



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, 26 MARCH 2026 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 25 February 2026 are available to view at:

[Agenda for Council on Wednesday, 25 February 2026, 6:00 pm | Leicester City Council](#)

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

4. **STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR / EXECUTIVE**
5. **PETITIONS**
6. **QUESTIONS**
7. **MATTERS RESERVED TO FULL COUNCIL**

- 7.1 Leicester Local Plan Adoption
- 7.2 Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 and Gender Pay Report 2025

8. **REPORTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

- 8.1 Appointment of Independent Persons to the Standards Committee
- 8.2 Members Allowances Scheme
- 8.3 Call in of Executive Decision

9. **NOTICES OF MOTION**
10. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

PRESENT:

TERESA ALDRED LORD MAYOR

SIR PETER SOULSBY – CITY MAYOR

Abbey Ward

Nags Agath

Aylestone Ward

Scott-Kennedy-Lount
Nigel Porter

Beaumont Leys Ward

Hazel Orton
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

Susan Waddington
Syed Zaman

North Evington Ward

Dilip Joshi
Sanjay Modhwadia

Rushey Mead Ward

Bhupen Dave
Devi Singh Patel

Saffron Ward

Elly Cutkelvin

Spinney Hills Ward

Misbah Batool
Mustafa Malik

Stoneygate Ward

Raffiq Moosa Mohammed
Aasiya Bora
Yasmin Surti

Thurncourt Ward

Teresa Aldred
Abdul Osman

Troon Ward

Diane Cank
Mohinder Singh Sangha

Westcotes Ward

Adam Clarke
Sarah Russell

Western Ward

George Cole
Vi Dempster

Molly O'Neill

Humberstone and Hamilton Ward

Stephen Bonham
Ashiedu Joel
Manjit Kaur Saini

Wycliffe Ward

Hanif Aqbany

Knighton Ward

Mellissa March
Lynn Moore
Geoff Whittle

1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor's Announcements were delivered during the preceding Special Meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Lord Mayor moved, seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor:

"That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 February 2026 be taken as read and are approved as a correct record."

4. STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR/EXECUTIVE

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council - 26 March 2026](#) at time 15:55-27:06.

The City Mayor made a statement comprising of four main items:

1. Proposed Immigration Reforms

The City Mayor informed Council of his intention to write to the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister regarding the Government's proposed reforms to earned settlement and immigration policy. The City Mayor indicated that a motion on this matter is expected to be brought to a future meeting of Council. The City Mayor outlined concerns regarding the potential impact of the proposals on Leicester's diverse communities and urged that the implications of the proposals on Leicester's diverse communities be fully considered prior to implementation.

2. School Term Dates

The City Mayor noted that the school term dates are subject to consultation and that a full consultation exercise would take place in late Spring and indicated that Leicester City Council's preference is it maintain its established pattern.

3. Closure of NCP Car Parks

The City Mayor informed Council of the imminent closure of four NCP operated car parks within the city centre: Abbey Street, East Street, Lee Circle and Rutland Street. The City Mayor advised that the decision had been taken by the administrators and was outside the control of the Council. Whilst the closures would reduce overall capacity, alternative provision remains available across the city centre and the current usage levels are

below capacity. The City Mayor acknowledged the potential impact on night-time venues including the Curve Theatre, Phoenix Cinema and Art Centre. Council was informed that the status of the car parks would be monitored and further measured may be considered if required.

4. Takeover Leicester Event

The City Mayor updated on the Council's recent 'Takeover Leicester' event, involving young people from the Young People's Council, the Children in Care Council and the care-experienced groups. The City Mayor noted that the initiative forms part of a national programme to support young people's participation in decision-making, welcomed the engagement from those involved and expressed thanks to the participants and organisers.

5. PETITIONS

Petitions from Members of the Public

No petitions were received from Members of the Public.

Petitions from Councillors

No petitions were received from Councillors.

Petitions to be debated

No petitions were received 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 - 26 March 2026](#) Time codes for each question will be provided before the wording of the question.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions received from Members of the Public.

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. Councillor Russell

0:28:40 - 0:31.19

“Please can the Assistant Mayor for Education update council on the performance of our council run children's homes?”

Councillor Pantling provided a response to this question.

2. Councillor Haq

0:31.19 – 0:35:31

“Why has the council decided to pay awarded compensation to Housing tenants by the Ombudsman after refusing on numerous occasions? ”

Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question.

3. Councillor Haq

0:35:31 - 0:38:00

“How much money has the council spent in total from local and national government on bus and cycle lanes in the last 10 years?”

Councillor Whittle provided a response to this question.

4. Councillor Haq

0:38:00 - 0:46:00

How much further money has been spent on Granby st in the last 12 months?”

Councillor Whittle provided a response to this question.

5. Councillor Haq

0:46:00 – 0:49:20

“How many year 6 special needs children do not have school places for year 7 ?”

Councillor Pantling provided a response to this question.

6. Councillor Haq

0:49:20 – 0:52:15

“In the last 6 months how much is the council losing or estimated with the park and Ride service ?”

