



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, 13 JUNE 2019 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 of 21 March 2019 are available to view at:

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=81&MId=8711&Ver=4>

The minutes of the meeting of 16 May 2019 are available to view at:

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=81&MId=8712&Ver=4>

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

4. **STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR / EXECUTIVE**
5. **PETITIONS**
  - Presented by Members of the Public
  - Presented by Councillors
6. **QUESTIONS**
  - From Members of the Public
  - From Councillors
7. **MATTERS RESERVED TO FULL COUNCIL**

- 7a Independent Remuneration Panel – Review of Members Allowances
- 7b Parks and Open Spaces Byelaw Adoption

8. **EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES**

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

8a Appointment of Vice-Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee

9. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

**Fire & Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

- The Council Chamber Fire Exits are the two entrances either side of the top bench or under the balcony in the far left corner of the room.
- In the event of an emergency alarm sounding make your way to Town Hall Square and assemble on the far side of the fountain.
- Anyone who is unable to evacuate using stairs should speak to any of the Town Hall staff at the beginning of the meeting who will offer advice on evacuation arrangements.
- From the public gallery, exit via the way you came in, or via the Chamber as directed by Town Hall staff.

**Filming and Recording the Meeting**

The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. In accordance with government regulations and the Council's policy, persons and press attending any meeting of the Council open to the public (except Licensing Sub Committees and where the public have been formally excluded) are allowed to record and/or report all or part of that meeting. Details of the Council's policy are available at [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk) or from Democratic Support.

If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc.

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

**PRESENT:**

ANNETTE BYRNE, LORD MAYOR  
CHAIRMAN

SIR PETER SOULSBY – CITY MAYOR

Abbey Ward

MANJIT KAUR SAINI  
VIJAY SINGH RIYAIT

Aylestone Ward

ADAM CLARKE  
NIGEL CARL PORTER

Beaumont Leys Ward

VI DEMPSTER

Belgrave Ward

PADMINI CHAMUND  
NITA SOLANKI  
MAHENDRA VALAND

Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

SUE BARTON  
ELAINE HALFORD  
KULWINDER SINGH JOHAL

Castle Ward

PATRICK JOSEPH KITTERICK  
DANNY MYERS  
DEBORAH ANNE SANGSTER

Evington Ward

DEEPAK BAJAJ  
RATILAL BHAGWAN GOVIND

Eyres Monsell Ward

ELAINE PANTLING  
KAREN PICKERING

North Evington Ward

LUIS FONSECA  
RASHMIKANT JOSHI  
JEAN KHOTE

Rushey Mead Ward

PIARA SINGH CLAIR  
RITA PATEL  
ROSS WILLMOTT

Saffron Ward

ELLY CUTKELVIN  
WILLIAM SHELTON

Spinney Hills Ward

MISBAH BATOOL  
MUSTAFA MALIK

Stoneygate Ward

KIRK MASTER  
SHARMEN RAHMAN  
AMINUR THALUKDAR

Thurncourt Ward

TERESA ALDRED  
STEPHAN GEE

Troon Ward

DIANE CANK  
ASHIEDU JOEL

Westcotes Ward

JACKY NANGREAVE  
SARAH RUSSELL

Fosse Ward

TED CASSIDY  
SUE WADDINGTON

Humberstone and Hamilton Ward

RUMA ALI  
GURINDER SINGH SANDHU

Knighton Ward

MELISSA MARCH  
DR LYNN MOORE

Western Ward

LINDSAY BROADWELL  
GEORGE COLE  
GARY O'DONNELL

Wycliffe Ward

HANIF AQBANY  
MOHAMMED DAWOOD

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

### Election of Councillors

The Lord Mayor asked the City Mayor to introduce those Councillors who were not formally introduced at the Annual Council meeting. The City Mayor introduced Councillors; Misbah Batool, Asheidu Joel, and Gary O'Donnell.

### Honoured Citizen Award

The Lord Mayor announced her intention to continue with the Honoured Citizen Award programme. The programme recognised the outstanding achievements and contributions to the city by citizens of Leicester.

## **12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

No declarations were made.

## **13. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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

That the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019, copies having been circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and that each be approved as a correct record.

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

The following statement was made:

The City Mayor referred to the recent election results and expressed gratitude and honour that the City had put their faith in him and his colleagues. He outlined some of the key challenges which his administration would look to address; such as the climate emergency, poverty, fair wages, decent employment, lifelong learning, physical and mental wellbeing, housing, school places and advice services. He spoke of his ambition to ensure that the city was inclusive, tolerant, vibrant, cleaner, greener, prosperous and a city that everyone could be proud of.

The City Mayor also announced the following appointments:

Councillor Adam Clarke – Heritage Champion.

Councillor Vi Dempster – Older Persons Champion, Mental Health Champion; and Armed Forces Champion.

