

Friday 9 December 2022



Chief Executive
Mark Andrews

WELCOME

Having recently met with the Local Resilience Forum to discuss winter pressures, there's been a notable drop in temperatures to remind us that we've finally entered December. Winter is always a busy time of year and officers across the Council have been preparing so that we're ready and able to help people through the coming months.

Our winter highway maintenance programme is now in full effect, with gritters tackling ice and snow on our roads. We're also working proactively through our Road Safety Team and Community Safety Partnership to warn drivers about the dangers of winter and festive drink driving. It's for this reason I met with Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service last week, to discuss several recent road traffic accidents. I also had meetings last week with representatives from Kendrew Barracks, to discuss their future plans for the site, and, separately, with officials from the Home Office and Ministry of Defence, to discuss the issue of asylum caseloads and placements.

As we get closer to Christmas, our Environmental Services will be working hard to maintain waste and recycling collections, while also educating people about the need to minimise waste over the festive period. RCC services that provide support around safeguarding, mental health and domestic abuse will also be in high demand over Christmas, as will those which play a role in prevention, hospital discharge and reablement. Through the hard work of officers and the quality of our partnerships, we are now seen as one of the country's leading authorities for adult social care and health integration, as evidenced in this briefing when we hear that Rutland is being looked to as an exemplar for its integration strategies and care management. Officers in our Resources Directorate are also working hard to administer grants and financial assistance for local families through the Household Support Fund and other schemes. Equally, we can't lose sight of the Council's annual budget setting process and preparations for next year's elections, which will come into greater focus in the coming months.

While this is clearly a busy time for us, it's also a time when we ask communities to do their bit to help others and check on those who may be struggling. Thankfully, this kind of community spirit is in no short supply in Rutland, as shown by the county's first Multum Awards at the Museum. I know many people were involved in submitting nominations and it was fantastic to hear about those who were recognised. Celebration is another hallmark of this time of year. Between our officers and our communities, we clearly have a lot to be proud of.

Regards,
Mark



Strategic Director
of Resources
Sav Della Rocca



Director of Legal
& Governance
Angela Wakefield

SERVICE UPDATES

Corporate Services

- Testing on our new website has begun and the Beta test site has been launched to the public. Residents now have an opportunity to browse the new website and leave feedback on how it works for them prior to full site launch, which is currently scheduled for Monday 9 January 2023: <https://beta.rutland.gov.uk>
- The Communications Service is working with RCC's Domestic Abuse Lead Officer to develop messaging and materials with which to promote Rutland's Freeva domestic abuse support service: www.freeva.org.uk
- The Communications Service is also working with partners in Health to promote LLR's 'Get in the Know' campaign, which was recently launched by local NHS services and aims to help people get access to the right care as quickly as possible: www.getintheknow.co.uk

Legal & Governance

Governance

- Work is underway preparing for the final Council meetings of the calendar year, including additional work required from the team to support unplanned Special Meetings of the Health & Wellbeing Board, Planning & Licensing Committee and Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This is in addition to support for the Economic Development Task & Finish Group and arranging an additional meeting of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) in January.
- The Chairman has received a note from His Majesty King Charles, thanking him for his letter of condolence sent on behalf of Rutland County Council following the death of Queen Elizabeth.
- Following The Queen's Birthday Honours, a private ceremony has been held for the investiture of a British Empire Medal to former Councillor Martin Pocock of Barrow. The ceremony took place at Oakham Castle on Tuesday 6 December.

Elections

- The first week of this month saw the publication of the Revised Register of Electors for 2023, on 1 December, following which the Register will be provided to the numerous statutory and non-statutory recipients as required.
- A meeting has been held internally to discuss next year's elections. Alongside this, the Elections Team is preparing for elements of the Elections Act 2022, including the introduction of Voter ID and additional accessibility provisions for next year's polls. Prospective Councillor events are also being planned to encourage participation in the elections.

Legal Services

- Legal continues to progress the introduction of Docusign, which will enable signing and sealing to be undertaken electronically. We expect it to be fully implemented shortly.

Human Resources

- We work in collaboration with Leicestershire County Council for the provision of our employee occupational health service. This contract is currently out to tender and we have recently supported the assessment of bids.

