



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, 18 SEPTEMBER 2025 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 on 3 July 2025 are available to view at: [Agenda for Council on Thursday, 3 July 2025, 6:00 pm](#)

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2025 are available to view at: [Agenda for Council on Monday, 1 September 2025, 5:00 pm](#)

Copies are also available from Governance Support on (0116) 454 6350 or governance@leicester.gov.uk

4. STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR / EXECUTIVE

5. PETITIONS

- Presented by Councillors

6. QUESTIONS

- From Members of the Public
- From Councillors

7. MATTERS RESERVED TO FULL COUNCIL

- 7.1 Community Asset Transfer Policy Update

8. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE

8.1 Scrutiny Annual Report 2024-25

9. REPORTS OF REGULATORY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES

9.1 Further Report from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman

9.2 Petitions Scheme Amendment

9.3 City of Leicester Award

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

PRESENT:

TERESA ALDRED, LORD MAYOR
CHAIRMAN

SIR PETER SOULSBY – CITY MAYOR

Abbey Ward

Nags Agath

Aylestone Ward

Scott-Kennedy-Lount
Nigel Porter

Beaumont Leys Ward

Hazel Orton
Hemant Rae Bhatia
Paul Westley

Belgrave Ward

Shital Adatia
Yogesh Chauhan

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

Susan Waddington

North Evington Ward

Ravi Mahesh
Sanjay Modhwadia

Rushey Mead Ward

Bhupen Dave
Devi Singh Patel

Saffron Ward

Ted Cassidy
Elly Cutkelvin

Spinney Hills Ward

Misbah Batool
Mustafa Malik

Stoneygate Ward

Raffiq Moosa Mohammed
Manjula Sood
Yasmin Surti

Thurncourt Ward

Abdul Osman

Troon Ward

Diane Cank
Mohinder Singh Sangha

Westcotes Ward

Sarah Russell

Western Ward

Vi Dempster

Molly O'Neill

Humberstone and Hamilton Ward

Stephen Bonham
Ashiedu Joel
Manjit Kaur Saini

Knighton Ward

Mellissa March
Geoff Whittle

Wycliffe Ward

Mohammed Dawood

1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEARTSHIELD PROJECT

The Lord Mayor thanked those in attendance for Heartshield Presentation which highlighted the vital importance of performing CPR using a defibrillator in the event of someone suffering a cardiac arrest and showcased the need for more defibrillators into the local communities. It was noted that less than 1 in 10 survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest without a defibrillator and by using one, together with CPR, chances of survival increase by up to 50% and is also supported by The Joe Humphries Memorial Trust. The Lord Mayor stressed the importance of making sure defibrillators available in every community encouraged constituents to increase these life-saving opportunities across the wards.

ASHVIR SINGH JOHAL

The Lord Mayor updated that Ashvir Singh Johal had been appointed Manager of National League side, Morecambe Football Club and became the first Sikh Manager of a professional British football club. At only 30 years of age, he also becomes the youngest head coach in the history of the top five tiers of the game. It was shared that Ashvir Singh Johal was born in Leicester, was a player and coach at Leicester's GNG Football club before moving to Leicester City Academy where he spent 10 years. The Lord Mayor expressed congratulations to Ashvir on his appointment and wished him much success in his new role.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Lord Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor, to move:

"That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3 July 2025 be taken as read and are approved as a correct record."

"That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 September 2025 be taken as read and are approved as a correct record."

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

4. STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR/EXECUTIVE

Councillor Dempster provided a statement to the Council on Department of Health and Social Care response to the letter sent by the City Mayor and Assistant City Mayor Councillor Dempster with regards to the GP to patient

ratio in Leicester and shared that a further letter will be sent in due course.

5. PETITIONS

Petitions from Members of the Public

No petitions were received from Members of the Public.

Petitions from Councillors

Councillor Sood presented the petition with 15 valid signatures in the following terms:

“We, the undersigned residents of London Road, Victoria Avenue, and Victoria Alley in Leicester, hereby submit this formal statement to express our deep concern and frustration regarding the current conditions in our neighbourhood, which have become increasingly intolerable.

