



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, 21 NOVEMBER 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:

21 March 2024

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

16 May 2024 – Annual Meeting

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 16 May 2024, 5:00 pm \(leicester.gov.uk\)](#)

5 September 2024

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 5 September 2024, 5:00 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
  - Presented by Councillors
6. **QUESTIONS**
  - From Members of the Public
  - From Councillors

7. **MATTERS RESERVED TO FULL COUNCIL**

7.1 Gambling Policy 2025-28

8. **REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE**

8.1 Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24

9. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

10. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

**PRESENT:**

**BHUPEN DAVE, LORD MAYOR**  
**CHAIRMAN**

**SIR PETER SOULSBY – CITY MAYOR**

**Abbey Ward**

Nags Agath

**Aylestone Ward**

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

**Rushey Mead Ward**

Bhupen Dave  
Geeta Karavadra  
Devi Singh Patel

**Saffron Ward**

Ted Cassidy  
Elly Cutkelvin

**Spinney Hills Ward**

Misbah Batool  
Mustafa Malik

**Stoneygate Ward**

Manjula Sood  
Yasmin Surti

**Thurncourt Ward**

Teresa Aldred

**Troon Ward**

Mohinder Singh Sangha

**Westcotes Ward**

Adam Clarke  
Sarah Russell

**Western Ward**

Susan Waddington  
Syed Zaman

Humberstone and Hamilton Ward

Stephen Bonham  
Manjit Kaur Saini

Knighton Ward

Melissa March  
Lynn Moore  
Geoff Whittle

Vi Dempster  
Molly O'Neill

Wycliffe Ward

Hanif Aqbany  
Mohammed Dawood

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

Surjit Singh Bangh

The Lord Mayor informed that Surjit Singh Bangh from the Guru Nanak Gurdwara Football Club had sadly passed away on 26 October 2024 at the age of 47. Surjit, known as Jonny, was the club captain from 1998 and was highly regarded and much loved by members of the club and the wider football circles both locally and nationally. The Lord Mayor expressed condolences to Surjit Singh Bangh's family, friends and members of the GNG Club.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

Cllr Kitterick and Cllr Bajaj declared an interest in the Gambling Policy 2025-28 item.

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

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

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21 March 2024, be taken as read and are approved as a correct record.

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 16 May 2024, be taken as read and are approved as a correct record.

That the minutes of Council held on 5 September 2024, be taken as read and are approved as a correct record.

Councillor Rae Bhatia raised a correction to the minutes from the 5<sup>th</sup> of September meeting regarding the Corporate Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy Item. It was noted that the minutes did not reflect an agreement for Councillor Malik and Council Russell to engage with a group of family carers to discuss the inclusion of Family Carers as an additional group within the strategy.

In response, the Monitoring Officer clarified the purpose of Full Council minutes, explaining that they record key decisions and resolutions rather than reflecting the debate and discussions. Approving minutes of previous Full Council minutes requires members to approve whether decisions and resolutions were accurately recorded, rather than discussing their fulness. It was further noted that the publicly available audio recording on YouTube services as a comprehensive record of the meeting.

Councillor Russell addressed the matter surrounding Family Carers within the strategy and confirmed that discussions will be held going forward.

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

City Mayor noted the sad passing of John Prescott, Cllr Rae Bhatia echoed the City Mayors remarks and requested a minute silence.

A minute silence was held for John Prescott and Roger Blackmore who was the leader of Leicester City Council from 2003 to 2004, and 2005 to 2008 and also the Lord Mayor of Leicester from 2009 to 2010.

Cllr Sood made a statement thanking those organising and participating in the Remembrance Service, and also highlighted the successful interfaith week.

#### **5. PETITIONS**

##### **PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Ms Alison Simpson presented the petition with 28 valid signatures in the following terms:

“The residents of Ripon Street, Leicester petition Leicester City Council to enforce the residents parking scheme on Ripon Street. We are subject to continued and dangerous daily breaches of the scheme by non-residents who are dropping off, collecting and waiting for children at various times throughout the day, including evenings and weekends. Permit holders are finding it increasingly difficult to use the narrow entrance to the street safely. The number of non-permit holders parked up also makes it difficult to permit holders to park.”

##### **PETITIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Sangha presented the petition with 44 valid signatures in the following terms:

“We are writing to you as residents of Barnes Close, Rushey Mead Leicester to highlight the very poor condition of the road surface of Barnes Close which need urgent attention for a complete new surface.

There have been in recent years some patch-up jobs of potholes, but the work has been inadequate and not sustainable, and holes have reappeared. As one of the largest Cul-de-sacs off Trevino Drive the traffic passing through the road is one of the highest, coupled with many visitors in the Close during the day providing regular and frequent care. The high traffic volume is having an adverse effect on the road and equally important is damaging the vehicles using the Cul-de-sac, both for residents and visitors. Furthermore, residents feel that they are being treated unfairly when other Cul-de-sacs off Trevino Drive have been treated to a complete re-surface of their Cul-de-sacs, namely Faldo Close and Marsh Close in the recent past. As residents of Barnes Close there needs to be equity by the Council for all

residents of Rushey Mead.

We do understand the financial situation of the council but at the same time there is also a need for some basic standards and more importantly having Road surfaces that are safe to use for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. At the moment the surface is posing a Health & Safety risk for all users.

We do hope that you will look into this matter urgently and arrange for a complete Road resurface for the whole of Barnes Close.”

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

## **6. QUESTIONS**

Please note that a full record of the questions and responses is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council 21 November 2024 - YouTube](#) Time codes for each question will be provided before the wording of the question.

### **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

#### **1. Cllr O'Neill**

0:42:00

“The Labour government's budget presents the opportunity for the council to start financially benefiting from the right to buy scheme. With the discount for council tenants to buy their council home also reducing, will this mean we are able to build more council homes than are purchased which hasn't been possible previously? Will the executive and the City Mayor continue to press the government to end the right to buy scheme altogether?”

Cllr Cutkelvin provided a response to this question.

#### **2. Cllr Haq**

0:46:00

“How much does it cost the council for the bell hop bus in Leicester city center? ”

Cllr Whittle provided a response to this question and to Cllr Haq's supplemental question.

#### **3. Cllr Haq**

0:47:00

“How many new Hot food licenses have been issued in Leicester city center ? ”

Cllr Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Cllr Haq's supplemental question.

#### **4. Cllr Haq**

0:50:00

"How much of the money given to Leicester City Council by the NHS for heating support for vulnerable and elderly residents was actually paid towards heating bills?"

Cllr Russell provided a response to this question and to Cllr Haq's supplemental question.

#### **5. Cllr Haq**

0:53:00

"How much of the pesticide glyphosate is Leicester city council using every year?"

Cllr Whittle provided a response to this question and to Cllr Haq's supplemental question.

#### **6. Cllr Haq**

0:56:00

"How much is the cost per month of security for the site at Hospital Close? and when did the council start the contract for the security?"

Cllr Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Cllr Haq's supplemental question.

#### **7. Cllr Adatia**

WITHDRAWN

#### **8. Cllr Joannou**

1:00:00

"The people of Evington desperately need traffic lights at the bottom of Downing Drive/ Uppingham Road. This has been raised at every ward meeting, visits by highways officers and indeed Headteachers of local schools for the last five years. The huge back up of traffic and dangerous cross junction driving will result in a fatality. Several accidents have already happened there. Residents have asked continually for the last five years to install traffic lights. It appears that safety comes secondary to cost. Why has



this pressing matter not been addressed by the council?”

Cllr Whittle provided a response to this question and to Cllr Joannou’s supplemental question.

#### **9. Cllr Joannou**

1:03:00

“The Transport Secretary recently said that E-Scooters should be made legal on public roads. Does the City Mayor agree with it?”

City Mayor provided a response to this question and to Cllr Joannou’s supplemental question.

#### **10. Cllr Joshi**

1:07:00

“There are 12 vacant business units at Vulcan House, which no one can afford to take up due to 1000% service charge hike. There is a high probability that more tenants will likely vacate due to affordability issue. What is the council going to do to ensure that local business can afford to sustain and is there a government grant to support it?”

City Mayor provided a response to this question and to Cllr Joshi’s supplemental question.

#### **11. Cllr Osman**

WITHDRAWN

#### **12. Cllr Rae Bhatia**

1:09:40

“Council has so far made £80m worth of prudential borrowing this year alone to support HRA budget of 160m – that’s 50% of it borrowed. How much of it is to be paid back each year (with interest of course) and what are its implications to the health of the budget in each coming year?”

Cllr Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and Cllr Rae Bhatia’s supplemental question.

#### **13. Cllr Rae Bhatia**

1:12:50

“Now that the new Labour government is in merrily taxing people to misery in an unprecedented manner never seen before, can the City Mayor share how prepared is this council to support people of Leicester as jobs and

businesses begin to get hit by the budget?"

City Mayor provided a response to this question and to Cllr Rae Bhatia's supplemental question.

#### **14. Cllr Rae Bhatia**

1:18:00

"At this time of cost of living crisis how can the council be so ruthless to increase the price of school meals all of a sudden impacting thousands of families with school going children across the city?"

Cllr Pantling provided a response to this question and to Cllr Rae Bhatia's supplemental question.