Mrs Manjula Sood – Faith and Communities Advisor.

## **15. PETITIONS**

### **Petitions from members of the public**

There were no petitions received from members of the public.

## **Petitions from Councillors**

Councillor Dempster presented a petition with 35 valid signatures in the following terms:-

“We petition, on behalf of the residents on Badgers Close and Beauville Drive, Leicester, to address an ongoing problem with the parking of non-residential vehicles pre-dominantly during the school hours. As residents we have noticed many problems with this situation, careless driving and parking has raised strong concerns over the safety and wellbeing of the parents and children.

We have observed that this is causing major traffic jams, damage to private lands and parking in prohibited spaces, this in turn is having an impact on anti-social behaviour and aggressiveness between people.

Police, traffic wardens and PCSOs patrol this area on occasions, and we see that this makes a drastic impact on this situation until their presence is no-longer available, however moving forward we need to come to a permanent solution for this.

As parents and residents of this area, I feel that we cannot wait until there is a tragic accident due to careless driving or someone gets hurt through aggressive behaviour, for action to be taken.

We also feel that it is our right as residents to live in a safe and conflict free environment.”

Councillor Waddington presented a petition with 58 valid signatures in the following terms:-

“We the residents of Vernon Street and the surrounding area request that Leicester City Council re-open the Park on Vernon Street and provide play equipment and a bench so that local residents can enjoy the use of this ‘pocket park’ which is currently locked up and not maintained.

The Council closed and locked the park in 2016 and removed the play equipment. We think this park should be an asset for our neighbourhood to be enjoyed by local families, who need more green space, as our houses only have very small back yards.”

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

## **16. QUESTIONS**

### **Questions from Members of the Public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

### **Questions from Councillors**

The following questions were asked by Councillors and details of who responded are also included below. The full details of questions and the responses can be viewed on the webcast of the meeting on the Council’s website at:

[https://leicester.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/426440](https://leicester.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/426440)

We maintain a comprehensive library of webcast Council meetings. The webcast for this meeting will remain on the live website until 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020, and after this date can be requested from the Democratic Support Team by contacting (0116) 465 6350 or at [committees@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:committees@leicester.gov.uk).

For your convenience, links to each question and response are embedded after each question below.

**1. Councillor Nangreave: -**

“In regard to the welfare officers’ team; the team has been reduced from twelve to currently seven officers (I believe), based on a business case agreed some years ago but not implemented until last year.

My question is; will the Council suspend the current business case and reinstate the £200k taken out of the service last year? This is in keeping with the Council’s 2019 election manifesto.”

**Assistant City Mayor, Councillor Master replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 1](#)

**2. Councillor Nangreave: -**

“Earlier this year, Leicester City Council declared a “climate emergency” in the city in response to the October 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which estimates that there are only 12 years left to act decisively on climate change, to be able to keep global warming within 1.5°C.

What are the implications of the council’s anti-pollution policy and environmental policies of University Hospitals of Leicester plans to close the Leicester General Hospital and move services away from a relatively low pollution site to a site on the inner ring-road where pollution levels are believed to be already high i.e. The Royal?”

**Deputy City Mayor, Councillor Clarke replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 2](#)

**3. Councillor Broadwell: -**

“I very much welcome the schemes such as the works on Belgrave Gate and London Road, there’s still a problem with much of the city’s cycling infrastructure being sub-par, especially the type of painted bike lane along Humberstone Road and elsewhere. Some of it also does not form a seamless network as much as it instead forms a somewhat disjointed collection of routes.

I’d like to know what the City Council and the Executive’s stance is on pursuing a programme of fully protected bike lanes, especially in outer areas of the city where there is sometimes very little infrastructure at all. I would also like to know if we would be willing to consider taking lanes away from cars, especially on the ring road, in order to make cycling safer, more pleasant, and more accessible?”

**Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 3](#)

**4. Question was withdrawn.**

**5. Councillor Broadwell: -**

“I support the Levy wholeheartedly and believe it’s a necessary step to fixing the awful traffic in Leicester, but some have raised concerns with me that we are putting the cart before the horse in potentially announcing and implementing the levy before we have firm proposals for a mass transit system or similar measures in place.

I would suggest that we make it very clear to the public and the press what we intend to do with the money raised before we announce that it will be definitely implemented. What is the current plan for the implementation of the Levy, and what works is it likely to pay for?”

**Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 5](#)

**6. Councillor Cole: -**

“Further to the recent damning report by the UN regarding poverty and Universal Credit, there is grave concerns in the Western Ward, parts of which is amongst the poorest parts of the city, that the DWP’s benefit implementation and sanctions scheme places excessive and unnecessary pressure on the most vulnerable citizens of Leicester.

