**Leicestershire County Council December Report 2024**

**The last Report of 2024. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**Leicestershire Matters is now out.**

Read the winter edition:

[Leicestershire Matters - Winter 2024.pdf PDF, 4.76 MBOpens new window](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-11/Leicestershire%20Matters%20-%20Winter%202024.pdf)

Leicestershire Matters is delivered to homes from Monday 25 November.

LCC work closely with a delivery company to monitor delivery rates but please let us know if you become aware of any issues by contacting our Communications Team:

Call 0116 305 6274 Email: leics-matters@leics.gov.uk [Sign up to receive email copies](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/digital-leicestershire-matters-sign-up)

**Environmental scheme picks up national award at Kensington Palace**

The restoration scheme at Donisthorpe Woodland Park, and the installation of the bird and bat boxes with pupils from the local primary school, was a partnership between Leicestershire County Council and contractor King Industries to improve the environment and bring ecological benefits.

**Unwrap Christmas magic at Beaumanor Hall’s Festive Gift Fair**

Taking place over three consecutive weekends on 23 and 24 November, 30 November and 1 December, and **finally 7 and 8 December,** the event will showcase over 70 local makers and crafters each day, selling anything from Christmas ornaments to glass art and cheese.

Parking is free and entry is just £3 per person and free for anyone aged 12 and under. Doors for each day of the Festive Gift Fair open from 10am to 4pm.

Further information about the event is available at [Beaumanor Hall's website.](http://www.beaumanorhall.co.uk/events/%22%20%5Co%20%22%28opens%20in%20a%20new%20window%29%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Council and Age UK team up to support pensioners this winter**

Leicestershire County Council is using a slice of its government-funded Household Support Fund to help Age UK. This means the charity can help more people check if they’re eligible for Government support and complete the application process.

Recent figures show that 6,500 Leicestershire residents are at risk of missing out on pension credit - over half of those who qualify.  People receiving a pension of less than £218.15 a week (or £332.95 a week for couples) are eligible for pension credit – which includes help with cost of living.

This month, the council has also opened its wider Government-funded £3.6m Household Support Fund, enabling eligible households to apply for an average of £200 for food and energy costs.

Under the scheme, more than 19,000 children will receive a £15 food voucher during holidays, food banks across Leicestershire will receive £200,000 to support with purchasing food and white goods.

**Powerful artwork about domestic abuse to be showcased in exhibition.**

 Impactful artwork will go on display in Leicester in an exhibition designed to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

Around 100 survivors and young people from around the county collaborated with artists to create the powerful pieces designed to reflect, heal and empower.

The free exhibition will be on the first floor of the Highcross shopping centre (next to Vision Express) from 25 November until 10 December.

If you live in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and are experiencing [domestic abuse](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/protecting-adults-at-risk-safeguarding/domestic-abuse), you can call 0808 80 200 28.

**Gritters ready to roll as cold snap expected.**

The council treats major roads, including A-routes and heavily used B-routes, roads linking towns and larger villages and outside bus, train, fire and ambulance stations and hospitals.

There are 23 gritters and 20 drivers on standby to be called into action.

Keep up to date with the latest information on gritting and travel, including [our interactive gritting map](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/winter-weather) and follow us on social media for the latest updates.

Residents and businesses can also gain information and advice about being ‘flood ready’ on our [flooding page](https://leicestershire.gov.uk/flooding).

**Top tips on getting winter ready:**

Check weather and travel disruption through news channels and radio stations.

Wear appropriate footwear and clothes for the cold temperatures.

Keep your home warm by improving energy efficiency measures. Leicestershire County Council’s Warm Homes service can support people to keep warm for less this winter. Visit our [energy grants page](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/home-energy-grants).

Get your COVID and flu vaccinations. Check if you’re eligible for free vaccinations.

Check on vulnerable neighbours to ensure they’re staying well through cold weather or floods.

For more information and advice, visit our [staying well in winter page.](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/winter-weather/stay-well-this-winter)

**One million milestone for electric Park and Ride fleet**

Latest figures show that more than one million electric miles have been clocked since the electric Park and Ride buses launched in May 2021.

Park and Ride services are run jointly by Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council and are operated by Roberts Travel Group.

The Park and Ride service costs just £3.50 for a day ticket, £4 for a family/group ticket, £1 for concessionary bus pass holders and children under 5 years can travel for free.

The service is currently subsidised so that health workers can travel free of charge when showing a valid NHS ID card.

More information on weekly and saver tickets can be found on the [Choose How You Move website](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk/park-ride/), and on the [Leicester Buses website](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/www.leicesterbuses.co.uk/greenlines).

**Free holiday clubs held in Leicestershire again this winter.**

Leicestershire “Holidays Together” sessions are available again over the Christmas school break for families in receipt of benefits related free school meals.

Sessions are held at venues across the county by schools, voluntary and community organisations, childcare providers and sports clubs.

They will include festive fun and activities such as games, arts and crafts, sports, dance, music and trips, alongside a nutritious meal.

The scheme is part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme and is co-ordinated by Leicestershire County Council thanks to funding from the Department for Education.

Parents and carers of eligible children will receive an e-voucher by text or email Hello@holidayactivities.com

They can then visit[the county's HAF page](https://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubGVpY2VzdGVyc2hpcmUuZ292LnVrL2VkdWNhdGlvbi1hbmQtY2hpbGRyZW4vc29jaWFsLWNhcmUtYW5kLXN1cHBvcnRpbmctZmFtaWxpZXMvaG9saWRheS1hY3Rpdml0aWVzLWFuZC1mb29kLWhhZi1wcm9ncmFtbWU%3d&r=14742247355&d=24386123&p=1&t=h&h=de6b42760f99dd288a74788cdd62c87e), or [Active Together's website](https://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWN0aXZlLXRvZ2V0aGVyLm9yZy9ob2xpZGF5cy10b2dldGhlcg%3d%3d&r=14742247355&d=24386123&p=1&t=h&h=07ee4f9b07d0ee8113025febbb0f41f5) to view what activities will be on offer and how to book places.

You can check [eligibility to take part, search providers and book.](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/social-care-and-supporting-families/holiday-activities-and-food-haf-programme) To view all available provisions, click on the ‘Winter 2024 - HAF provider list’ document in the ‘What’s on’ section.

**Make a difference - work for your local council.**

Leicestershire County Council is backing a new national campaign encouraging people keen to make a difference to work for their local authority.

Support Worker, Passenger Fleet Driver and Trading Standards Officer are just three of many roles available at the council and anyone looking for a rewarding job is urged to consider applying.

For a full range of jobs currently available at Leicestershire County Council, visit [our jobs page.](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/jobs-and-volunteering/working-for-the-council)