



Vote Conservative

on Thursday 2nd May 2013

YOUR 55 LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

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ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH
JOHN COXON

BELVOIR
BYRON RHODES

BIRSTALL
IAIN BENTLEY

BLABY & GLEN PARVA
TONY GREENWOOD

BRADGATE
DAVID SNART

BRAUNSTONE TOWN
LES PHILLIMORE

BROUGHTON ASTLEY
BILL LIQUORISH

BRUNTINGHORPE
GRAHAM HART

BURBAGE CASTLE
PETER WALLACE
AMANDA WRIGHT

CASTLE DONINGTON
TREVOR PENDLETON

COALVILLE
JOHN COTTERILL

COSBY & COUNTSTHORPE
DAVID JENNINGS

EARL SHILTON
JANICE RICHARDS

ENDERBY MERIDIAN
JACKIE DICKINSON

FOREST & MEASHAM
GERAINT JONES

GARTREE
KEVIN FELTHAM

GLENFIELDS
LEE BRECKON

GROBY & RATBY
OZZY O'SHEA

HINCKLEY
ROSEMARY WRIGHT
ALAN OTTEY

IBSTOCK & APPLEBY
NIGEL SMITH

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SIMON WHEL BAND

LOUGHBOROUGH EAST
JUDITH SPENCE

LOUGHBOROUGH NORTH
JENNY BOKOR

LOUGHBOROUGH NORTH
WEST
RON JUKES

LOUGHBOROUGH SOUTH
DAVID SLATER

LOUGHBOROUGH SOUTH
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PETER LEWIS

LUTTERWORTH
ROSITA PAGE

MALLORY
RUTH CAMAMILE

MARKET BOSWORTH
IVAN OULD

MARKET HARBOUROUGH EAST
PHIL KING

MARKET HARBOUROUGH
WEST & FOXTON
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MARKFIELD DESFORD &
THORNTON
PETER BEDFORD

MELTON NORTH
PAM POSNETT

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BHUPEN DAVE
RANI MAHAL

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TONY KERSHAW

ROTHLEY & MOUNTSORREL
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CHRISTINE RADFORD

SILEBY & THE WOLDS
RICHARD SHEPHERD

STANTON CROFT &
NORMANTON
ERNIE WHITE

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SYSTON RIDGEWAY
STEPHEN HAMPSON

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PAUL HARLEY

VALLEY
NICK RUSHTON

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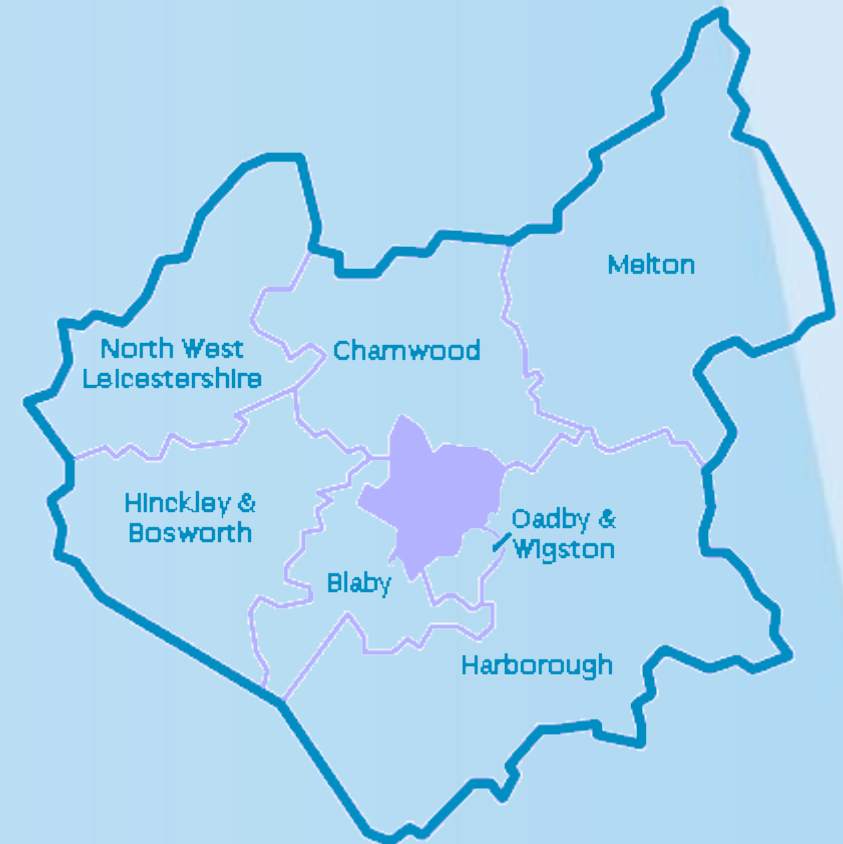
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ANDREW SOUTHERDEN

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ANNE BOND

Going for Growth: The Right Future for Leicestershire

The Conservative Manifesto for the Leicestershire County Council Elections 2nd May 2013



Web: www.leicestershireconservatives.org.uk

Twitter: [LeicsCC_Cons](https://twitter.com/LeicsCC_Cons)



Vote Conservative

Going for Growth: the Right Future for Leicestershire

A Personal Message from Nicholas Rushton, Leader of Leicestershire County Council

Dear Resident,

"We are living in an era of constant change. The last four years have seen major changes in local government structures and the way we are funded. We have had to do our part to reduce the debt left to us by Labour. This is why we have restructured our organisation at County Hall and delivered £74 million in savings and frozen council tax for the last three years. These policies have put £57 million back in to the local economy since its introduction.



Conservatives traditionally get on with the job of doing what is right. Since becoming prime minister, David Cameron has kept his promise to local government by devolving more powers and releasing control of centrally held budgets to the local level. This means we have the powers to genuinely shape the communities we all live in and decide on the priorities important to us. This means making smart choices and being clear on what we want to do.

Local government in the second decade of the new century means we have to find new and innovative ways of delivering our services. It also means the County Council has to be more pro-active on delivering economic growth and supporting job creation. Working with our partner organisations in local government in Leicestershire and beyond, under my leadership, Conservatives will be at the forefront of this revolution and we will be unashamedly pro-growth. This manifesto is our invitation to you to join our quest creating the Right Future for Leicestershire."

Nicholas

A Closing Message from Nicholas Rushton, Leader of the County Council

"The Opposition parties may well focus their campaigns on negative issues in the run up to 2nd May . I am proud of the fact this manifesto concentrates on our solid record of achievement, and sets out our positive plans to put Leicestershire on the right track to prosperity and growth. At the same time I want to make it clear that under my leadership the Conservative Group has acted quickly and decisively where there has been any breach of the Group Rules on conduct and behaviour I give an absolute commitment that will continue to be the case.

It is never easy to separate local elections from the national political picture. In my view, it has never been more important to do so. Conservatives will concentrate on local, County issues and I beg your good sense to see through any ploy to convince you otherwise. There are five good reasons to back the Conservatives on 2nd May :

- We have frozen council tax for the last 3 years in a row and we will keep it low.
- We want to attract and support new business in Leicestershire to create jobs and prosperity for the whole community.
- Keeping our communities as some of the safest in the country by minimizing crime and supporting the victims of crime.
- Continue to invest in improved care for the elderly, with better links with the NHS.
- Striving for Excellence in all our schools so children and young people are equipped with the skills they need for the future."

Thank you for reading our 2013 Manifesto. Please contact us via the website or Twitter if you have any questions or want to know more.

Vote Conservative on 2nd May 2013
The Right Future for Leicestershire



Public Health and Promoting Healthier Lifestyles in Leicestershire

Local healthcare is undergoing a revolution. Through the Conservative-led Government's reforms to the NHS, the County Council has been given enormous opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of the population within the County and in Rutland. The Government has trusted local government with the responsibility to take a leading role in improving public health. This is a reform that Leicestershire Conservatives have long argued for, and we are finally able to take decisions on locally commissioned services on behalf of residents, rather than these decisions taken for us in the centre. ***This is Localism in action.***

We are very proud that Leicestershire leads the way in public health by being one of the first Councils to properly integrate Health into the organisation and set up our Health and Wellbeing Board to deliver our commitment to promoting healthier lifestyles for life.

