



Leicester
City Council

Democratic and Civic
Support
Town Hall
Town Hall Square
Leicester
LE1 9BG

13 March 2014

Sir or Madam

I hereby summon you to a meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL to be held at the Town Hall, on THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 2014 at FIVE O'CLOCK in the afternoon, for the business hereunder mentioned.

Monitoring Officer

AGENDA

- 1. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
- 4. PETITIONS**
 - Presented by Councillors
 - Presented by Members of the Public
- 5. QUESTIONS**
 - From Members of the Public
 - From Councillors

6. MATTERS RESERVED TO COUNCIL

- 6.1 Pay Policy Statement 2014/15
- 6.2 Capital Programme 2014/15

7. EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES

To note any changes to the Executive and to fill any vacancies of any Committee of the Council.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Proposed by Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Sood:

Leicester City Leicester City Council recognises the plight of asylum seekers forced to flee their home countries due to conflict and persecution. Many arrive in the UK after having been threatened, detained, beaten or tortured.

An adult seeking protection in this country who has no other source of support will receive just over £5 a day to pay for food, clothing, toiletries and travel (accommodation and utilities are paid for separately for those who have nowhere to live). They are not allowed to work to support themselves. If their claims are refused by the Home Office, they lose all support and are left destitute and street homeless.

In the last six months of 2013 the British Red Cross Leicester Refugee Support Services have carried out 1,659 actions (e.g. the issuing of food parcels, sleeping bags) to support 325 destitute asylum seekers in Leicester. Of these 108 were new cases and it is likely that this reflects the impact of welfare reforms in general and has resulted in a reduction in community capacity to continue to support such persons. Leicester City Council is concerned about such destitution and its impact on local communities.

Leicester is a welcoming and inclusive city and wants to join those local authorities (Liverpool, Bristol, Sheffield, Oxford, Glasgow, Leeds and Bradford) petitioning the Home Secretary to relieve the suffering of people seeking sanctuary and especially those people who have yet to be granted leave to remain in the UK.

Leicester City Council approves the following actions:

1. Write on behalf of Leicester City Council to the Minister of State for Immigration questioning Government policies that force asylum seekers into destitution; expressing concern over the low level of support available to asylum seekers; seeking a change of policy to allow local authorities to assist refused asylum seekers who are in danger of falling into destitution; asking that such asylum seekers should be able to work to support themselves if they have been waiting for more than 6 months for their cases to be resolved; and

demanding that local authorities should be permitted to provide emergency provision to refused asylum seekers as to other homeless people.

2. Ask Leicester's MPs to support the spirit of this motion, to raise the matter in the House of Commons, and to support a change in current laws regarding asylum applications by removing restrictions on local authorities in the support they can provide to destitute asylum seekers.

3. Leicester City Council officers to produce a report summarising existing support for asylum seekers available in Leicester including housing, training, education, and legal advice open to vulnerable asylum applicants.

4. Leicester City Council to join the national campaign "Still Human, Still Here" (a coalition of 60 organisations, including several city councils, the Church of England and Catholic Archbishop Conferences, Crisis, Oxfam, and the Red Cross, who are proposing practical solutions to ending the destitution of refused asylum seekers in the UK.)

5. Leicester City Council to seek further support for this motion and action via the Local Government Association and by encouraging other Councils in the UK to join us on this issue."

9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Please Note:

The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. If you wish to film proceedings at a meeting please let us know as far in advance as you can so that it can be considered by the Chair of the meeting who has the responsibility to ensure that the key principles set out below are adhered to at the meeting.

Key Principles. In recording or reporting on proceedings you are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted ;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

Thursday, 20 March 2014