Over the past two years, shop owners on the main street have been using our residential alleyways as a dumping ground for their commercial waste. Large industrial bins, clearly belonging to businesses, are being placed directly in front of our homes, under our windows, along the primary paths we use to enter and exit our residences.

This has led to persistent foul odors, especially during warmer months, making it impossible to open our windows. Additionally, flies and other pests are constantly drawn to the area.

Another major issue is the overgrown trees, whose dense foliage has created a dark and hidden pathway. This environment has attracted homeless individuals who now sleep behind the bins, and even worse, drug users who inject heroin and leave behind used, potentially infected needles on the ground.

More recently, we have also witnessed drug dealing activities taking place late at night, and to our absolute shock, individuals engaging in sexual activity under our windows.

Furthermore, the ground is constantly littered with overflowing trash, leaking bin liquids, and scattered cardboard and waste left behind by those rummaging through the bins.

We believe this situation is not only a serious health and safety hazard, but also a disgrace to the historic and cultural value of our neighbourhood. This area is part of a heritage community, and its dignity is being severely harmed by the actions of irresponsible businesses and the lack of oversight.

We, the local residents, are requesting the following urgent actions:

- 1. Immediate enforcement to prevent commercial bins from being placed in our residential alleyways.*

2. *Installation of a secure gate to restrict public access and make the alley a private and safe space for residents only.*
3. *Tree trimming and lighting improvements to eliminate dark corners and discourage illegal activities.*
4. *Regular cleaning and waste management oversight by the local council or responsible authority.*

We hope our voices will be heard, and this longstanding issue will be addressed for the safety, well-being, and dignity of our community.”

Councillor Malik to present the petition with 138 valid signatures in the following terms:

“We the undersigned Residents and Business of Dorothy Road, request Leicester City Council to make changes to the roundabout on St Saviours Road, Kitchener Road and Dorothy Road making it a ONE-WAY traffic flow of either along Kitchener Road leading to the roundabout and Dorothy Road.

The roundabout is causing traffic congestion, and we have noticed many accidents to vehicles and pedestrians on this route.

We urge Leicester City Council to take immediate action to make the necessary changes in consultation with the local Residents, Business and Community group in the area.”

Petitions to be debated

There were no petitions to be debated.

6. QUESTIONS

Please note that a full record of the questions and responses is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council - 18 September 2025 - YouTube](#). Time codes for each question will be provided before the wording of the question.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

1. Alan Fox

0:20:03 - 0:30:00

South Highfields Neighbours has become increasingly concerned by the rapid proliferation of external insulation cladding obliterating the architectural features of our Victorian terraces. Decorative brickwork, carved house names, decorative masonry, features such as boot scrapers, are being obliterated. Even sympathetic cladding requires planning permission.

We began reporting these properties to the Leicester City Council Planning Department in January. We have thus far reported 87 in South Highfields (polling district STA). Although the Council plays a role in determining

eligibility of individuals for funding, it had no idea of the scale of the problem until we pointed it out. It has no mechanism for informing householders of the requirement to obtain planning permission prior to the work being done.

Much of the work is shoddy. We all want warm homes, but we also want beautiful and healthy homes. The lack of any joined-up thinking by the Council on the issue of external wall insulation is destroying our Victorian heritage and endangering the health of some of the poorest people in our community:

The Head of Planning told us in January that the Council is “currently engaged in member Briefings and a process of determining priorities for action in this field including actions to raise awareness of the need for planning permission with people looking to take up grants with the Environment Team and Trading Standards”. We have still not been told of any outcome.

We understand that the Planning Department’s Enforcement Team has paused enforcement action in external insulation cladding cases.

What progress has the Council made to ensure that officers in different departments understand and talk to each other? What progress has been made to inform applicants of the need for planning permission before the work is done? What has been done to ensure that residents are not suffering bad health because of shoddy work? When will the Council resume its planning enforcement duties?”

Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question and to Alan Fox’s supplemental question.

2. Nitesh Dave

0:30:00 - 0:36:00

“Local authorities have an important role to play in integrated care systems and in the improvement of local population health outcomes through the planning and provision of services. The 2022 Act established local authorities as mandated members of the Integrated Care Board, giving local authorities a greater voice than ever before in NHS decision making. How does the closure of the GP branch surgery at 10, The Common, Evington improve local health outcomes?”

Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and to Nitesh Dave’s supplemental question.

3. Nitesh Dave

0:36:00 - 0:39:15

“The primary aim of health scrutiny is to act as a lever to improve the health of local people, ensuring their needs are considered as an integral part of the

commissioning, delivery and development of health services. Health scrutiny is a fundamental way by which democratically elected local councillors are able to voice the views of their constituents and hold relevant NHS bodies and relevant health service providers to account. Given the strength of feelings against closure of the GP branch surgery at 10 The Common, Evington, Leicester and the majority of respondents to the consultation opposing the closure how was this aim and the views of constituents acted upon?"

Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and to Nitesh Dave's supplemental question.

4. Amit Parmar

0:39:15 - 0:44:26

"Following multiple tribunal judgments confirming race discrimination within the Council, what systems of accountability and safeguards have been introduced to ensure such behaviour cannot continue unchecked in the department concerned?"

City Mayor provided a response to this question.

5. Amit Parmar

0:44:26 - 0:46:30

"What is the total financial cost incurred by the council in defending the recent racial discrimination case, including all internal and external legal expenses, appeals, and associated costs?"

City Mayor provided a response to this question and to Amit Parmar's supplemental question.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Note The Lord Mayor requests that Members take account of the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 14 in the Council's Constitution in putting questions and in particular Rule 14 (a) (vi) regarding supplementary questions:

"(vi) At the meeting, after a question has been given a reply (including by way of a consolidated reply), the person who asked the question may ask one supplementary question for the purposes of clarifying the reply and, in the following paragraphs of this part of this Rule the word 'question' shall include such a supplementary question."

1. Cllr Waddington

0:47:47 - 0:49:50

“Rally House on Bonchurch Street is a derelict building owned by the City Council. Rally House has for many years been a magnet for anti-social behaviour and has recently been used as an illegal commercial scale cannabis factory. The adjoining Council owned car park has suffered from fly tipping and an incident of arson. Can the City Mayor tell me the Council’s plans for the future of this building and car park?”

City Mayor provided a response to this question.

2. Cllr Osman

0:49:50 - 0:52:08

“Would the City Mayor outline his clear plans weather we will see our local Market in the old Market square during his term of Office or does he have alternative plans for the open site for other uses.”

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

3. Cllr Osman

0:52:08 - 0:55:55

“What plans are in place to develop the Lee Circle car park to regenerate the area.”

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

4. Cllr Chauhan

0:55:55 - 1:00:52

“Can assistant Mayor provide the following information:

- Total income generated by Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre
- Total expenses for running the facility excluding and including staff costs
- Net financial balance for the year (figures from last three years)
- Confirm whether there are any other equivalent public community facilities in Belgrave besides this?
- Provide details on the total Council Tax income generated from Belgrave ward taxpayers?”

Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and to Councillor Chauhan’s supplemental question.

5. Cllr Joannou

1:00:52 - 1:04:40

“After many years of asking for traffic lights we still have enormous problems at the major junction of Uppingham Road and Downing Drive. Last weekend we had a three-car pileup, the latest of many. 8000 children, each day, come into five schools within a one-mile radius of each other. Many exit or enter through this difficult road junction causing tailbacks and inconsiderate driving actions. Can the Assistant Mayor for Highways tell us how much longer must people wait to get this sorted or before someone is killed?”

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

6. Cllr Joannou

1:04:40 - 1:08:40

“City Mayor told this chamber some time ago that the closure of Marks & Spencer’s would encourage new businesses into the city. Well, what we have as its replacement is an absolute shamble. This is not what people expected. So how are you going to encourage attractive businesses into our city centre for which we can be proud of?”

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

7. Cllr Rae Bhatia

1:08:40 - 1:13:33

“Can the City Mayor advise us how much more will the people of Beaumont Leys have to wait for the regeneration of Upper Temple Walk, when will the Leys building be replaced with properly developed new houses and when will the most deprived children in the city be able to play in a safe designated play area like MUGA for which they have been waiting for over ten years!”

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

8. Cllr Porter

1:13:33 - 1:17:48

“Can you please confirm how much the council paid out in Discretionary Housing Payments for the years 2021–22, 2022–23, and 2023–24?”

