



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, 23 NOVEMBER 2023 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

Monitoring Officer

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28 September are available to view at:

<https://cabinet.leicester.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=81&MId=12776&Ver=4>

Copies are also available from Democratic Support on (0116) 454 6350 or

committees@leicester.gov.uk

4. STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR/EXECUTIVE

5. PETITIONS

- Presented by Members of the Public
- Presented by Councillors
- Petitions to be debated

6. QUESTIONS

- From Members of the Public
- From Councillors

7. MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

- a) City of Leicester Award

8. EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES

- To note any changes to the Executive
- To vary the composition and fill any vacancies of any Committee of the Council

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Gaza Conflict Motion

Councillor Dawood proposes that Leicester City Council notes:

We as elected members of Leicester City Council, call on the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and the other parties nationally to:

1. Call for an immediate ceasefire in the conflict in Gaza.
2. Advocate for the unrestricted restoration of aid and amenities into Gaza.
3. Demand the unconditional release of all hostages.
4. Urge the UK to recognize the state of Palestine.
5. Make the UK a place of sanctuary for refugees fleeing the conflict.

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

PRESENT:

SUE BARTON, LORD MAYOR
CHAIR

SIR PETER SOULSBY – CITY MAYOR

Abbey Ward

NAGS AGATH
CHARLEIGH BARNES

Aylestone Ward

SCOTT KENNEDY LOUNT
NIGEL CARL PORTER

Beaumont Leys Ward

HEMANT RAE BHATIA
HAZEL ORTON
PAUL THOMAS WESTLEY

Belgrave Ward

SHITAL ADATIA
YOGESH CHAUHAN
JAIANTILAL GOPAL

Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

ELAINE HALFORD
KULWINDER SINGH JOHAL

Castle Ward

MICK GREGG
PATRICK JOSEPH KITTERICK
LIZ SAHU

Evington Ward

DEEPAK BAJAJ
ZUFFAR HAQ

Eyres Monsell Ward

ELAINE PANTLING
KAREN PICKERING

North Evington Ward

RAVI MAHESH
SANJAY MODHWADIA

Rushey Mead Ward

GEETA KARAVADRA
DEVI SINGH PATEL

Saffron Ward

TED CASSIDY
ELLY CUTKELVIN

Spinney Hills Ward

MISBAH BATOOL

Stoneygate Ward

RAFIQ MOHAMMED
MANJULA SOOD
YASMIN SURTI

Thurncourt Ward

TERESA ALDRED
ABDUL OSMAN

Troon Ward

DIANE CANK
MOHINDER SINGH SANGHA

Westcotes Ward

ADAM CLARKE
SARAH RUSSELL

Fosse Ward

SUE WADDINGTON
SYED ZAMAN

Humberstone and Hamilton Ward

STEPHEN BONHAM
ASHIEDU JOEL
MANJIT KAUR SAINI

Knighton Ward

MELLISA MARCH
DR LYNN MOORE
GEOFF WHITTLE

Western Ward

GEORGE COLE
VI DEMPSTER
MOLLY O'NEIL

Wycliffe Ward

HANIF AQBANY
MOHAMMED DAWOOD

43. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kings Award

The Lord Mayor noted that the Shree Jalaram Temple and the Virbaimaa Jalaram Community Centre had received a Kings Award for voluntary services. The award recognised the efforts in supporting the local community through a wide range of initiatives including helping the homeless, raising money for other charities and distributing food to those in need.

CLETA visit to Krefeld

The Lord Mayor noted that the Chair of the City of Leicester European Twinning Association (CLETA) was present with a canvas received by the delegation from Leicester on a recent visit to Krefeld, one of Leicester's twin cities. The canvas was presented to the Lord Mayor who congratulated the delegation on a successful visit.

Carers Rights Day

The Lord Mayor noted that it was Carers Rights Day. The Lord Mayor recognised the significant impact that informal carers had in Leicester and noted how important it was to raise awareness for the rights and challenges on unpaid family carers.

Council meetings – explanation of rules and expectations

The Lord Mayor thanked Councillors for their conduct at the previous meeting, and stated that she hoped it would continue into this meeting.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Lord Mayor invited Members to declare any interests they might have in the business on the agenda not already declared on their register of interests.

