

# Improved bus services rolled out in rural Charnwood and Harborough

**\*\*\*See end of press release for a list of the changes and places they serve \*\*\***

Residents in rural areas of Harborough and Charnwood are set to benefit from an improved bus network.

From Monday, March 17 more than 20 rural villages that did not have public transport will now be served.

Nine existing services have also been updated and extended to provide ongoing access to public transport for residents.

In rural areas of Market Harborough, an on-demand bus service known as FoxConnect will also be introduced, covering five zones. Villages served include Tilton on the Hill, Great Glen, Church Langton, Ashby Magna, and Saddington.

The improved bus service network has been introduced by Leicestershire County Council and is partly funded by the government's Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus (BSIP+), which is helping the council's review of supported bus services across Leicestershire.

The next focus will be Charnwood and Harborough town services which are expected to be reviewed in June 2025.

Councillor Ozzy O'Shea, cabinet member for Highways and Transport said: "We have listened to people's feedback, and thanks to government cash we have been able to work with operators to enhance bus services.

"We have focused on individual community needs. Launching new options like FoxConnect will increase bus provision and strengthen the existing bus network.

"Buses and public transport are a cheaper and greener option to get around. Adding Sunday services and evening routes means that people will have more journey choice, making buses and FoxConnect the preferred method of travel."

"These updates and changes aim to boost public transport provision and focus on giving our communities great travel options."

Some services will benefit from trials also being funded by the BSIP grant, to measure the impact of improvements such as Sunday services or additional evening routes.

The updated services, financially supported by Leicestershire County Council, aim to improve travel connections and simplify routes.

Regular updates, including timetables and information on changes will be available on the [choose how you move website](#).

### ***Forthcoming changes to bus services from Monday 17 March 2025***

The services will change from their first timetabled route or the service operating time on Monday 17 March 2025.

Centrebus 27, serving Thurmaston – Sileby – Loughborough, has received a contract extension, but will be renamed to LC5 under the Council's new Leicestershire Buses branding.

Centrebus 154, serving Leicester – Loughborough, will have an enhancement to include a Sunday service, funded by the council as a trial.

Kinchbus 2, serving Loughborough – Quorn – Barrow upon Soar – Sileby, has been enhanced to include a Sunday service, as well as weekday evenings.

Diamond 129, serving Ashby de la Zouch – Loughborough, and Arriva 56/56A serving, Scraftoft – Thurby – Leicester, have received contract extensions, possible through council funding.

Centrebus 44, serving Fleckney – Market Harborough – Foxton, will be streamlined for a more direct route and reduced journey times. The council has listened to feedback from passengers and has enhanced the service by improving access to St Lukes Hospital and including more journeys from Bachelor Road. This service will be renamed to LC4.

Centrebus 58, serving Market Harborough – Lutterworth, has been enhanced to allow for additional evening journeys and a stop at Market Harborough Train Station has been added. This service will be renamed LC10.

There will be five new zones across Harborough that will be served by FoxConnect, Monday – Saturday. Information on the service including full list of settlements served will be announced shortly.

Zone 3: Thurmaston, Somerby and Houghton on the Hill

Zone 4: Market Harborough, Oadby & Houghton on the Hill

Zone 5: Market Harborough, Houghton on the Hill & Uppingham

Zone 6: Market Harborough, Lutterworth & Countesthorpe

Zone 7: Market Harborough, Lutterworth & Kibworth Beauchamp

### ***In addition***

The council has worked closely with operators to provide enhancements of their supported services. This will also include some changes from Monday 28 April 2025.

22B serving Leicester – Birstall, will be operated by centrebus and has been redesigned to merge with their existing 22A timetable, with the addition of Saturday journeys, including a re-route to include Wanlip Lane.

Centrebus 747 serving, Uppingham – Leicester, a service supported by Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council will be streamlined, with increased provision for Thurnby and an added extension at peak times to serve Uppingham Community College. The service will be renamed to LC7.