



Leicester  
City Council

Democratic and Civic  
Support  
City Hall  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ

20 September 2023

Sir or Madam

I hereby summon you to a meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL to be held at the Town Hall, on THURSDAY, 6 JULY 2023 at FIVE O'CLOCK in the afternoon, for the business hereunder mentioned.

**Monitoring Officer**

-----  
**AGENDA**  
-----

**AUDIO STREAM FOR MEETING**

A live audio stream of the meeting can be heard on the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@leicestercitycouncildemocr5339>

- 1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 – Budget Council Meeting  
[Agenda for Council on Wednesday, 22 February 2023, 5:00 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 – Special Council Meeting  
[Agenda for Council on Wednesday, 22 February 2023, 6:00 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Special Council Meeting  
[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 9 March 2023, 5:00 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Annual Council Meeting  
[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 18 May 2023, 5:00 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

Copies are also available from Democratic 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
- Presented by Councillors
- Petitions to be debated

### **6. QUESTIONS**

- From Members of the Public
- From Councillors

### **7. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL - PROCESS**

7.1 Independent Remuneration Panel - process

### **8. ESTABLISHMENT OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS, REGULATORY AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

8.1 Establishment of Scrutiny Committees and Commissions, Regulatory and Council Committees

To vary the composition and fill any vacancies of any Committee of the Council

To agree Terms of Reference and any changes to existing Terms of Reference

## 9. DATE OF ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Council is asked to approve an additional Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and to remove the ordinary meeting due to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024.

## 10. NOTICES OF MOTION

### **Leicester City Council Divestment Motion**

Proposed by the Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Singh Johal that:

Leicester City Council notes:

It does not have any direct investments in fossil fuels but Leicester City Council, through employer and employee contributions, contributes to around £154 million of investment in fossil fuels as part of the Leicestershire Local Government Pension Fund, according to UK Divest. The Leicester City element of this is estimated to be around 30% (£46.2m).

The United Nations Paris Agreement, reaffirmed at the 2021 Glasgow Climate Summit, commits our governments to keep the global temperature increase to under 2 degrees and aim for 1.5 degrees. Carbon budgets produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, United Nations and the International Energy Agency show that preventing two degrees of warming relies on not burning the vast majority of all proven fossil fuels.

The UN International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that global oil demand will significantly fall by 2030, leading their Executive Director to refer to oil and gas companies as potential 'junk investments.' [1] Action by governments to limit carbon emissions will ultimately leave fossil fuel reserves unburnable. It's been estimated that this asset bubble, known as the 'carbon bubble', may be over €1 trillion in Europe alone.

Former Bank of England Governor Mark Carney warned that fossil fuel investments risk becoming "stranded assets" as investors exit the sector. "A question for every company, every financial institution, every asset manager, pension fund or insurer – what's your plan?" [2]

Pension funds have a fiduciary duty to consider the material risks of continued investment in fossil fuels. Fiduciary duty is defined by the Law Commission as "ensuring that pensions can be paid, ensuring that this is undertaken at the best possible value".

Pension funds have a legal duty to treat members "fairly as between them". That means taking seriously the longer-term interests of younger members who may be affected more by the climate transition.

The city mayor and majority of Councillors committed, through the Labour manifesto, *"to seek to end the Leicestershire pension fund's investment in fossil*

*fuel producing companies, redirecting this investment to support local solutions to climate change and fuel poverty.”*

Therefore, this Council commits to:

1. Call on the Leicestershire Local Government Pension Fund to amend its recently adopted Net Zero Climate Strategy and develop a Responsible Investment Policy which explicitly rules out new investments in fossil fuel companies.
2. Call on the Fund to divest from fossil fuels through the development and adoption of responsible investment policies which:
  - a. Immediately freeze any new investment in the top 200 publicly traded fossil fuel companies.[3]
  - b. Divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within [insert agreed number of years given market forecasts].
  - c. Set out an approach to quantify and address climate change risks affecting all other investments.
  - d. Actively seek to invest in companies that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimise climate risk and where possible provide local environmental benefits.
3. Recognising that fossil fuel investments should be considered as part of the council's "carbon footprint" and divesting our pension fund is one of the most impactful steps we can take to reduce our impact on our community and the world.

### **Green Open Space at Beaumont Park and the former Western Park Golf Course Motion**

Proposed by Councillor Rae Bhatia and seconded by Councillor Kitterick that:

Leicester City Council notes the concerns of people in the west of Leicester at the proposed loss of valuable green open space at Beaumont Park and the former Western Park Golf Course in the city.

This council believes it is not too late to act to save these sites from development and instead focus more effort on bringing forward brownfield sites in Leicester.

This council, therefore, agrees to withdraw Beaumont Park and Western Park Golf Course from the list of proposed sites for development from the Leicester City Local Plan at the earliest possible opportunity.

### **Local Government Pay to Council: A fully funded, proper pay rise for Council and School Workers Motion**

Proposed by the City Mayor and seconded by Deputy City Mayor Russell that

Leicester City Council notes:

Local government has endured central government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government. The City Council had to make real terms cuts of 50% in services other than social care. New research by UNISON suggests that councils across England, Wales and Scotland are facing a cumulative funding gap of £5bn by next year.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2023 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits and tax credits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

This council believes:

Our workers are public service super-heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase. The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase having made it impossible for councils to do so.

This council resolves to:

Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim of RPI+2%.

Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government

Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the council can put pressure on the government.

## **11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

## Information for members of the public

### 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.

### Meeting Arrangements

- Please ensure that all mobile phones are either switched off or put on silent mode for the duration of the Council Meeting.
- Please do not take food into the Council Chamber.
- Tweeting in formal Council meetings is fine as long as it does not disrupt the meeting. Will all Members please ensure they use their microphones to assist in the clarity of the audio recording.

You have the right to attend, view, formal meetings such as full Council, committee meetings & Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes. On occasion however, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

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

### Making meetings accessible to all

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

### Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact:

**Matthew Reeves, Democratic and Civic Support Manager on 0116 4546352.**

Alternatively, email [matthew.reeves@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.reeves@leicester.gov.uk) or call in at City Hall.

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