

Introducing Risk Ready Communities

Communities across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) are being offered free, expert support to become 'risk ready', as part of our new Risk Ready Communities programme.



The programme, which launched in March, provides targeted support to help communities tackle threats like flooding, power outages and disease outbreaks.

Delivered in partnership with charity Groundwork Five Counties and Communities Prepared, it will enable communities to identify and prepare for key risks, helping to reduce the impact of emergencies and speed up recovery.

The programme is open to all local residents, community groups, local councils and faith groups across LLR. (Cont'd on page 2)

Find out why Cleo the dog is 'risk ready'. Turn to page 3



News from the Chair

Recent international events continue to demonstrate how quickly risks can emerge and how impacts can be felt locally. From conflict overseas to global supply chain disruption, climate-driven extreme weather and rising cyber threats, it's as important as ever for our communities to be prepared for the unexpected.

The primary local risks identified for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland can be found in our [Community Risk Register](#). These include severe weather, flooding, heatwaves, infrastructure failure, cyber incidents and major industrial or transport accidents

The LRF continues to work collectively to assess these risks, strengthen plans and test our capability to respond effectively. We're also supporting residents and communities to become 'risk ready' through our new community resilience programme, Risk Ready Communities (see page one).

Practical preparedness, such as understanding local risks, knowing what to do during an emergency and taking simple steps at home or work, is crucial for all of us and helps reduce the impact when incidents occur.

Callum Faint, LRF Chair



Risk Ready Communities

(cont'd from page 1)

Risk Ready Communities also provides tools and guidance for communities to develop or update their own bespoke Community Response Plans.

Interested groups can access free webinars, workshops and in-person events to help strengthen their community resilience.

Visit [Risk Ready Communities](#) to find out more about the programme and sign up for the first webinar, which will run on Thursday 16 April (daytime session) and Tuesday 21 April (evening session).





Business project makes awards shortlist

The Risk Ready Businesses project - which has delivered three webinars this year to boost local business resilience - has been shortlisted at the national Business Continuity Awards.

The project, a partnership with Cambridge Risk Solutions, supports local businesses to prepare for key risks, enabling them to respond quicker and recover faster.

All three webinars are now available to watch on the [Risk Ready Businesses](#) page of the LRF website, along with other resources to help businesses strengthen their resilience, including tools to help develop a Business Continuity Plan.

The project is shortlisted in two categories: Initiative of the Year and Best Contribution to Continuity and Resilience. Winners will be announced at a ceremony in June 2026.

How do we know that Cleo the dog is 'risk ready'?

Answer: Because she's one more than 600 animals cared for every year by the RSPCA Woodside animal centre in Leicester - one of the businesses to take part in our free Risk Ready Businesses project.

Raichel Phipps, Head of Resource and Governance at Woodside, said: "We signed up to the free support from the LRF to strengthen our business resilience and create a Business Continuity Plan that will help us to keep operating 24/7, even in an emergency. It makes sense that, by preparing in advance, we'll be able to respond more quickly in an emergency and also bounce back quicker, which means we can continue offering a lifeline to more animals like Cleo."



Second wettest February on record prompts new calls to ‘Stand up to Flooding’

Communities across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) experienced their second wettest February on record in 2026 with 125.5mm of rain - making it the wettest since 1977*.

These latest figures from the Met Office - which show that February’s rain was 277% of the long-term average for February - prompted renewed calls for communities to do more to ‘Stand up to Flooding’ and be ‘risk ready’ all year round.

Barrow-upon-Soar and Littlethorpe are among the communities which have already taken steps to keep flooding at bay.



Flood defences

At Barrow, the parish council has installed two pumps and a storage cabin for sandbags at the village cemetery, using funding from Charnwood Borough Council’s flood locker scheme. It’s also received money from Leicestershire County Council for warning signs to alert motorists to flooding on Slash Lane, a wellknown flooding hotspot.

In Littlethorpe, residents Mark and Sharon have installed £15,000 worth of flood defences at their home after it flooded twice in just over a year. They were supported by a £5,000 Property Flood Resilience (PFR) government repair grant, administered by Leicestershire County Council, towards the cost of a flood survey, flood door, flood barrier and flood resilient air bricks.

Mark said: “I’d urge anyone who’s at risk of flooding to do what we did and install flood defences. They’ve finally given us peace of mind.”

Read Mark and Sharon’s full story and find out how you can [‘Stand up to Flooding’](#).

