is encouraged to find out more.

For further details please contact:

Lauren Haslam, Director of Law and Governance at County

Hall: [lauren.haslam@leics.gov.uk](mailto:lauren.haslam@leics.gov.uk)(link sends email)

Rosemary Whitelaw, Head of Democratic Services: [rosemary.whitelaw@leics.gov.uk](mailto:rosemary.whitelaw@leics.gov.uk)(link sends email)

Apply for the [Independent Persons role](#)(Link is external and opens in new window)

**The closing date for applications is 17 July 2024.**

### Libraries set for Summer Reading Challenge

Children aged between 4 and 11 are being urged to get creative this summer for this year's Summer Reading Challenge 2024.

The free challenge is held every year across the country and is available in both Leicestershire County Council's libraries and community-managed libraries, encouraging children to read books and collect rewards in the process.

Running from **Saturday 6 July to Saturday 7 September**, this year's theme is 'Marvellous Makers,' aimed at sparking children's imaginations.

For reading six books and visiting a library three times children will receive a certificate and a unique wooden medal for completing the challenge.

A range of events will be held at Libraries across the county during the challenge and local libraries will have full details of the events as well as the libraries [Facebook page](#).

Children taking part in the challenge can also receive free entry to Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, as well as the 1620's House and Garden at Donington le Heath.

Children can sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge at any time throughout the summer

at any Leicestershire library. Find out more on the [Summer Reading Challenge website\(Link is external and opens in new window\)](#), and on [our dedicated webpage](#).

### **New Chair appointed to Business Board**

Andy Reed OBE has been appointed to chair a new Business Board tasked with helping to shape economic strategy in Leicester and Leicestershire.

The Leicester and Leicestershire Business Board will bring senior public and private sector leaders together to consider matters relating to growth in the city and county.

The Business Board is a key part of the new Leicester and Leicestershire Business and Skills Partnership led by Leicester City Council and Leicestershire County Council.

The purpose of the Business Board is to boost skills and growth by building the local business voice into delivery of economic strategy.

Work is now underway to recruit Board members. The first meeting is expected to be held later this year.

### **Flag raising ceremony at County Hall to celebrate our armed forces**

Armed Forces Day honours the huge contribution made by current and former members of the armed forces, their families, reservists and adult cadet volunteers, and is always well supported by the county council.

The County Council's annual flag raising ceremony took place at County Hall's Stand Easy memorial at 10.30am on Monday 24 June. The Armed Forces Day flag was raised by veteran June Sisson, who served as a communications specialist in the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF).

### **Fraudster jailed for £1.5million renewable energy and home safety scam**

A fraudster who conned elderly and vulnerable residents out of £1.5 million for renewable energy and home safety products has been sentenced to seven years imprisonment, and banned from company directorship for 10 years.

Robin MacDonald, aged 45, of Park Row, Bretby, Burton-on-Trent, was found guilty of conspiracy to commit fraud by false representation, along with charges of fraudulent trading, following a five-month trial at Nottingham Crown Court where more than 200 victims gave evidence.

Thirty-two of the victims were from Leicestershire, and between them, they lost more than £285,000 to the fraud.

### **Free entry to attractions for unpaid carers**

Unpaid carers across Leicestershire are being offered all-year-round free entry to two top county attractions.

Free adult admission is available at Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and 1620s House and Gardens for anyone with a valid Carers Passport.

Tickets will be valid for 12 months from the date of issue and will also be eligible for a free tea or coffee (and cake at 1620s House) on their first visit.

The offer is open to carers who have or can evidence that they have a current adult Carers Passport when visiting either of the attractions, and free tickets need to be claimed by 31 August.

Applications for a Carers Passport can be made by calling Support for Carers on 01858 468543 or email [maureen@supportforcarers.org](mailto:maureen@supportforcarers.org)([link sends email](#)) giving your details and a phone number. Please quote FREEPASS 2024 when making an application. More information is available from [Support for Carers.\(Link is external and opens in new window\)](#)

More information about the [1620s House and Garden\(Link is external and opens in new window\)](#) and [Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre\(Link is external and opens in new window\)](#) is available online.

The offer will admit the Carers Passport holder only. Anyone else visiting with the eligible carer will be charged standard admission.

The offer does not include any special events or activities which will incur an additional cost, including the Bosworth Medieval Festival on 17 and 18 August 2024.