Over the next four years we will:

- Create a lasting Olympic and Paralympic sporting legacy in Leicestershire through committing £410,000 for local community, sporting and voluntary groups to bid into.
- Continue funding Leicestershire's Schools Sports Partnerships delivered via Leicestershire & Rutland Sport (the County Sports Partnership), getting kids more active in sporting activities at an earlier age. This will complement the additional £150 million the Government is spending nationally promoting school sport and more physical activity.
- £18 million will be invested to commission local contracts including clinical services such as sexual health and substance misuse treatment. Supporting people to lead healthier lifestyles - smoking cessation, dietary advice, drug and alcohol support and ensuring joined up public health services makes economic sense in the long term.
- An additional £1.4 million will be invested to improve people's health, particularly to tackle obesity, promote positive mental health and tackle health inequalities where they exist through empowering communities.

Conservatives believe there can be no better Olympic legacy for Leicestershire than to promote fitter, healthier, more active lifestyles.

Council Tax and Finance

In 2009 we promised to keep your council taxes down and we have frozen the County-element of your council tax. We also pledge to keep future rises below the rate of inflation.

A new Conservative administration will:

- Freeze the council tax again for the financial year 2013/14.
- Keep a tight-lid on the council tax level you pay in future years and any rise will be below inflation.
- Maintain Council reserves at prudent levels to enable investment in frontline services and keep the council tax down.
- Have reduced debt by over £21 million this year and will continue to pay down debt.
- Focus more than half of our County Council spending on local, small and medium sized firms, now worth £174 million per annum.
- Explore budget-pooling agreements with other Councils and public sector organisations in Leicestershire and beyond to support efficient service delivery and find new and innovative ways to manage demand for our services- placing people and outcomes ahead of bureaucracy.
- Change fundamentally the way the Council thinks it should provide services- with more commissioning, facilitating or enabling of service delivery. This will be delivered by a cross-party Transformation Board who will be tasked to "think the unthinkable."



Conservatives: working together to build a better Leicestershire

Driving a Thriving Economy

Boosting the economy of Leicestershire is the top issue for Conservatives. The County Council is in a unique position to shape the local economy and drive growth, jobs and investment in infrastructure. We are one of Leicestershire's largest employers and have a spending power of over £780 million per year. With that sort of economic clout, we are able to influence new markets to meet demand and change expectations and outcomes. We have already invested substantially in the Loughborough Science and Enterprise Park and we intend to do much more.

- We will work with our colleagues in Leicester City Council to develop a County/City Deal working with Government and the Leicester & Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) to win greater freedoms and resources from Whitehall control to boost the local economy.
- We will work with all our partners to ensure that we maximise the funding available from Government to improve transport and infrastructure in our area, thereby benefiting businesses and jobs.
- We will explore the benefits of working and co-operating where we can with other LEPs in neighbouring authorities. Leicestershire needs to lead the way as part of the bigger picture to compete against areas such as the West Midlands and the Greater Manchester Region.
- Support the development of major growth opportunities at the MIRA Enterprise Zone near Hinckley with their ambitious plans to bring over 2,000 new jobs in partnership with Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Warwickshire County Council and the LLEP.
- Campaign for the Loughborough Science and Enterprise Park to be a second Enterprise Zone, meaning we can keep new business rates in the County and new businesses benefit from tax and national insurance relief.
- We will continue to invest in housing by reinvesting millions of pounds in affordable housing schemes to help local people stay in rural Leicestershire and adding new investment into extra care housing to help elderly people live independently for as long as possible.
- We will maintain the £10 million Local Authority Mortgage Scheme run with Lloyds TSB in the *Lend a Hand* scheme aimed at first time buyers within Leicestershire. This will help up to 450 first time buyers purchase their first home and help kick-starting the local housing market. Since March this year £5.4 million has been deposited with Lloyds TSB, with £3.2 million used as mortgages.