IT & Customer Services

- We have attended a very useful session about a Council that suffered a cyber-attack based on an email seeking a large (fake) invoice to be paid (using a real invoice but with bank details changed). This was a relatively sophisticated attack where attackers gained access to the network for an extended period. There are some actions that we can implement based on their feedback.
- The Household Support Fund continues with its latest phase through to March 2023. We have issued over £28,000 of vouchers to schools for the Christmas holidays and are developing an application form to run alongside a letter from the Post Office for a large group of residents who fall within the policy.
- As part of the new RCC website launch early next year, we are considering how we might replicate the branding for the new website on other established sites such as Modern.Gov, our planning application search and MyAccount.



Strategic Director of
Adults and Health
John Morley

SERVICE UPDATES

Adult Social Care

- The government has taken the decision to delay the planned Adult Social Care (ASC) Charging Reforms from October 2023 to October 2025. There has been a significant effort already put into preparing for these reforms, to transform and innovate the way we support the community. ASC plans to implement the changes that improve services, as well as help prepare for implementing charging reform around the new timescales.
- National Adult Safeguarding Week was 21 to 27 November. Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Adults Board (LLRSAB) produced a resource pack to help organisations raise awareness. This year, the resource pack focused on the importance of spotting signs of abuse and neglect
- The Secretary of State has directed all housing authorities to carry out three actions in line with our duty under section 3(3) of the Housing Act 2004:
 1. Have particular regard to high scoring (bands D and E) category 2 damp and mould hazards, as outlined in the guidance 'Housing health and safety rating system (HHSRS) enforcement guidance: housing conditions
 2. Supply the department with an assessment of damp and mould issues affecting privately rented properties in your area, including the prevalence of category 1 and 2 damp and mould hazards
 3. Supply the department with an assessment of action you have identified that may need to be taken in relation to damp and mould issues affecting privately rented properties in your area.
- The Secretary of State also requested information on specific activity undertaken over the past three years to address damp and mould hazards in the private rented sector (PRS), with specific questions covering the amount and nature of remediation and enforcement activity, Civil Penalty Notices and prosecutions. He also asked us to set out any plans to prioritise the enforcement of housing standards more generally, with a particular focus on how we will ensure adequate enforcement capacity to raise standards in the PRS.
- The Regulator of Social Housing has separately written to registered providers of social housing to highlight landlords' responsibility to take action to protect tenants from hazardous damp and mould, and request information about their properties.

Hospital Services

- We are supporting colleagues in Leicester City and Leicestershire to implement similar integration strategies to the ones used by Rutland, focussing on closer working with Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. Rutland is considered an exemplar site with this work across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR).
- Hospital Discharge Team members have completed training on self-neglect and hoarding. They learned about the links between alcohol and drug dependency and self-neglect, as well as different types of hoarding behaviours.

Community Care Services

- Members of the Rise team will be taking part in the Rutland Anticipatory Care Early Adopter Site programme. Anticipatory Care can be defined as a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach to understand people's care and support needs, which impacts on their health and wellbeing. The Aims of the Rutland project are to improve the services available to patients with memory impairment or dementia and their carers.
- The District Nursing Service (DNS) has thanked the Council's Micare team for the support they give to Rutland patients – especially the Palliative and End of life support they offer. DNS representatives said the care, compassion and professional standards shown by the Micare team to these patients is second to none.
- Middlesborough Council have visited our Micare team this week to find out how Micare staff use RCC's Care Management System and provide our reablement support.



Strategic Director of
Children and Families
Dawn Godfrey

SERVICE UPDATES

Early Intervention, SEND & Inclusion

- A new Rutland Family Hub will soon offer residents a mix of face-to-face, digital and outreach support to address local needs, including rural isolation. Family Hubs will be embedded within the Early Help offer, with services based at the children's centre in Oakham, some libraries and on a military base. Services are intended to support the Best Start in Life for children aged 0 to 19 years and up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- Parents from across Rutland have been working collaboratively over the past six months in facilitated sessions with Council SEND staff. This has resulted in improved understanding and we have been developing a Charter for how we would like to work together. This should be published and active in January 2023.
- The first phase of new facilities is being developed at Uppingham Community College (UCC), helping children with Education Health and Care plans to be supported in their mainstream education. Feedback from staff and parents for the first smaller class Year 7 group of 11 children is very positive. Phase 2 building works are underway and due to be completed in Spring 2023. The school will support 50 children with this approach in the coming years.
- The latest Life skills sessions for young people with SEND are being run jointly by the Aiming High service and Rutland Adult Learning and Skills Service (RALSS). Young people attend six sessions covering money management, social skills, keeping healthy, travel, housing options, cleaning and hygiene etc. For the first time, The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) are due to deliver a session on skills for work and Oakham School are welcoming the group to use their kitchen facilities. At the end of the six weeks, the young people will gain an Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (Asdan) qualification.