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

9. Cllr Porter

1:17:48 - 1:23:50

“Does the Labour council's housing department have a legal duty to manage asbestos in their properties and to provide information about asbestos to those who need it, such as tenants?”

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

10. Cllr Porter

1:23:50 - 1:35:22

“Why has the Labour-led council taken such a negative stance towards Leicester's annual Diwali celebrations? Is this some sort of backlash because voters made their views clear in 2023?”

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

11. Cllr Kennedy-Lount

1:35:22 - 1:39:06

“How many hours of City Warden Officer time were delivered in Aylestone Ward in June of this year?”

City Mayor provided a response to this question and to Cllr Kennedy Lount's supplemental question.

12. Cllr Kennedy-Lount

1:39:06 - 1:42:25

“What risk assessment for service users health and safety has been conducted during the proposed library manned hours cuts should the now closed consultation take effect?”

Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question and to Cllr Kennedy-Lount's supplemental question.

13. Cllr Haq

1:42:25 - 1:47:25

“The bus services in Evington are poorly run and we constantly receive complaints from residents, what actions is the council taking to improve the situation?”

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

supplemental question.

14. Cllr Haq

1:47:25 - 1:49:50

“There are many residents waiting for 4-bedroom houses, how many are waiting for 3 and 4 bed properties currently on our waiting lists ?”

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

15. Cllr Haq

1:49:50 - 1:51:10

“What is the total cost of the purchase of City Gate house?”

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

16. Cllr Haq

1:51:10 - 1:55:22

“How many fixed penalty notices have been issued to cyclists in Leicester in the past 12 months?”

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

17. Cllr Haq

1:55:22 - 1:58:46

“How many SEND children are still waiting for School places ? And how many are waiting longer than 4 weeks ?”

Councillor Pantling provided a response to this question and to Cllr Haq’s supplemental question.

18. Cllr Sahu

1:58:46 - 2:01:36

“The New Walk is the green heart of Leicester but since the trees on the bridge were removed, the area near the museum has turned into scrubland.

Can the council commit to working with Friends of New Walk to co-create a plan to re-design that area and a commitment for work to start?”

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

19. Cllr Sahu

2:01:36 - 2:06:30

"As corporate parents, can I ask that an agreed number of houses and/or flats at Hospital Close are sets aside for care leavers / care experienced young people to enable them to begin their adult lives?"

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

20. Cllr Gregg

2:06:30 - 2:09:12

"How much was paid for in "Termination Benefits" were paid to the 3 departing council officers in the pay bands over £120,000 pa in 2024/25 according to the Leicester City Council's draft Annual Accounts."

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

21. Cllr Gregg

2:09:12 - 2:10:05

"Will the Cabinet Member(s) for Social Care meet with representatives of Family Carers in Leicester."

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

22. Cllr Kitterick

2:10:05 - 2:12:35

"Will the staircases and lifts at the 7-Storey YOHO building, which the City Council executive agreed to be purchased as residential accommodation, have fire protected lobbies installed? "

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

23. Cllr Kitterick

2:12:35 - 2:16:50

“Will the City Mayor please supply the intended timetable for councillors to discuss and vote on the future governance models for the City Council, in terms of an Executive Mayoral Model vs a Cabinet & Leader Model?”

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

7. MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

7A. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER POLICY UPDATE

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council - 18 September 2025 - YouTube](#) at time 2:36:38-3:10:30.

Councillor Dempster, seconded by City Mayor to move:

“That Council approves the adoption of the revised Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Policy in Part 4H of the Constitution”

Following the debate, the Lord Mayor put the motion to the vote and declared the motion carried.

8. REPORTS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

8A. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council - 18 September 2025 - YouTube](#) at time 3:10:30-3:26:45.

Councillor Cassidy, seconded by Councillor Joel to move that:

“Full Council is asked to note the report and endorse the work of scrutiny during 2024-25.”

Following the debate, the Lord Mayor put the motion to the vote and declared the motion carried.

9. REPORTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

9A. SECOND REPORT OF THE LGSCO - MALADMINISTRATION CAUSING INJUSTICE

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council - 18 September 2025 - YouTube](#) at time 3:26:45-4:14:08.