There were no declarations.

45. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023 having been circulated to each Member of the Council be taken as read and are approved as a correct record.

46. STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR/EXECUTIVE

There were no statements by the City Mayor or Executive.

47. PETITIONS

Petitions from Members of the Public

No petitions for presentation had been received from members of the public.

Petitions from Councillors

Councillor Singh Patel presented a petition with 87 valid signatures in the following terms:

“The residents of Harrison Road urge the Leicester City Council to take an action, against dog owners, who don’t pick the dog fouling. The residents had made numerous complaints to the Leicester City Council. The Council should install CCTV camera to catch these dog owners.”

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

48. QUESTIONS

Please note that a full record of the questions and responses is available on the recording of the meeting at <http://tinyurl.com/mtfsczy9>. Time codes for each question will be provided before the wording of the question.

There were no questions from members of the public.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

1. Cllr Batool

00:38

“With reference to the Pro Bono Economics report that councils in England wasted millions of pounds in court disputes with parents and carers over disability and educational support for their children. A total of 11,052 tribunals involving SEND were registered in 2021-22, of which 96% were won by parents, carers and young people. The majority of legal challenges cost had to be paid by local authorities, that £46 million could have been used to fund 9,960 extra places in SEN units. How many SEND related tribunals were registered by Leicester City Council in the year 2021-22?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster provided a response this question and to Councillor Batool’s supplemental question.

2. Cllr Batool

5:58

“What are the procedural protocols that the Highways department follow when they receive a request for a new pedestrian crossing? ”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response this question and to Councillor Batool’s supplemental question.

3. Cllr March

8:56

“Please can you confirm exactly how much was paid by Festival Republic for hire or usage of Victoria Park during BBC Radio 2 in the park?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response this question and to Councillor March’s supplemental question.

4. Cllr March

10:04

“Please can you share details of how and when the public were consulted around changes to the tennis courts on Knighton Park? (How, when, how long was the consultation open for, how was it advertised, how many responses were received etc).”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor March’s supplemental question.

5. Cllr March

13:35

“In May 2021, the Friends of Knighton Park - a voluntary group who look after one of our key city parks - crowdfunded over £11.5k to create an inclusive sensory play area based on advice from council officers. When can we reasonably expect that work to be completed to the standards agreed, please? ”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Councillor March’s supplemental question.

6. Cllr Singh Sangha

16:38

“My concern is regarding with condition of the front of the saffron lane athletics stadium along with the car park. The Stadium was once a thing of

pride for Leicester. Are there any plans to update its presentation on Saffron Lane?"

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question.

7. Cllr Haq

18:29

"How much money is the council losing per year in the last 4 years on the Park and Ride ? "

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor Haq's supplemental question.

8. Cllr Haq

21:49

"Should the council support businesses around the Market place with better vehicle access ?"

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor Haq's supplemental question.

9. Cllr Haq

25:05

"How much money is being paid to Centre Bus from Leicester City Council in the past 5 years?"

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor Haq's supplemental question.

10. Cllr Haq

28:20

"How many Heat pumps are being fitted across Leicester schools?"

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor Haq's supplemental question.

11. Cllr Moore

30:40

"Is it now the policy of customer services to promise a response to a member of the public within five days, then renege on this promise? Is there a specific reason for this lack of engagement?"

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Councillor Moore's supplemental question.

12. Cllr Porter

35:30

"In 2020 how much did the council pay to Leicester High School For Girls?"

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and to Councillor Porter's supplemental question.

13. Cllr Porter

Councillor Porter withdrew this question.

14. Cllr Porter

Councillor Porter withdrew this question.

15. Cllr Porter

42:08

"Has the council ever commissioned work from consultancy firm Ricardo?"

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor Porter's supplemental question.

16. Cllr Porter

44:30

"Does Policy 5 in the core strategy allocate Ashton Green for up to 3,500 homes?"

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Councillor Porter's supplemental question.

17. Cllr Bajaj

47:52

"Can the City Mayor tell us about the exact financial facts around the letter he has written to Michael Gove and when does he see the probability of calling in 114?"

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and to Councillor

Bajaj's supplemental question.

18. Cllr Bajaj

51:41

"Can the City Mayor advise this council how much the two large events like Diwali and Caribbean Carnival have added to the local economy?"

