



Leicester  
City Council

At a meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL held at the Town Hall at FIVE O'CLOCK in the afternoon on Thursday, 5 SEPTEMBER 2024 duly convened for the business hereunder mentioned.

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**BUSINESS**

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1. **LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held below are available to view at the links below:

23 November 2023 – Special meeting

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 23 November 2023, 5:00 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

23 November 2023

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 23 November 2023, 5:15 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

21 February 2024 – Special meeting

[Agenda for Council on Wednesday, 21 February 2024, 5:00 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

21 February 2024

[Agenda for Council on Wednesday, 21 February 2024, 5:15 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

Copies are also available from Governance Services Support on (0116) 454 6350 or [committees@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:committees@leicester.gov.uk)

4. **STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR / EXECUTIVE**
5. **PETITIONS**

- Presented by Members of the Public - None

- Presented by Councillors – None

- Petitions to be debated - (Mr Stephen Ashley, Adventure Playgrounds)

*The Council's Monitoring Officer will advise the meeting on the legitimate scope of the Petition Prayer.*

**6. QUESTIONS**

- From Members of the Public
- From Councillors

**7. MATTERS RESERVED TO FULL COUNCIL**

- 7.1 Corporate Equality and Diversity Strategy and Action Plan 2024-28
- 7.2 Leicester City Youth Justice Plan 2024-28

**8. REPORTS OF THE CITY MAYOR OR EXECUTIVE**

- 8.1 Climate Ready Action Plan 2023-28
- 8.2 Corporate Parenting

**9. REPORTS OF SCRUTINY**

- 9.1 Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24

**10. REPORTS OF REGULATORY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

- 10.1 Governance and Audit Annual Report 2023-24

**11. REPORTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

- 11.1 Appointment of Council Committees 2024-25 Municipal Year

**12. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Councillor Kitterick proposes that Leicester City Council notes:

The council wishes to express its deep concern about the loss of Marks & Spencer from the City Centre of Leicester.

Whilst recognising the changes in shopping dynamics, the failure of the Council's leadership to appear to even attempt to retain the Marks & Spencer food offering in the City Centre is deeply disappointing.

The loss of Marks & Spencer alongside the uncertainty around the future of Leicester Market, the cancellation of this year's Caribbean Carnival and the Diwali Light Switch On coming on top of massive delays in processing of planning applications in the city are hallmarks of an exhausted and stale council leadership who lack the energy and ambition to lead our city forward.

Accordingly we call on the City Mayor and his team to make way for others to lead Leicester into the future.