City Mayor, seconded by Councillor Cutkelvin to move that:

“The further report of the Ombudsman is noted. The City Mayor shall write to the Secretary of State in response to this case. We ask the Overview Select Committee to consider the Council’s letter to the Secretary of State letter, together with his reply, in considering whether a payment should be made.”

AMENDMENT

Councillor Kitterick proposed, seconded by Councillor Porter:

'This Council makes the payment to Ms X as soon as possible'

Following the debate on the amendment, under Council Procedure Rule 29 of the Council’s Constitution, three Councillors requested a recorded vote.

For the Amendment (17): Councillors: Adatia, Chauhan, Dave, Gregg, Haq Joannou, Kennedy-Lount, Kitterick, Mahesh, Modhwadia, Orton, Osman, Porter, Rae Bhatia, Sahu, Singh Patel, Westley

Against the Amendment (26): Councillors: Agath, Aldred (Lord Mayor), Bajaj, Barton, Batool, Bonham, Cassidy, Cutkelvin, Dawood, Dempster, Halford, Joel, Kaur Saini, Malik, March, Mohammed, O'Neill, Pantling, Pickering, Russell, Singh Johal, Singh Sangha, Sood, Soulsby (City Mayor), Surti and Whittle.

The Lord Mayor declared the amendment lost.

Following the debate on the original motion a vote was put to the chamber and the Lord Mayor declared the motion carried.

9B. PETITIONS SCHEME AMENDMENT

City Mayor, seconded by Councillor Cutkelvin to move that:

“The Petitions Scheme Amendment Report be withdrawn with the view to being brought to the November meeting.”

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

9C. CITY OF LEICESTER AWARD

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the

recording of the meeting at [Council - 18 September 2025 - YouTube](#) at time 4:16:10-4:23:40.

Councillor Sood MBE, seconded by City Mayor to move that:

“Confirm the conferment of the City of Leicester Award to the Elvy Morton and Professor Sir Nilesh Samani in recognition of both excellence in serving the city of Leicester and for the wider recognition brought to the city through their work and endeavours.”

Following the debate, the Lord Mayor put the motion to the vote and declared the motion carried.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council - 18 September 2025 - YouTube](#) at time 4:23:40-5:23:20.

A motion was presented to Council.

Proposed by Councillor Rae Bhatia, seconded by Councillor Kitterick:

“This Council notes with deep concern the continued and serious failures in core services across Leicester, which have been subject to formal criticism from multiple independent regulators and courts:

- The Care Quality Commission has rated Adult Social Care as “Requires Improvement” where carers stated lack of support and choices during their assessments, with difficulties in getting information, long median wait times for assessments including Care Act assessments, Occupational Therapy assessments and carers’ assessments.
 - The Employment Tribunal found the Council guilty of racial discrimination against a senior social services employee. The Council pursued the case through two appeal defeats, wasting public funds and refusing to accept accountability.cc
 - The Housing Regulator delivered one of the most severe reports, revealing that no full condition surveys have taken place since 2009, over 70 percent of homes have had no EICR checks.
 - Inspectors rated the Children and Young People’s Justice Service (CYPJS) also as requires improvement - the second lowest mark possible.
 - Ofsted rated Children’s Services as requiring improvement to be good in all areas, showing a marked decline in performance and raising questions over safeguarding.
- These are not isolated incidents. They form a pattern of failure in which basic standards have not been met, public money has been wasted, and residents

have been denied both legitimate input and justice.

The current mayoral system has enabled these failures by concentrating power in one office, removing effective scrutiny, and cutting communities out of the decision-making process. It has not delivered better outcomes. It has removed the ability of ward councillors, and residents themselves, to hold leadership to account. It is an experiment that has now failed this city.

This Council believes that the governance model must be one that serves residents, not work for those in power.

This Council therefore resolves to support a change in governance structure. The Council should move to end the mayoral system and return to a more accountable and locally responsive cabinet-and-leader model. This change is essential to restore public trust, improve service delivery, and give communities a real say in how Leicester is run.

A timeline for this change must be agreed and approved within next three months."

Following the debate, the Lord Mayor put the motion to the vote and declared the motion lost.

11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no other urgent business the meeting closed at 22:37pm.