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor Bajaj's supplemental question.

19. Cllr Bajaj

53:24

"Can the City Mayor advise what are his plans around Customer Care Centre on Granby Street as it is only being used twice a week to the big dissatisfaction of city residents?"

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question.

20. Cllr Bajaj

57:12

"Can the Assistant Mayor please share plans with regards to Libraries and Neighbourhood Centres and her proposals to shut some of them?"

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and to Councillor Bajaj's supplemental question.

21. Cllr Bajaj

1:01:28

"Recently we received that the officers will not be available to the councillors for Ward Community Meetings. The executive members get full support at the events where they are present and even in preparing replies to our questions. Why this two-tier arrangement"

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and to Councillor Bajaj's supplemental question.

22. Cllr Rae Bhatia

1:04:59

"The public consultation on Climate Emergency Plan 2023-2028 is on. Within

that on section 4.02 council proposes on Workplace Parking Levy and Road User Charging Plan. Can the Deputy Mayor categorically accept or deny whether the council intends to take these two plans forward.”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor Rae Bhatia’s supplemental question.

23. Cllr Rae Bhatia

1:07:35

“With Council’s Tree Planting Strategy, which is welcomed, there are some gaps of the unintended consequences which haven’t been take care of. When trees are planted no foresight is applied on how it will impact when the tree becomes mature and starts to cause structural and other problems. Many trees on the council land have already damaged people’s walls, fences, driveways etc but the council has no budget to go and fix these problems as its focus is somewhere else. At least this is the reply the officers give us. Can the Deputy Mayor advise us what actions and provisions are being made to redress the ongoing issues as well as to introduce stricter design governance to avoid falling into similar situation with the new trees.” Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Councillor Rae Bhatia’s supplemental question.

24. Cllr Mahesh

Councillor Mahesh was not present to ask this question.

25. Cllr Osman

1:12:03

“What provision do we have in the city for young people?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and to Councillor Osman’s supplemental question.

26. Cllr Osman

1:13:00

“Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. 1 in 8 men will be diagnosed, rising to 1 in 4 for Black men. As many as 69% of those treated with surgery may experience urinary incontinence as a result. What work is Leicester City Council with Public Health doing in this area to support Men suffering from Prostate Cancer?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and to Councillor Osman’s supplemental question.

27. Cllr Osman

1:15:35

“How many people are waiting for Disability Adaption Grants and how long does it take for cases to be approved?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and to Councillor Osman’s supplemental question.

28. Cllr Singh Patel

1:18:30

“Can the City Mayor congratulate the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain communities of Leicester City for the biggest celebrations of Diwali outside of India and its success as more than 50,000 people attending this year?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question.

29. Cllr Singh Patel

1:20:45

“Cricket facilities have been taken away from Rushey Mead Park can the City Mayor advise what arrangements have been made to facilitate the 400 plus young cricket players that use to play there? Have they been allocated another playing field?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question.

30. Cllr Joshi

1:23:08

“What is the council doing about the leaves that are a danger to public since we are stepping into winter,, and which is a major cause in blocking the drains which can lead to drains blocking and creating floods?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question.

31. Cllr Gopal

1:25:39

“How many empty council properties remain empty in Belgrave ward?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question.

32. Cllr Gopal

1:27:22

“How much income was generated from Radio 2 festival for the Council?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor Gopal’s supplemental question.

33. Cllr Joannou

Councillor Joannou withdrew this question prior to the meeting.

34. Cllr Sahu

1:28:43

“Further to our meeting in October regarding the Clarendon Park Play area, are you able to update me on whether there has been any progress on improvements to this area?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Councillor Sahu’s supplemental question.

35. Cllr Gregg

1:31:34

“Will Cllr Adam Clarke meet with city residents who are finding it increasingly difficult to access the City Centre due to bus drop offs being moved to St Margarets Bus Station further away from the centre of Leicester?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor Gregg’s supplemental question.

36. Cllr Kitterick

1:34:20

“On a scale of 1-10 (1 being totally unlikely, 10 being absolutely certain), what are the chances of the Leicester Railway Station redevelopment project staying within its current projected budget?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and to Councillor Kitterick’s supplemental question.