**13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**



**PRESENT:**

BHUPEN DAVE, LORD MAYOR  
CHAIR

SIR PETER SOULSBY – CITY MAYOR

Abbey Ward

Nags Agath  
Charleigh Barnes  
Annette Byrne

Aylestone Ward

Scott-Kennedy-Lount  
Nigel Porter

Beaumont Leys Ward

Hazel Orton  
Hemant Rae Bhatia  
Paul Westley

Belgrave Ward

Shital Adatia  
Yogesh Chauhan  
Jaiantilal Gopal

Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields Ward

Sue Barton  
Elaine Halford  
Kulwinder Singh Johal

Castle Ward

Mick Gregg  
Patrik Kitterick  
Liz Sahu

Evington Ward

Deepak Bajaj  
Zuffar Haq  
Jenny Joannou

Eyres Monsell Ward

Elaine Pantling  
Karen Pickering

Fosse Ward

North Evington Ward

Dilip Joshi  
Ravi Mahesh  
Sanjay Modhwadia

Rushey Mead Ward

Geeta Karavadra  
Devi Singh Patel

Saffron Ward

Ted Cassidy  
Elly Cutkelvin

Spinney Hills Ward

Misbah Batool  
Mustafa Malik

Stoneygate Ward

Raffiq Moosa Mohammed  
Manjula Sood  
Yasmin Surti

Thurncourt Ward

Teresa Aldred  
Abdul Osman

Troon Ward

Diane Cank  
Mohinder Singh Sangha

Westcotes Ward

Adam Clarke  
Sarah Russell

Western Ward

Susan Waddington  
Syed Zaman

George Cole  
Vi Dempster  
Molly O'Neill

Humberstone and Hamilton Ward

Stephen Bonham  
Ashiedu Joel  
Manjit Kaur Saini

Wycliffe Ward

Hanif Aqbany  
Mohammed Dawood

Knighton Ward

Mellissa March  
Lynn Moore  
Geoff Whittle

## **1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Beginning of the Mayoral Year

The Lord Mayor informed that 60 engagements have taken place, including showing support to local communities, recognizing the work of the armed forces, opening local businesses and congratulating students on their educational achievements. The Lord Mayor invited members to the Civic Service at Leicester Cathedral on Saturday 28 September.

### Lord Mayor's Painting

The Lord Mayor noted that he attended a local Charity Event and was introduced to a talented young artist named, Krishna Thanki who created the portrait of the Lord Mayor, using a number of images found on social media.

### Lord Mayor's Charity

The Lord Mayor informed the Council that he had chosen PASIC as his charity for the mayoral year. The charity provides emotional, practical and financial support to families of children and young people with cancer living in the East Midlands, although any funds raised through the charity appeal will focus directly on those families affected in Leicester.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Lord Mayor invited Members to declare any interests they might have in the business to be discussed.

There were no declarations.

## **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor and carried:

That the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 23 November 2023 and 21 February 2024, having been circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and approved as a correct record.

## **4. STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR/EXECUTIVE**

The City Mayor noted the Southport incident, and praised the solidarity shown nationwide. The City Mayor thanked the Leicestershire Police of their handling and management to keep residents safe.

## **5. PETITIONS**

### **Petitions from Members of the Public**

No petitions were received from Members of the Public other than the

petition include to be debated.

### **Petitions from Councillors**

No petitions were received from Councillors.

### **Petitions to be debated**

The Monitoring Officer noted that the petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 further minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to commission further investigation into the matter, for example by a relevant committee. Where the issue is one on which the City Mayor is required to make the final decision, the Council may note the petition or make recommendations to the City Mayor. Council cannot make decisions where the subject matter of a petition falls to the Executive to decide.

Mr Kev Sherrif presented the petition with 1500 valid signatures in the following terms:

“PETITION IN ABSENSE OF EFFECTIVE HELP OR GENUINE SUPPORT, WE THE UNDERSIGNED CALL UPON LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL TO: RE-INSTATE THE GRANT FUNDING TO THE CITY’S ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS FOR 2025/26 AND ISSUE RESPECTIVE LONG TERM LEASES, ALLOWING THE PLAYGROUNDS THE TIME TO ENGAGE IN REALISTIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY.”

Moved by Councillor Kitterick, seconded by Councillor Porter.

Further to the petitioners’ request, that Officers of the Council are asked to do the following

1. Agree the 5-year Licences for Adventure Playgrounds as soon as possible in an open, equitable and transparent manner.
2. That monies committed by the Councillors for the 2024/25 Financial Year for Adventure Playgrounds, currently being withheld by the City Council are released so the Adventure Playgrounds can continue to provide services.
3. That consideration is given to the transfers of one-off funding to Adventure Playgrounds for 2025/26 from surplus non ring-fenced reserves which currently exist. For example there is currently £1.8 million in the election reserves, given the 2027 election will cost around £800,000 that leaves a sizeable amount of money to dedicate towards more urgent causes such as Adventure Playgrounds.
4. That a report on progress on the future of Adventure Playgrounds is brought back to a future Full Council for

consideration.

## AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Dempster:

That the motion read to say “Executives” instead of “Officers” on the opening sentence and to include “legal” on point one, to end the sentence with “open, legal and equitable and transparent manner”.

This was accepted by Councillor Kitterick and Councillor Porter as a friendly amendment.

The Lord Mayor put the amended motion to the vote and declared the motion carried.

Under Council Procedure Rule 13a, the aforementioned petition was referred to the Monitoring Officer for consideration and action as appropriate.