Councillor Whittle provided a response to this question.

7. Councillor Aqbany

0:52:15 – 0:55:40

“How many right to buy applications in total were received by our "Right To Buy", team just before the discounts change deadline in November 2024?”
What is the legal duration for such applications to be processed?

Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question.

8. Councillor Kennedy-Lount

0:55:40 - 0:58:30

Can the Cabinet Lead for Social Care advise how many contracted companies including internal provision, Leicester City Council have partnered with in 2023, 2024 and 2025 to provide home help services for independent living at home?

Councillor Pantling provided a response to this question.

9. Councillor Sahu

0:58:30 - 1:04:55

In light of the recent horrendous incidences of knife crime that have occurred in our city, how many of the 34 recommendations (including ‘additional recommendations’) from the June ‘22 ‘Leicester Knife Crime and Serious Violence Strategy Recommendations 2021-2023’ document have been fully completed? <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/media/0knpm5p0/knife-crime-and-serious-violence-strategy-recommendations.pdf>

Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question.

10. Councillor Sahu

1:04:55 - 1:07:40

Councils across the country are implementing food waste collections, Is the City Council able to provide a date yet when residential food waste will be collected in the city?

Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question.

11. Councillor Bora

1:07:40 - 1:11:37

Young people leaving the care system and unpaid relatives providing care to loved ones are two groups who can lack support and have needs that go beyond the majority in our communities. Will the City Council now join others Midlands local authorities in recognising them alongside other groups who face additional barriers by naming them as such within our policies and guidance to staff Will the Cabinet Members responsible commit to recognising the roles of Carers and Care Leavers in its relevant strategies?

Councillor Pantling provided a response to this question.

12. Councillor Bora

1:11:37 - 1:14:02

Will the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods reverse the proposals for cuts in cleansing for Parks & Open Spaces totalling £665,000 by 2027/28, outlined in the report to the Overview Select Committee on 18th March 2026? and will they commit to improving support to the much appreciated but under-funded City Warden service?

Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question.

13. Councillor Bora

1:14:02 - 1:17:00

When will the City Mayor respond to the recent response by SOAS to the Leicester disturbances in 2022?

City Mayor provided a response to this question.

14. Councillor Kitterick

1:17:00 - 1:24:00

Will Leicester City Council be expressing an interest to taking over NCP's Car Parks in the City?

City Mayor provided a response to this question.

15. Councillor Kitterick

1:24:00 - 1:28:20

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 protection installed as recommended by the Health & Safety Executive? When is it expected for the YOHO Building to be ready for occupation?

Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question.

16. Councillor Singh Patel

1:28:20 - 1:34:05

Residents across the city are increasingly concerned about the poor condition of our roads, with a growing number of potholes and sinkholes that are not only dangerous but also taking weeks to repair. This is causing significant disruption, forcing drivers to take longer routes, increasing fuel costs, and adding financial pressure especially at a time when fuel prices are already high.

Can the council explain why these repairs are not being completed within days, and what immediate actions will be taken to improve response times, road safety, and reduce the financial and environmental impact on road users

Councillor Whittle provided a response to this question.

17. Councillor Chauhan

1:34:05 - 1:40:55

“Since the 2023 elections, how many residents in housing need have been provided with accommodation by the Council, particularly those from Belgrave Ward

Given the increasing demand and pressures on the housing register, does the Deputy City Mayor accept that housing delivery is currently underperforming

What immediate and measurable actions are being taken to improve outcomes for residents in urgent need

Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question.

18. Councillor Chauhan

1:40:55 - 1:44:50

“What are the main reasons for the continued underperformance in highways and transport services

Does the Assistant City Mayor agree that poor communication both within council departments and between officers and residents has contributed to delays and dissatisfaction, What concrete steps are being taken to improve coordination, transparency, and responsiveness

Councillor Whittle provided a response to this question.

19. Councillor Chauhan

1:44:50 - 1:50:04

“Now that the Council is in a more stable financial position, will the Assistant City Mayor reconsider the reduction of staffing hours at Belgrave Library, particularly on Wednesdays when the garden community group depends on staff support

Will he commit to maintaining adequate staffing levels to ensure these important community activities can continue without disruption

Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question.

20. Councillor Osman

1:50:04 - 1:54:00

Can the City finally admit that our City Centre Market is going to return on its original site in the next year.

City Mayor provided a response to this question.

21. Councillor Osman

1:54:00 - 1:57:30

“Could the Assistant Mayor explain why the ball court at the rear of Alan Gatrix centre has to be booked one month and is always locked up, denied access to users of the Peace Centre young people and its under used making it increasingly difficult for the young people to access in my ward.”

Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question.

22. Councillor Porter

1:57:30 - 2:06:50

Newarke Houses Museum is already staffed on Sundays so can it be opened up to visitors?
What evidence other than the revenue costs was used to justify the council's decision to effectively close down the Newarke Houses Museum and can this be published so residents can understand the decision?

Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question.

23. Councillor Porter

2:06:50 - 2:18:50

In 2025 including VAT how many millions did the council pay to Click Travel ?