Safer Communities & Policing Relations

Over the last 4 years, by working with our partners in delivering safer communities, there is a serious story of success to tell. We have collectively achieved:

- Total crime reduced by 25.1%.
- Violent crime down by 31.1%.
- 23% reduction in serious, acquisitive crime.
- 56% reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- Domestic abuse crimes down by 27.3%.
- Number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time has been reduced by 49%.
- Working through the County's Youth Offending Service, youth re-offending rates are down by 13%.
- The IMPACT Team has worked with over 4,325 young people in 82 areas across Leicestershire since 2009. Calls made to the Police by the public in youth-related issues of anti-social behaviour have been reduced by 51% in these areas where IMPACT has worked.

Over the next four years we will:

- Continue to work with our local strategic partners to further reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, delivered via the Youth IMPACT team.
- Continue to fund the Multi-agency Travellers Unit which has transformed relationships with the travelling community and has an impressive record in removing illegal encampments quickly.
- Work closely with the new Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner, Sir Clive Loader, to ensure that effective action is taken to minimize crime in the County and provide support to the victims of crime. This includes maintaining our support for PCSOs until 2014.
- At the same time, ensure that the Police and Crime Commissioner is held to account and his crime reduction and community safety priorities are delivered through his Policing Plan. The County Council will host the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Police and Crime Panel, whose job it will be to keep an eye on the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Conservatives work together to keep our communities safer.

Putting Communities in Charge

Protecting the environment and the rural character of our County is another top priority for Conservatives. Building a better, more prosperous society is also about developing, protecting and enhancing our village communities. They need to thrive too.

A new Conservative Administration on 2nd May will:

- Invest £6 million in rural broadband and infrastructure.
- Reintroduce the LeicesterSHIRE Grants scheme to better support community engagement projects, helping communities to help themselves.
- Consult on the best way to simplify the process to enable community and voluntary groups to bid for funding to help them find local solutions to shape their communities the way they want.
- Introduce The Veterans Charter for Leicestershire and incorporate the Armed Forces Community Covenant into Council policy to further recognise the contribution the Armed Forces make to communities in Leicestershire. We want to ensure that no service veteran is disadvantaged in accessing services which are available to the wider population. Councils and local charities work together to remove barriers to services and increasing the levels of support for veterans and their families where needed. The County Council can also offer work experience in house or through local business to improve their skills or social housing.
- Continue to support local communities in refurbishing and maintaining war memorials, and in cataloguing their history. Leicestershire is a national leader in this work. In the last 3 years the number of identified and catalogued memorials in the County has grown from 850 to 2,800, thanks to the County Council.
- Remain unconvinced of the need for more wind farms in the County. Leicestershire Conservatives believe that the subsidy they attract for their development can lead to countryside blight and communities losing out due to lack of community payback schemes.
- Make it clear to development control authorities that there should be a moratorium on further development of wind farms and recognise that existing planning permissions will meet any obligations the County has towards renewable energy commitments.

Leicestershire Conservatives will always be on your side.



Driving a Thriving Economy (continued)

- The County Council will redress capital availability. We will provide £3.2 million in economic development support including loans to small business- particularly those in rural areas who struggle to raise capital for investment. We have already announced a £1 million fund providing loans of up to £25,000.
- We will aggressively oppose the second-phase High-speed rail (HS2) link proposed to run through parts of Leicestershire. Conservatives will work with Derby City Council to support their plans for regeneration and plans for an alternative route. The top priority for Conservatives in Leicestershire is to protect local jobs and existing plans for job creation which HS2 would destroy.
- Ensure that our Trading Standards Department is equipped with the resources it needs to protect the public from further issues of food contamination.

Conservatives are determined to tackle worklessness, upskill the local workforce, cut through the red tape blocking the release of employment land and buildings, will concentrate on growth sectors such as distribution and logistics and take measures to tackle capital availability and support measures which drive economic growth.



**Join us in our plans to build a better Leicestershire by voting
Conservative on 2nd May 2013**



Children and Young People

The last four years have seen a revolution in the way education is provided in Leicestershire. We have an enviable record of achievement, of which we can be justifiably proud.

Over the last four years we have:

- Devolved most of the schools' budget and given as much autonomy from Local Authority control as possible to schools to determine their priorities. This has resulted in over 83% of our schools being rated good or outstanding by OFSTED and is well ahead of the national average.