## 6. QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

#### 1. Cllr Kaur Saini

1:07:50

“For a period of 11 hours on Sunday 25th August hundreds of residents of the Hamilton area were subjected to a relentless and deafening level of music from what appears to have been a commercial live music festival taking place on the grounds of Nirvana FC. Everybody loves music in moderation, and in Leicester we pride ourselves on celebrating the great diversity of music on offer. But there’s a vast gulf between enjoying music at a family BBQ, and having ones mental peace utterly shattered. In fact the law recognizes as a form of torture the relentless playing of loud music - it is literally something you do to your worst enemy. Through information provided to the many residents who took to complain about the events of Sunday, there is a belief that the City Council, who exist to protect the rights of citizens, actually sponsored or at least endorsed these events. It should also be known that Sunday's event was the last of three loud music events that have happened on that site, over the last month. Would the City Mayor like to comment?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

#### 2. Cllr Kennedy-Lount

1:15:17



“Are the loans to Leicestershire County Cricket Club and Ethically Sourced Products Limited currently on course for their expected repayments date?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **3. Cllr Kennedy-Lount**

1:16:16

“How much of Leicester City Council money has been received by Ethically Sourced Products Limited, by way of loans or grants since May 2011?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **4. Cllr Kennedy-Lount**

1:16:50

“Once a Private care home for children within the city has been approved by the Council, does Leicester City Council inspect the property before residents take up their new home ensuring suitable standards for the residents and the neighbouring properties?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **5. Cllr Kennedy-Lount**

1:17:36

“Does Leicester City Council make their own inspections of its Council Run or Privately Run accommodation for Childrens Care Homes in the city once these are live?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **6. Cllr Kennedy-Lount**

1:19:15

“Are all Childrens Care Homes whether privately run or Leicester City Council run regulated for persons between the ages of 16 to 19 in the City of Leicester?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **7. Cllr Kennedy-Lount**

1:21:53

“Will Leicester City Council consider cheaper parking at Haymarket, Dover Street and Newark Street with a flat fee or on street free parking on designated streets on Sundays in the City Centre in the run up to Christmas to boost retailing in the Centre? Other local authorities in the region offer similar schemes, why should Leicester put itself at a disadvantage?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Whittle provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **8. Cllr Kennedy-Lount**

1:23:14

“Does the Councillors Enquiry System meet its 10 day working response time as advised when making enquiries on the programme?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **9. Cllr Kennedy-Lount**

1:25:20

“By using the Councillors Enquiry System software package is there a difference between raising a Childrens Service or Adult Service enquiry than the other departments on the programme?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **10. Cllr Haq**

1:28.15

“How much money has the Park and Ride lost in the last financial year?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Whittle provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **11. Cllr Haq**

1:30:00

“How much of Leicester city council own money has been spent on Cycle lanes in the last financial year ?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Whittle provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **12. Cllr Haq**

1:33.25

“How many meetings have taken place between Leicester city council officers and councillors with any management of Mark's and Spencer's Leicester city centre in the past 2 years?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **13. Cllr Haq**

1.38.03

“How much has Leicester city council lost in the failed Bike hire scheme across the city and How much did the Hospitals pay towards the scheme?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Whittle provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **14. Cllr Haq**

1:39:40

“How many cyclists have been issued with any penalty tickets across Leicester city center, In the last financial year. And the number for cars?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Whittle provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **15. Cllr Haq**

1:40:10

“How much has the pause on the Market place redevelopment, cost extra to Leicester city residents?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **16. Cllr Haq**

1:44.30

“The funding received from the NHS to support vulnerable residents with heating bills, can we have details of how this has been spent and a

breakdown ward by ward ?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **17. Cllr Haq**

1:49:00

“How much of Leicester city council's own money is going to be used on the redevelopment of the Railway Station?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **18. Cllr Haq**

1:51:50

“Families are struggling with the cost of living crisis will the council support the scrapping of the two child cap on universal credit?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **19. Cllr Mahesh**

