



Leicester
City Council

**MEETING OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMISSION**

DATE: THURSDAY, 27 JANUARY 2022

TIME: 5:30 pm

**PLACE: Meeting Rooms G.01 and G.02, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115
Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

Members of the Committee

Councillor Thalukdar (Chair)

Councillor Solanki (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Joshi, Nangreave, O'Donnell, Waddington and Westley

One unallocated Labour group place

One unallocated non group place

For Monitoring Officer

Officer contacts:

Anita Patel (Scrutiny Policy Officer)

Jacob Mann (Democratic Support Officer),

Tel: 0116 454 5843, e-mail: Jacob.Mann@leicester.gov.uk
Leicester City Council, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

Information for members of the public

Attending meetings and access to information

You have the right to attend formal meetings such as full Council, committee meetings, and Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes.

However, on occasion, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

NOTE: Due to COVID restrictions, public access in person is limited to ensure social distancing. If you wish to attend in person, you are required to contact the Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting regarding arrangements for public attendance. A guide to attending public meetings can be found here: <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council/decisions-meetings-and-minutes/public-attendance-at-council-meetings-during-covid-19/>

Dates of meetings and copies of public agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website at www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk, or by contacting us using the details below.

To hold this meeting in as Covid-safe a way as possible, all attendees are asked to follow current Government guidance and:

- maintain distancing while entering and leaving the room/building;
- remain seated and maintain distancing between seats during the meeting;
- wear face coverings throughout the meeting unless speaking or exempt;
- make use of the hand sanitiser available;
- when moving about the building to follow signs about traffic flows, lift capacities etc;
- comply with Test and Trace requirements by scanning the QR code at the entrance to the building and/or giving their name and contact details at reception prior to the meeting;
- if you are displaying Coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, you should NOT attend the meeting, please stay at home, and get a PCR test.

Separate guidance on attending the meeting is available for officers. Officers attending the meeting are asked to contact the Democratic Support Officer in advance to confirm their arrangements for attendance.

Making meetings accessible to all

Wheelchair access – Public meeting rooms at the City Hall are accessible to wheelchair users. Wheelchair access to City Hall is from the middle entrance door on Charles Street - press the plate on the right hand side of the door to open the door automatically.

Braille/audio tape/translation - If you require this please contact the Democratic Support Officer (production times will depend upon equipment/facility availability).

Induction loops - There are induction loop facilities in City Hall meeting rooms. Please speak to the Democratic Support Officer using the details below.

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 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.

Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact: **Jacob Mann, Democratic Support Officer on 0116 454 5843.** Alternatively, email Jacob.Mann@leicester.gov.uk, or call in at City Hall.

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 0116 454 4151.**

PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

FIRE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION

If the emergency alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building immediately by the nearest available fire exit and proceed to the area outside the Ramada Encore Hotel on Charles Street as directed by Democratic Services staff. Further instructions will then be given.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Appendix A

The minutes of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Commission held on 9 December 2021 are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

5. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any petitions submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

6. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any questions, representations and statements of case submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

A question had been received from Zina Zelter as follows:

Climate Action strongly support the introduction of Selective Licencing for private rental accommodation in the City requiring rental housing to reach specific standards of energy efficiency. At the moment you are suggesting a licencing requirement that Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) demonstrating band E are provided to get licences, and that properties are required to improve to band D by 2025. We understand that if you got full

council agreement you could ask for higher energy efficiency standards. Is it correct that you have the power to do this if you choose to?

Given that it is both more energy efficient and cheaper, as well as less disturbing to tenants, to do housing improvements in one go, rather than in bits and pieces, and given that considerably higher than EPC band D is needed for the city's housing in order to address climate change, would you consider requiring EPC certification band D for licencing now, rising to band C by 2025?

This will be considered in accordance with the Council's Constitution under the Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10.

7. DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23 AND DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 **Appendix B**

The Director of Finance submits the following reports setting out the City Mayor's proposed Draft Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Draft Capital Budget 2022/23. The Commission is recommended to consider and comment on the Neighbourhood Services element of the budgets. The Commission's comments will be forwarded to the Overview Select Committee as part of its consideration of the reports before they are presented at the Council meeting on 23 February 2022.

8. KNIFE CRIME STRATEGY

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services will present an update on the Council's knife crime strategy.

9. AFRICAN CARIBBEAN CENTRE CONSULTATION FINDINGS **Appendix C**

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report to provide a summary of the public consultation exercise undertaken to gather views on the usage and future running of the African Caribbean Centre. The report provides options and a recommendation for the future running of the facility.

10. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY - 2022-2027 **Appendix D**

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report to update the Commission on the review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 and seek any comments before the Policy goes to Full Council on 24 February 2022.

11. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

Appendix E

The current work programme for the Commission is attached. The Commission is asked to consider this and make comments and/or amendments as it considers necessary.

12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS