



Leicester  
City Council

Governance Support  
City Hall  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ

22 April 2025

Sir or Madam

I hereby summon you to a SPECIAL meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL to be held at the Town Hall, on WEDNESDAY, 30 APRIL 2025 at FIVE O'CLOCK in the afternoon, for the business hereunder mentioned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kamal Adhin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

**Monitoring Officer**

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**AGENDA**  
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**AUDIO STREAM OF 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. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Motion 1: Council Tax Support and Benefits**

Proposed by Councillor Patrick Kitterick, Seconded by Councillor Nigel Porter to move:

This Council Notes with concern the effect of the changes to Council Tax Support in Leicester, agreed by the Full Council in January 2025, and the potential impact of the billions of pounds of cuts to welfare provision recently announced by Liz Kendall, Member of Parliament for Leicester West and Secretary of State for the Department of Work & Pensions.

The City Council meeting specifically notes the following.

1. Councillors have been contacted by numerous local residents informing us of the hardship and distress caused by the imposition of these changes, we believe this is only the tip of an iceberg of the suffering these changes have caused.
2. Previous re-assurances about the safety net procedures for people losing out appear in certain cases not to be working.
3. Since the changes to Council Tax Support were agreed by Leicester City Council in January, the Government has announced a raft of deep and cruel cuts to Welfare Benefits so people on the lowest incomes in the city may well be doubly hit by cuts both locally and nationally.
4. The designated Task Group of councillors to look at the impact of the Council Tax Support changes is only due to have its first meeting on 12th June 2025, whilst the crisis in people's finances from the extra council tax charges is happening now.

The council, therefore, calls for the following

- A. To allocate additional monies to a discretionary fund to cover the shortfall in people's incomes from the withdrawal of Council Tax Support. The discretionary fund should work in such a way that no-one who loses out from the recent changes in Council Tax Support, should have to pay for these changes in 2025/26. This one-off allocation should come from funds allocated to the bizarre Cafe Project at the King Richard III visitors centre and the bottomless pit of a project which is the Leicester Railway refurbishment scheme. The reason for this is so that the real impact on Council Tax bills in practice can be evaluated, alongside the looking at the potential impact of the proposed national welfare cuts.
- B. For the City Mayor and members of the city council to write a joint letter to Liz Kendall MP to ask her to re-consider and withdraw the cruel cuts that she announced which will hit hardest the most vulnerable people in Leicester and the rest of the UK.

## **Motion 2: Community Centres, Libraries and Museums**

Proposed by Councillor Hemant Rae Bhatia, seconded by Councillor Patrick Kitterick to move that:

This Council notes with concern:

1. The council's "Museum Service Vision" with proposals to virtually close public access to Abbey Pumping Station, Newarke Houses Museum and Belgrave Hall.
2. The launch of a consultation on the widespread "de-funding" of libraries and community centres across Leicester. This consultation has caused huge concern across the City of Leicester <https://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/communications/library-community-centre-proposals-2025/>
3. These much loved facilities appear to be paying the price for the out of control project which is the refurbishment of Jewry Wall Museum.
4. The council is also set to embark on a bizarre £550,000 project to enhance the cafe at the King Richard III Visitor Centre whilst closing other museum and community facilities across the city.
5. Despite contributing over £16 million to the botched re-development of Jewry Wall Museum, equivalent to around £130 for each household in Leicester, the generous citizens of the city will be likely to be charged at least £10 a time to visit a facility that they have already heavily contributed to.
6. That no serious scrutiny has taken place of the Museum Service Vision prior to its announcement and implementation and no serious

interrogation has been carried out of the proposed operation of Jewry Wall Museum when it eventually re-opens after many years of being closed to the public.

7. Community Centres and Libraries are now in line to be cut at a time when the 150 highest paid officers in the council are costing the people of Leicester around £20 million a year. When the most Senior Officers of the council were asked whether this could be reduced by 10%, possibly through natural turnover of posts, councillors were told that this area of cost could not possibly be cut, not by a single officer.

This Council, therefore, calls for the following

- A. The suspension of the implementation of the Museum Service Vision whilst the proposals contained within it and the impact of the changes put forward undergo proper council scrutiny.
- B. The cancellation and withdrawal of the Community Centre and Library consultation in order to end the anxiety and uncertainty hanging over these much-loved facilities. Any future consultation process must be subject to Full Council approval and the Full Council shall have the final decision on any changes arising from such consultation.
- C. That alternative cuts to council spending are explored, especially in reducing the burden of the £20 million bill for the top 150 officers at Leicester City Council.

#### **4. 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:

**Sharif Chowdhury on 01164540538**

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

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