1:53:10

“While most of us use CES to contact the departments, there are times when it is necessary to contact the officers directly. I and many new councillors are finding it hard as our emails on serious matters to some senior officers are not being responded to. Why is that the some officers pick and choose who reply to? Can the city mayor assure us that there won't be any two-tier engagement with the councillors, especially the new ones.”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **20. Cllr Karavadra**

1:54:40

“I presented a petition few months ago on the 24 Hour bus lane on Melton Road. As this is a very important matter for Rushey Mead residents, can I have an update on the petition please as it's been quite a while?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Whittle provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **21. Cllr Gopal**

1:55:35

“Public toilets in Leicester are in very poor condition, with some having been closed for maintenance for an extended period. Is the council taking any action to improve these facilities, and are there any plans to build more public toilets in the future, especially in the communal spaces like parks where they are needed the most?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **22. Cllr Gopal**

1:59:20

“Fly-tipping and spitting are becoming increasingly problematic. Why is the council struggling to deploy proper enforcement staff to manage this and stop it from getting worse.”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **23. Cllr Modhwadia**

2:03:39

“The council is planning a 90% increase in rent and service charges for business rental properties. Given the tough economic pressure on local businesses how does the council plan to remedy this and ensure their survival with such significant increases?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **24. Cllr Modhwadia**

2:06:40

“Could the council provide an update on the status of the empty property on Hastings Road in North Evington? What steps are being taken to bring it back into use?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **25. Cllr Modhwadia**

2:07:45

“Recent reports from residents indicate growing concerns over community safety in North Evington. There’s lack of activities for the youth to keep engaged in as there’s lack of funding for them. What measures will the council be taking to address the issues resulting from this such as anti-social behaviour in the area?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **26. Cllr Joannou**

2:10:15

“The city centre is in a mess. The moving of the market, closing of Marks and Spencer, the dirty streets, the itinerants in doorways the perilous Deliveroo bikers. I could go on. How on earth do we attract people into our city centre with the squalor it now declares? We have no pride no sense of making the city as it once used to be. People feel unsafe in the city centre especially in the evenings. Can the City Mayor advise what is he going to do about it?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **27. Cllr Orton**

2:15:35

“Can the City Mayor advise this council if he made a request to the government to increase the amount of fluoride in the water in the city and if yes then for what reasons? Why were the people of the city not consulted on it?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

## **28. Cllr Chauhan**

2:18:25

“The Deregulation Act 2015 allows taxi drivers to operate without obtaining licenses from the local authorities where they work. This has led to a patchwork of standards across different areas causing significant challenges for the taxi trade. Can the City Mayor tell us what steps are being taken to address this issue and to stop such drivers to operate within the city boundary?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **29. Cllr Singh Patel**

2.22:00

“Why has the council spent over £760K on new street cleaners when it already has these machines. On one hand there are financial challenges that you keep highlighting and then here you spend money on something that’s like this?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **30. Cllr Adatia**

2:24:30

“Gujarati language classes have been carried out at Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre for decades. At the end of the last academic year all six teachers, who are council employees, resigned on the same day. What have the city council done to replace these teachers to continue with this much needed service for the community, especially those from Belgrave and Rushey Mead areas?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **31. Cllr Gregg**

2:27:31

“Please can we be told how much was spent on behalf of Childrens Social Care Services in 2023-24 on external agencies for training consultancies, memberships and affiliations?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **32. Cllr Sahu**

2:29:32

“As the Corporate Parent, can the relevant cabinet member tell me how many Leicester Care Leavers are currently or about to start an apprenticeship with Leicester City Council and which roles and departments are they in?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

### **33. Cllr Kitterick**

2:31:30

“Can the City Mayor please provide the council with the following information about the Jewry Wall Museum?”