Learning & Skills

- We are awaiting news to see if Rutland providers have been successful in accessing the Early Years Professional Development Programme – Phase 3 (PDP3). The Professional Development Programme aims to improve early years outcomes and social mobility for children.

Children's Social Care

- We have been accepted onto a national research/change project looking at developing pre-birth assessment practice. Colleagues in Leicestershire and Health have also been accepted onto this programme, meaning we will be able to work with LLR partners to implement change. We are excited to be part of this change project and the impact this can have on children and families in our area.
- There is a new national training opportunity for social workers called the Pathways Programme (thefrontline.org.uk/pathways-programme). This is a national development programme for managers and we are excited to have three people across all levels of management currently taking part, with more signed up to the next cohort.



Strategic Director
of Places
Penny Sharp

SERVICE UPDATES

Safe & Active Communities

- Our first in-person bus users open public forum since before the pandemic has been re-arranged for 19 January 2023.
- Our Road Safety officer is attending Christmas markets in Oakham to promote this year's drink drive campaign, which incorporates responsible drinking messages linked to the football World Cup. Posters to follow.
- The A6003 Caldecott road resurfacing scheme was completed last week. The official diversion route via A47 and A43 was maintained and used by the majority of road users. However, some users with local knowledge chose to ignore the signs and made their own way through Lyddington village, with no regard to impact on residents. Signs were erected to advise local traffic only. However, the Council has no powers to prevent an alternative route being taken to the official diversion. Fortunately, the scheme went to plan with only a short two-day delay due to inclement weather. The diversion is now removed and the road surface is completely replaced, including new road markings and cats eyes. This means much safer journeys for road users for years to come. The scheme has already drawn praise from drivers who use the route.

Sustainable Economy & Growth

- RCC's investment plan for the Rural England Prosperity Fund of £400K was submitted to Government on 25 November. The plan is high level and proposes capital investment in the visitor economy for the coming two years. The split is set by Government and the majority of spend is in 2024/25.
- An application has been received by The Planning Inspectorate from Mallard Pass Solar Farm Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent on 24 November 2022. A decision on whether to accept the application for Examination must be made by 22 December. The Examiner must decide whether the applicant has complied with the following duties:
 - Duty to consult – Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA2008) – Section 42
 - Duty to consult the local community - PA2008 – Section 47
 - Duty to publicise - PA2008 – Section 48
- A presentation took place at the Rutland Parish Forum on 7 December. This covered an update on the Local Plan evidence base, scope for an interactive session on the settlement hierarchy methodology and the interim position statement for new housing development.
- Reasons for extensions of time to planning applications has been analysed for the past year. Overall, only 18% of extensions were down to officer delays, despite stretched resources. We are looking at ways to improve this but are satisfied with the current position. We outperform other authorities in this area:

Breakdown of reasons for Extensions of Time (EOT) 2022	
Additional consultation required	18%
Amendments required to scheme	25%
Applicant requested EOT	7%
Awaiting Chairman response	1%
Awaiting statutory consultee response	5%
Legal opinion required	1%
Officer delay	18%
Planning Committee	6%
Section 106 (S106)	6%
Surveys required	13%

Culture & Leisure

- The Horseshoe Theatre Company held a performance of Calendar Girls at Oakham Castle on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 November.
- The last trial of the Bereavement Help Point at Ketton Library was held on Wednesday 23 November
- Free weekly ParkPlay sessions continue to be held in Uppingham, overseen by Active Rutland. ParkPlay brings people from local communities together every Saturday morning in parks and green spaces across the country. The events are run by local Playleaders and tailored week-by-week according to what games and activities the group enjoys. Local sessions run from 9.30am at Uppingham CofE Primary School. None of the games require experience and no equipment is needed. Further information can be found online at: www.facebook.com/UppinghamParkPlay
- Discover Rutland and selected members have created a Christmas giveaway worth more than £600, with 12 prizes being given away from 1 December. The campaign aims to increase Discover Rutland's digital audience on social media and email, while also generating interest in the area and encouraging local spending this Christmas. The Discover Rutland Christmas page also lists local festive events and menus: www.discover-rutland.co.uk/all/christmas.

ENDS