- Supported parents' wishes to bid for funding for a one-through school system of education in Loughborough. The Academies programme will make this easier to achieve and we will support those schools who wish to go down this route.

- Supported the Government's plans to drive up standards in education with the Academies

programme. Now nearly 60% of our schools have converted to academies or are in the process of converting and over 80% of pupils achieve the highest grades at GCSE and A level.

- Delivered on our promise to build a new special school in Loughborough. Work is in progress building the Charnwood College/Ashmount School as part of a £9.3 million investment in excellence. This will reduce costs, as the County Council will no longer be transporting special educational needs pupils to schools to other counties.

Environment, Highways & Transportation (continued)

- Introduced the Street Lighting reduction scheme, which aims to cut carbon emissions by 30% by 2014, and save taxpayers over £800,000 per year.
- Flooding and drainage problems arising from climate change will continue to be of concern. Conservatives take their responsibilities as the local flood authority extremely seriously and we will invest significantly to keep gullies and drainage systems clear, as well as maintaining a flood risk register to help deal with serious situations as they arise.
- We will work with development control authorities to assist them with their plans for better highways infrastructure on a case by case basis. This reaffirms our commitment to working towards a funding solution to deliver bypasses for Sharnford, Melton and Kegworth.

Waste Management

The overriding priority for Leicestershire is to secure the best deals possible to reduce our liability to landfill tax. This costs Leicestershire taxpayers nearly £6 million in 2012/13, and given the need to find savings, is an unacceptably high burden for taxpayers to bear.

Key achievements and priorities for the future:

- Conservatives intend to declare a zero-tolerance policy on landfill tax. This means continuing to be one of the best local authorities in the country at diverting waste from landfill. In 2008/9, over 50% of waste was disposed of in landfill. We have reduced this to just over 32% in 2011/12. But we need to be even more ambitious in our targets for better recycling and encourage more people to reduce or reuse their waste.
- We have improved the recycling facilities at Lount. We are currently investing £2 million overhauling Whetstone Household Waste and Recycling Centre and have plans to improve facilities at Kibworth and Melton. These centres are clearly popular with residents as almost 75% of waste disposed with them is recycled or composted.
- We also want to help businesses do their part in reducing the impact of their waste and packaging sent to landfill.
- Conservatives want to explore possibilities of negotiating a centralised waste collection policy across Leicestershire by working with district collection authorities to achieve this.
- We will explore opportunities to establish new markets for energy and waste in Leicestershire by inviting the private sector to bid for contracts with us where there is scope for reducing environmental impact or supporting "green collar" technologies.

Environment, Highways & Transportation

Conservatives are proud to have some of the best roads' infrastructure in the country. We maintain nearly 2,500 miles of highways, 61,000 streetlights, deal with over 20,500 road, pavement and pothole repairs and our gritters keep our county on the move whatever the weather has to throw at us.

Key achievements and priorities for the future:

- Over 75 councils took part in the National Highways and Transport survey in 2012. Leicestershire was the top performing county council for the condition of its roads and pavements.
- The Midlands Highways Alliance - a group of 18 local authorities and the Highways Agency - has saved local taxpayers more than £16 million in the Midlands by working together on deals with contractors and better procurement-Conservatives led in its creation.
- Secured £4.5 million of Government funding to support sustainable travel schemes in Charnwood and North West Leicestershire.
- Secured £3m in Government funding for highways maintenance projects and in the 2013/14 Budget, Conservatives invested a further £1.5m for pothole repairs. We are prepared to inject further resources to help keep the County's roads some of the safest in the country.
- Secured £20 million of funding towards the Loughborough Town Centre project and the Loughborough Eastern Gateway- making the Loughborough Inner relief road and Town Centre Plan a reality.
- Working with the Midlands Highways Alliance, Leicestershire has established the only highways skills academy in the country.
- Conservatives pioneered the **Choose How you Move** campaign which aims to transform people's attitudes to how they travel and consider different ways to travel to help combat congestion, promote healthier lifestyles and reduce our carbon footprint.
- Conservatives also established the **Wheels to Work** scheme which lends motorcycles to young people to enable them to get to and from their place of work.