- What is the current projected spend on the refurbishment of the Jewry Wall Museum?
- When is the Museum due to open?
- What is the proposed admission fee (if any) to visit the museum?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

**34. Cllr Porter**

2:34.50

“What's the total amount of money that Ethically Sourced Products Limited has paid in interest to the council since the council gave Ethically Sourced Products Limited a loan of £1.5 million? ”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

**35. Cllr Porter**

2:36:40

“How much did the council sell 125-129 Vaughan Way for?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

**36. Cllr Porter**

2:39:00

“How much did the council sell the new walk centre land/property for?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

**37. Cllr Porter**

2:43:40

“How much did the council sell Belgrave House, Coach House and Stables for in 2021? ”



The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

**38. Cllr Porter**

2:48:20

“What is the set interest rate charged to Ethically Sourced Products Limited and on what date in 2025 does the loan have to be repaid?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

**39. Cllr Porter**

2:51:00

“Does the council have a telephone number for booking bulk waste collections?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

**40. Cllr Osman**

2:54:30

“How many council houses are currently vacant and have been offered to our tenants and still waiting for the properties to be ready.”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

**41. Cllr Osman**

2:59:40

“With our compulsory purchase order how many CPOs have we served to proprietors that own residential properties and empty commercial properties that could potentially be let out for housing or flats.”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and any supplemental questions.

**7. MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL**

**7A. CORPORATE EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2024-28**

Moved by Councillor Malik, seconded by Councillor Cassidy and carried:

That Council agree:

- a) The Corporate Equality and Diversity Strategy 2024-28
- b) The draft Equality Action Plan 2024-25
- c) The approach to remove discrimination for care experienced people

**7B. LEICESTER CITY YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024-28**

Moved by Councillor Russell, seconded by Councillor Batool and carried:

That Council:

- Consider, and note, the achievements from 2023-24.
- Consider, and agree, the priorities for 2024-25 as a final refresh of the three-year plan.
- Consider a five-year plan from 2025-2030 with a strong yearly refresh.

**8. REPORTS OF THE CITY MAYOR OR EXECUTIVE**

**8A. CLIMATE READY ACTION PLAN 2023-28**

Councillor Whittle, seconded by Waddington, and carried:

That Council is recommended to:

- i. Adopt the plan set out in Appendix 1
- ii. Note the amendments made to the draft plan in response to the public consultation findings
- iii. note that delivery will be monitored and reported, and the list of actions added to as resources allow, on an annual basis.

**8B. CORPORATE PARENTING**

Moved by Councillor Russell, seconded by City Mayor and carried:

That council is recommended to note the presentation.

**9. REPORTS OF SCRUTINY**

**9A. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24**

Moved by Councillor Cassidy, seconded by Cllr Porter and carried:

That the Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24 report be deferred to the next meeting of Full Council.

**10. REPORTS OF REGULATORY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

**10A. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24**

Moved by Councillor Kaur Saini, seconded by Joel and carried:

That council is recommended to receive the report setting out the Committee's work and achievements over the municipal year 2023/24.

**11. REPORTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

**11A. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES 2024-25 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Moved by Councillor Halford, seconded by Cassidy and carried:

That the Overview Select Committee be re-established in accordance with the existing Terms of Reference but with a membership of 12 members in accordance with the list which will be circulated with the Council script, it being noted that any remaining places will be filled in accordance with relevant procedures and in consultation with the relevant Members.

**12. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Marks and Spencer City Centre Motion**

Moved by Councillor Kitterick, seconded by Councillor Porter:

Leicester City Council notes:

The council wishes to express its deep concern about the loss of Marks &

Spencer from the City Centre of Leicester.

Whilst recognising the changes in shopping dynamics, the failure of the Council's leadership to appear to even attempt to retain the Marks & Spencer food offering in the City Centre is deeply disappointing.

The loss of Marks & Spencer alongside the uncertainty around the future of Leicester Market, the cancellation of this year's Caribbean Carnival and the Diwali Light Switch On coming on top of massive delays in processing of planning applications in the city are hallmarks of an exhausted and stale council leadership who lack the energy and ambition to lead our city forward.

Accordingly we call on the City Mayor and his team to make way for others to lead Leicester into the future.

The Lord Mayor declared that the motion was not carried.

**13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**