



Leicester
City Council

Democratic and Civic
Support
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

15 January 2020

Sir or Madam

I hereby summon you to a meeting of the LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL to be held at the Town Hall, on THURSDAY, 23 JANUARY 2020 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**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2019 are available to view at:

<http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk:8071/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=81&MId=9386&Ver=4>

Copies are also available from Democratic Support on (0116) 454 6350 or 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 EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES

- To note any changes to the Executive
- To vary the composition and fill any vacancies of any Committee of the Council

7a Appointment of Vice-Chair of Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission

8 NOTICE OF MOTION - LIFT THE BAN CAMPAIGN

Proposed by Assistant City Mayor Councillor Myers, seconded by Assistant City Mayor Councillor Patel, that:-

This Council:

(a) notes that:

- (i) in Leicester, there are 817 families seeking asylum in receipt of Section 95 support;
- (ii) since 2002, people seeking asylum have only able to apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year, and only if they can be employed into one of the narrow, highly-skilled professions included on the Government's Shortage Occupation List;
- (iii) people seeking asylum are left to live on £5.39 per day, struggling to support themselves and their families, and left vulnerable to destitution, isolation, and exploitation;
- (iv) the potential foregone economic gain for the UK economy of allowing people to work is estimated to be £42.4million via increased taxable income and reduced payments of

accommodation/subsistence support;

- (v) 71% of people polled agreed with the statement: “when people come to the UK seeking asylum it is important they integrate, learn English and get to know people. It would help integration if asylum-seekers were allowed to work if their claim takes more than six months to process”;

(b) believes that:

- (i) people seeking asylum want to be able to work so that they can use their skills and make the most of their potential, integrate into their communities, and provide for themselves and their families;
- (ii) restrictions on right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of Leicester and the UK;
- (iii) allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in Leicester and for the local and national economy;

(c) resolves to:

- (i) Join the Lift the Ban Coalition, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim.
- (ii) Call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work unconstrained by the shortage occupation list after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim or further submission

9 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

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.
- Please note that Council meetings are web cast live and also recorded for later viewing via the Council's web site. 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 web-cast.
- 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. In accordance with government regulations and the Council's policy, persons and press attending any meeting of the Council open to the public (except Licensing Sub Committees and where the public have been formally excluded) are allowed to record and/or report all or part of that meeting. Details of the Council's policy are available at www.leicester.gov.uk or from Democratic Support. If Members of the public intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting they are asked to notify the relevant Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration

given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc.

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public 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 and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ 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.