#### **15. Cllr Rae Bhatia**

1:21:00

"Martin Lewis recently brought to light a deeply disturbing fact that the councils use harsh council tax collection practice which can demand full annual payment within just three weeks of a missed monthly instalment. This approach can cause severe financial strain, especially for residents with mental health challenges, placing them at risk of escalating debt, court orders, and costly liability fees. Can the City Mayor confirm to us that we are not one of those rogue councils?"

Cllr Russell provided a response to this question and to Cllr Rae Bhatia's supplemental question.

#### **16. Cllr Sahu**

1:23:00

"I understand that refurbishment of Clarendon Park Road Playground is due to start w/c 2nd Dec. Can the Cabinet Member responsible please confirm this, and a proposed finish date for the work?"

Cllr Dempster provided a response to this question and to Cllr Sahu's supplemental question.

#### **17. Cllr Sahu**

1:26:00

"As a corporate parent, can I request that the equality impact statement has 'care leaver / care experienced' added to it so we can ensure that we, as corporate parents, do no harm to our 'children'?"

Cllr Russell provided a response to this question and to Cllr Sahu's supplemental question.

### **18. Cllr Gregg**

1:27:00

"Given the reported success of the Selective Landlord Scheme in the Leicester, can the cabinet member responsible outline when the scheme will be extended to Castle Ward? "

Cllr Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Cllr Gregg's supplemental question.

### **19. Cllr Kitterick**

1:29:35

"Following the council debate about Adventure Playgrounds on 5th September 2024 when can Full Council expect a report back on the future of the Adventure Playgrounds? Furthermore what progress has been made on granting leases/licences to the playgrounds and funding arrangements for their future."

Cllr Russell provided a response to this question and Cllr Kitterick's supplemental question.

### **20. Cllr Kitterick**

1:33:00

"Under the current proposed changes for Leicester's Council Tax Support Scheme, how much more would a family with two or more children (not defined as "vulnerable" by the council) and with an assessable income of £11,800 a year, currently receiving 80% Council Tax Support have to pay in council tax based on a 2024/25 Band A property charge. "

Cllr Russell provided a response to this question and Cllr Kitterick's supplemental question.

### **21. Cllr Porter**

1:36:00

"What is the budget for the telephone service in the customer services department for 2024-25?"

Cllr Dempster provided a response to this question and to Cllr Porter's supplemental question.

## **22. Cllr Porter**

1:40:00

“Is it correct that in 2022 the council declared a housing crisis?”

Cllr Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Cllr Porter’s supplemental question.

## **23. Cllr Kennedy-Lount**

WITHDRAWN

## **7. MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL**

### **7A. GAMBLING POLICY 2025-28**

Moved by Councillor Cutkelvin, seconded by Councillor Singh Johal and carried:

That Council approve the statement of gambling policy for 2025-28.

## **8. REPORTS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

### **8A. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24**

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

Full Council is asked to note the report and endorse the work of scrutiny during 2023-24.

## **9. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council 21 November 2024 - YouTube](#) at time 2:20:35.

Moved by Councillor Porter, seconded by Councillor Rae Bhatia:

Leicester City Council acknowledges the uncaring announcement by the Labour government to end universal winter fuel payments by implementing income means-testing and tightening of the eligibility criteria. This decision, viewed as harsh and unsympathetic by many, will likely lead to financial hardship for thousands of local pensioners, leaving many vulnerable to the cold this winter. Research indicates that restricting winter fuel payments could tragically result in up to 4,000 additional pensioner deaths.

The Council strongly condemns the Labour government's decision and calls for an immediate reversal, advocating for the reinstatement of winter fuel

payments for all pensioners.

The Council resolves to:

- Joint Council Leadership Appeal:

Request that all council group leaders co-sign a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking for the new winter fuel payment policy to be suspended and thoroughly reviewed.

- Launch an Awareness Campaign for Pension Credit Uptake:

Initiate an urgent, targeted awareness campaign to make sure all eligible pensioners are aware of and have access to pension credit. This campaign will include information on council noticeboards, social media platforms, the local press and targeted letters to all eligible individuals.

## AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Surti, seconded by Councillor Porter:

“This council believes all our residents should be able to have warm secure homes.

We are concerned that the changes to the winter fuel allowance puts this at risk both for those that are not claiming pension credit and those that are close to but not eligible.

This council will write to the chancellor requesting additional funding to target support to this vulnerable population.

We will also seek to direct our various communication resources to encourage take up of pension credit and the wide range of support available from our energy advice services. To include but not be limited to mainstream and social media, targeted advertising and letters, and work with partners to amplify these messages.”

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

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

## **10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no other urgent business.