Conservatives keeping Leicestershire on the Move

Children and Young People (continued)

Over the next four years we will:

- Introduce the Education Excellence Partnership in Leicestershire. Its job will be to provide a good supply of high quality school places within the County to continue our fine tradition of providing excellent education, despite being the lowest funded authority for education in the country.
- Continue to maintain our support for the Safeguarding of children and young people.
- Develop the Supporting Leicestershire Families programme with a £6.7 million investment that will support plans for a "whole-place" approach to tackling worklessness, poor education and life skills and anti-social behaviour locally. This will enable savings to be made in frontline services.
- Utilise the skills of social enterprises and the voluntary sector in payment by results contracts to further crack down on these problems.
- Argue the case with Government to give up their control of funding to allow us to provide local solutions to local problems- particularly over catchment areas and home to school transport.
- Maintain our network of Children's Centres by making up the shortfall in Early Intervention Grant and protect early years services with £3.2 million investment.



Support our plans for Excellence for All our children in Leicestershire

Adults & Communities

Conservatives have always been mindful of the impact of the growth of adult social care services. This is why it is the biggest County Council spending department. In this 2013/14 financial year, the net Adults and Communities budget is over £127 million. Conservatives are particularly proud of their record in maintaining this level of funding, despite demographic pressures, and have always provided the extra resources to meet demand.

Over the last four years we have:

- Successfully transferred nine of the County Council's residential care homes to the private sector without compromising quality or standards of service.
- Refurbished the library in Oadby and built new libraries at Leicester Forest East and Lutterworth.
- Completed the £1.3million redevelopment of the county's biggest library in Loughborough.
- Built two new Learning Disability Respite Care facilities in Oadby and Wigston and in Melton Mowbray at a cost of £2million.
- Reduced the number of people going into care homes (down 5% since March 2010.)
- Reduced staff absence in the Adults and Communities Department by 35% since 2009 and want to drive down the cost of overtime and absence further still.
- Gained many National Awards for example: RoSPA's President's Award for Outstanding Performance in Health and Safety over the last 11 years and the coveted National Clore Museum Learning Award.
- Achieved efficiency savings of £16 million which has helped to lessen the impact of reductions in government funding.
- Attracted over 1,000 volunteers to work alongside the County Council.
- Launched a new Adults' Advocacy Service working in tandem with partner organisations. This supports adults who are vulnerable or have complex needs that use, or are seeking access to, social care services.

Conservatives help protect the young, elderly and vulnerable people in their time of need.

Adults & Communities (continued)

Over the next four years we will:

- Continue to support plans for 100% take-up of personal budgets.
- Invest £7.5 million to modernise the Adults and Communities department including greater integration with the NHS, to reduce admissions to hospital.
- Continue to work with district housing authorities to deliver extra care housing accommodation. This will offer high quality, local accommodation and give people better choices for their care.
- Continue to invest in *Telecare* technical equipment such as pendant alarms and exit sensors to help people lead more independent lives.
- Expand our Quality Assessment Framework which aims to raise care standards in Leicestershire's care homes.
- Continue to support HART- our pioneering reablement service run by the County Council to help people get back on their feet after treatment and help them maintain their independence and remain in their own homes.
- Invest in improved care for elderly people and improved links between the NHS and social care.
- Expand the 'First Contact' Scheme which enables agencies to work together to refer people to appropriate agencies in a co-ordinated way.
- Give recognition to the role of carers. We have developed the Carer's Support Fund which enables carers to have respite time from their caring roles and reduces the impact of caring on their health and well-being.
- Complete the renovations to the Snibston Discovery Museum Scheduled Ancient Monument, an investment of £1.9 million.
- Maximise income generation for example by developing on-line sales of venue tickets and memorabilia and by developing a revenue stream from weddings and civil partnerships at our Heritage and Museum sites.
- Continue to invest in our 'Choose my Support' website which provides choice and control for people to decide which social care services to buy and sell.
- Support Leicester City Council's "City of Culture" bid to Government- it makes perfect sense to join forces to promote our mutual areas of cultural interest to make the bid a success for all the people of Leicestershire.