

***A joint letter from the Lord-Lieutenant, Lord Mayor,  
Chairman of the County Council, and High Sheriff***



*Mike Kapur OBE*



*Annette Byrne*



*Pam Posnett MBE*



*Alison Smith MBE*

August 2020

Dear friends and colleagues,

For months now we have been living in globally unprecedented times, and we are all feeling the effect of this in the communities in which we live and the organisations in which we work or volunteer. It is difficult to think of an area of our lives which has not been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. It is still a time for caution as coming out of lock-down has so vividly illustrated, particularly for those communities affected by the first local lockdown. We greatly admire the efforts of the public authorities, the communities and volunteers in the way this crisis is being handled. We can't thank these people enough.

We are writing to you today to let you know that the work you carry out for the benefit of the communities of Leicester and Leicestershire is certainly not forgotten and is still very much appreciated. For some, you will be working under added pressure as demand for your services increases, whilst, for others, things have been on hold, but you will perhaps now be starting to plan for a safe resumption of your service in some form.

As a group of civic dignitaries we too have had to adapt to the current situation. We have not been able to engage with the local community as we would ordinarily wish to do. We understand, of course, that organisations have had to readjust their priorities and focus on what is most important and urgent, whilst having to cancel or postpone engagement events, ceremonies, and so on.

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The challenges of coming out of lockdown have demonstrated the need for all of us to observe social distancing practices for the foreseeable future. But with the relaxations that have been allowed under Government guidance you may now be looking to resume engagement activities in a redesigned way, probably much of it in a virtual way. Indeed we are sure that, during lockdown, you have been able to maintain contact with service users and colleagues using innovative digital solutions.

We are all having to find these new ways to engage; both socially and in our professional lives. So, whilst we might not be able to visit you or your organisation in person we would like you to know that we are here and very keen to engage with you by live video streaming or by recorded video message. Looking forward, we hope to be able to join you in person once again, but for the time being, if you are planning a virtual meeting or event, please do feel free to invite us.

If we can help you to thank and celebrate the work of your organisation and its people during these difficult times, that would be tremendous. For us, it will be great to resume the role we were appointed to undertake and to contribute to the city and county getting back onto our feet.

If you would like to get in touch, please do by using the contact details below.

Lord-Lieutenant     [lieutenancyoffice@leics.gov.uk](mailto:lieutenancyoffice@leics.gov.uk)  
Lord Mayor         [lord.mayor@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:lord.mayor@leicester.gov.uk) (for events in the city only)  
Chairman            [chairman@leics.gov.uk](mailto:chairman@leics.gov.uk) (for events in the county only)  
High Sheriff         [alison1054@icloud.com](mailto:alison1054@icloud.com)

With our continued best wishes and gratitude for all that you do for our city and county.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Yours sincerely,



Mike Kapur OBE  
HM Lord-Lieutenant



Annette Byrne  
Lord Mayor of Leicester



Pam Posnett MBE  
Chairman of the County Council



Alison Smith MBE  
High Sheriff