UC was rolled out in Leicester in June 2018. Since the roll out, can the City Mayor please say: –

- i, to date, how many people have had to wait for more than 5 weeks to get any benefit?
- ii, how many people have been sanctioned to date?
- iii, what is the sum total of benefits lost via sanctions to date?
- iv, how many people have been sanctioned more than once?
- v, how many more children have been taken into care and are at risk since the roll out of UC?”

**Assistant City Mayor Councillor Master replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 6](#)

**7. Councillor Cole: -**

“Given that the more likely candidates to win the leadership election for the conservative party and therefore become the next prime Minister are hardened Brexiteers and are likely to pull the UK out of Europe without a deal can the City Mayor say how prepared is Leicester City for such an eventuality?”

**City Mayor replied.**



[Link to webcast of Question 7](#)

**8. Councillor Cole: -**

“With no end in sight to cut to local government funding from this conservative government and the increase in council tax is likely not to meet the short fall can the City Mayor say what is being done to avoid Leicester ending up in the same place as Northampton Authority?”

**City Mayor replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 8](#)

**9. Councillor Kitterick: -**

“What is the current situation with the installation of a second lift at St Leonards Court?”

**Assistant City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 9](#)

**10. Councillor Kitterick: -**

“On how many occasions have the police been asked to attend incidents at the council run toilets on Infirmary Square in the last two years?”

**Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 10](#)

**11. Councillor Kitterick: -**

“On how many occasions have hypodermic syringes and other drug related detritus had to be removed from the council run toilets on Infirmary Square in the last two years?”

**Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 11](#)

**12. Councillor Barton: -**

“I've noticed many private hire cars operating in Leicester are licensed in Wolverhampton. I asked a driver of one of them why this was. He told me it is because an application to work as a private hire driver is processed quickly by Wolverhampton, but one made to Leicester can mean a wait of up to a year. What are the reasons for this delay?”

**Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 12](#)

**13. Councillor Willmott: -**

“At the beginning of March Councillor Clair, you agreed to provide a report about the lack of enforcement action on breaches of planning requirements. Since that time, I have had some helpful information from officers. Please can you tell me when the report will be ready and which scrutiny commission it will go to and when?”

**Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 13](#)

**14. Councillor Batool: -**

“We constantly hear in the media that knife and drug crime is on the rise, I see the impact this has on my local community in Highfields. When the City Council develop new strategies for dealing with these issues, do they invite the local communities and young people in to help shape both specific projects and broader policy?”

**Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 14](#)

**15. Councillor Porter: -**

“What is the proposed start date for the public consultation on the local plan?”

**City Mayor replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 15](#)

**16. Councillor Porter: -**

“Can the council say where the idea came from to plonk concrete blocks on New Walk?”

**Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 16](#)

**17. Councillor Porter: -**

“Including VAT can the council say how much public money it spent on gift vouchers from 1 April 2018 to 30 April 2019?”

**City Mayor replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 17](#)

**18. Councillor Porter: -**

“Have the council authorised the use of netting on hedges, trees etc to prevent birds from accessing nesting sites?”

**Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 18](#)

**19. Councillor Porter: -**

“Including VAT can the council say how much public money it spent on employee taxi expenses from 1 April 2018 to 30 April 2019?”

**City Mayor replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 19](#)

**20. Councillor Porter: -**

“Is the council committed to making their finances clear?”

**City Mayor replied.**

[Link to webcast of Question 20](#)

**MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL**

**17. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

Moved by Councillor Cank, seconded by Councillor Riyait, and carried:

That Council:

- 1) Approve the appointment and composition of an Independent Remuneration Panel to consider Members’ Allowances in Leicester as detailed in the report;
- 2) Approve the commencement of a review of the Council’s Scheme of Members’ Allowances by the Independent Remuneration Panel as specified in legislation on the basis defined in the report and taking into account the current financial constraints facing the Council and;
- 3) Note that consideration of the report of the Panel is a matter reserved to Council and that Council in setting a Scheme of Allowances at that point will have the choice to accept in full or in part or reject the findings of the Panel.

**18. PARK AND OPEN SPACE BYELAW ADOPTION**

Moved by the City Mayor, seconded by Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair and carried:

That Council:

- 1) Agree that the byelaws made by Leicester City Council on 13 August 2008 and confirmed by the Secretary of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the 5 April 2009 relating to the ground are to be revoked in line with the adoption process; and
- 2) Agree to the adoption and implementation of the revised model byelaws in relation Parks and Open Spaces as confirmed by the Secretary of State,

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on the 28 February 2019.

## **EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES**

### **19. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

Moved by Councillor Cank, seconded by the City Mayor and carried:

That the appointment of Councillor Gary O'Donnell as Vice-Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee be confirmed.

### **20. CLOSE OF MEETING**

There being no urgent business, the Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6.37pm.