So far this year in January and February 2026 including VAT how many millions have the council paid to Click Travel?

Councillor Cutkelvin provided a response to this question.

24. Councillor Zaman

2:18:50 – 2:26:40

The decision about libraries and community centres has caused concern in my ward, particularly regarding services at Fosse Neighbourhood Centre.

Can the Assistant City Mayor confirm, once the decision has been approved:

- That FNC will remain open and fully operational until suitable alternative locations within the Fosse ward are secured and ready for current services and
- Whether the Council will explore working with local community groups who have expressed an interest in taking over the running of the building, so services can remain at their current location?

Councillor Dempster provided a response to this question.

7. MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

7A. LEICESTER LOCAL PLAN ADOPTION

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council - 26 March 2026](#) at time 2:26:40-4:16:15.

Councillor Cutkelvin seconded by Councillor Surti and moved:

“That the Council notes and adopts the following documents:

- *Leicester Local Plan and modifications (Appendix 2) be adopted and published in accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended by Section 23(2) and (3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (As amended by section 112(3) of the Localism Act 2011)*
- *The Policies Map (Appendix 3)*

Authorises the Director of Planning, Development and Transportation, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Planning, to make minor typographical amendments or factual updates in preparing the final version of the Local Plan.

Authorises a copy of the local plan, the adoption statement and the sustainability report will be made available for public inspection on the Council’s website.

Notification will be sent to any person who requested to be kept informed of the plan progress. A copy of the adopted Local Plan and the adoption

statement will be sent to the Secretary of State. The Council anticipate that this will take place by the first week in May”

AMENDMENT

During the debate on the substantive Motion, the following Amendment was moved and seconded:

Proposed by Councillor Osman, seconded by Councillor Westley:

“Sites such as the Western Park, Beaumont Park and Brent Knowle Gardens be deleted and retained as green spaces within current status as it stands”

VOTE: Following further debate, the Lord Mayor put the amendment to vote which was not carried.

The meeting returned to consideration of the substantive Motion.

Under Council Procedure Rule 29 of the Council's Constitution, three Councillors requested a recorded vote.

VOTE: Under Council Procedure Rule 29 of the Council's Constitution, three Councillors requested a recorded vote. The Lord Mayor put the substantive motion to the vote.

For the motion (28): Councillors: Agath, Aldred, Bajaj, Batool, Bonham, Cank, Clarke, Cole, Cutkelvin, Dempster, Halford, Joel, Kaur Saini, Malik, March, Mohammed, Moore, O'Neil, Pantling, Pickering, Russell, Singh-Johal, Singh-Sangha, Soulsby (City Mayor), Surti, Waddington, Whittle and Zaman.

Against the motion (18): Councillors: Adatia, Bora, A. Chauhan, Dave, Gopal, Gregg, Haq, Joannou, Joshi, Kennedy-Lount, Kitterick, Modhwadia, Orton, Osman, Porter, Sahu, Singh-Patel and Westley.

The Lord Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Lord Mayor agreed to adjourn the meeting from 4:16:15-4:29:00, following which the meeting resumed and consideration moved to the next item of business.

7B. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2026/27 AND GENDER PAY REPORT 2025

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council - 26 March 2026](#) at time 4:29:25-4:33:35.

City Mayor, seconded by Councillor Cutkelvin moved:

- a) “That Council approves the Pay Policy Statement for 2026/2027 (Appendix A)

- b) That Council notes the Gender Pay Gap Report for 2025 (Appendix B)”

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

8. REPORTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

8A. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council - 26 March 2026](#) at time 4:33:35-4:54:10.

Councillor Bajaj, seconded by Councillor Mohammed moved:

“To agree the appointment of Mr Michael Edwards and Mrs Mojisola Green as statutory Independent Persons for Leicester City Council’s Member Misconduct process from 1st April 2026”

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

8B. MEMBER ALLOWANCES SCHEME

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council - 26 March 2026](#) at time 4:54:10 - 4:56:40.

Councillor Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Bajaj moved that Council:

“Make the Members’ Allowances Scheme for 2026/27 as set out at Appendix A.

Note that the Scheme be published in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements”

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

8C. CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Please note that a full record of the of the discussion is available on the recording of the meeting at [Council - 26 March 2026](#) at time 4:56:40 - 5:56:30.

Councillor Kitterick, seconded by Councillor Osman and moved:

“We the undersigned wish to "Call-in" the Executive Decision for the Future Provision of Libraries and Community Centres. We have concerns about the

recommendations in the report including the following The loss of the St Matthews and Fosse Neighbourhood Centres. The possible loss of the Gilmorton Community Rooms The reduction in hours for Evington and Knighton Libraries. The proposed changes to the running of the Tudor Centre The very steep increase in charges and income targets that could affect the affordability of using our centres. The reduction on the Book Fund. The council has the resources to avoid these cuts and should use it's reserves to do so and we, therefore, ask the Executive to reconsider their decision.”

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

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices for a motion.

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no other urgent business, the meeting closed at 22:57pm.