37. Cllr Kitterick

1:37:49

“When is a planning application going to be submitted for the construction phase of the Leicester Railway Station redevelopment project?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and to Councillor Kitterick’s supplemental question.

38. Cllr Kitterick

1:39:50

“When is the Leicester Railway Station’s redevelopment project’s construction phase due to be completed?”

The City Mayor provided a response to this question and to Councillor Kitterick’s supplemental question.

39. Cllr Kitterick

1:43:25

““When is Jewry Wall Museum due to re-open to the public?””
Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor Kitterick’s supplemental question.

40. Cllr Kitterick

1:45:28

“What is the purchase cost of a Heat Meter due to be installed in flats covered by Leicester City Council’s district heating scheme?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Councillor Kitterick’s supplemental question.

41. Cllr Kitterick

1:48:40

“What is the average number of hours for an operative to install a heat meter in a flat covered by the District Heating Scheme”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Councillor Kitterick’s supplemental question.

42. Cllr Kitterick

1:51:57

“What is the OFGEM cap on standing charges and gas supplied per Kilo Watt Hour to non-district heating properties in Leicester?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Councillor Kitterick's supplemental question.

43. Councillor Modhwadia

1:56:25

"The day centre in my ward on Hastings road was recommended for closure . can you give us an updates on this centre and what have the council done to continue given the service to the clients who were still using it ? "

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell provided a response to this question and to Councillor Modhwadia's supplemental question.

44. Councillor Modhwadia

1:59:12

"Textile business are dying in my ward and lots of people are unemployed . is it city council planning to attract new business in my ward for better employment ?"

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke provided a response to this question and to Councillor Modhwadia's supplemental question.

49. NOTICES OF MOTION

Gaza Conflict

Moved by Councillor Batool, seconded by the City Mayor that:

Leicester City Council notes:

Leicester is a city renowned for its tolerance, diversity, unity, and its strong stance against all forms of discrimination. This position enables different communities to live together harmoniously in our city.

The current conflict in Israel and Gaza continues to be the cause of much pain and concern in our city and has the danger of promoting divisions. We stand firmly against all forms of antisemitism and islamophobia.

Leicester City Council condemns all taking of hostages, indiscriminate killing of civilians, the destruction of property, homes and essential infrastructure.

We note that on 6th November the UN Secretary General António Guterres described the situation in Gaza as a "graveyard for children" and that in comments made on 8th November the UN High Commissioner, Volker Turk, denounced collective punishment as a war crime.

Gaza continues to remain under siege in distressing circumstances resulting in to date over 13,000 deaths, including almost 6,000 children, with the Israeli government preventing adequate aid, critical medical supplies, and fuel from entering the area.

We believe too there have been further settler incursions in the West bank and the bombing of safe passages, hospitals, places of worship and refugee camps resulting in hundreds more deaths and injuries.

As elected representatives of our proudly diverse city, we call on the Government and the other national political parties to -

1. Call for an immediate ceasefire from all parties.
2. Advocate for the unrestricted restoration of aid and amenities into Gaza.
3. Demand the unconditional release of all hostages.
4. Urge the UK to recognize the state of Palestine.
5. Call for proactive upholding of International Law and investigation of alleged war crimes.

AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Batool, seconded by the City Mayor:

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5. Call for proactive upholding of International Law and investigation of alleged war crimes

The Lord Mayor put the amendment to the vote.

The Lord Mayor declared the amendment carried.

Following debate, under Council Procedure Rule 29 of the Council's Constitution, three Councillors requested a recorded vote.

For the motion:

Councillors Agath, Aldred, Aqbany, Bajaj, Barnes, Batool, Bonham, Cank, Cassidy, Chauhan, Clarke, Cole, Cutkelvin, Dawood, Dempster, Gopal, Halford, Haq, Joel, Kaur Saini, Kennedy-Lount, Kitteirck, March, Modhwadia, Mohammed, Moore, O'Neil, Orton, Osman, Pantling, Pickering, Porter, Rae Bhatia, Russell, Sahu, Singh-Patel, Singh-Sangha, Sood, Soulsby (City Mayor), Surti, Waddington, Westley, Whittle, Zaman

The Lord Mayor declared that the substantive, amended motion was carried.

50. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.47pm.