



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, 23 JANUARY 2020 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 of 14th 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 /
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 Council.

8. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

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.

Filming and Recording the Meeting

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 you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you 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.

PRESENT:

ANNETTE BYRNE, LORD MAYOR
CHAIRMAN

SIR PETER SOULSBY – CITY MAYOR

Abbey Ward

MANJIT KAUR SAINI

Aylestone Ward

ADAM CLARKE
NIGEL CARL PORTER

Beaumont Leys Ward

Belgrave Ward

PADMINI CHAMUND
NITA SOLANKI

Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

SUE BARTON
ELAINE HALFORD
KULWINDER SINGH JOHAL

Castle Ward

PATRICK JOSEPH KITTERICK
DANNY MYERS

Evington Ward

DEEPAK BAJAJ
RATILAL BHAGWAN GOVIND
SUE HUNTER

Eyres Monsell Ward

KAREN PICKERING

North Evington Ward

LUIS FONSECA

Rushey Mead Ward

PIARA SINGH CLAIR
RITA PATEL
ROSS WILLMOTT

Saffron Ward

ELLY CUTKELVIN
WILLIAM SHELTON

Spinney Hills Ward

MISBAH BATOOL

Stoneygate Ward

KIRK MASTER
SHARMEN RAHMAN

Thurncourt Ward

STEPHAN GEE

Troon Ward

DIANE CANK

Westcotes Ward

JACKY NANGREAVE
SARAH RUSSELL

Fosse Ward

TED CASSIDY
SUE WADDINGTON

Humberstone and Hamilton Ward

RUMA ALI
GURINDER SINGH SANDHU

Knighton Ward

MELISSA MARCH
DR LYNN MOORE
GEOFF WHITTLE

Western Ward

LINDSAY BROADWELL
GEORGE COLE
GARY O'DONNELL

Wycliffe Ward

HANIF AQBANY

43. LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honoured Citizen Award

The Lord Mayor reminded Council that nominations for Honoured Citizen Awards could be made up until the end of April 2020. The Honoured Citizen Award Scheme was an opportunity to recognise outstanding achievements or significant contributions to the community either by individuals or groups. Further details were available from the Member and Civic Support Team.

Lord Mayor's Ball

The Lord Mayor informed Council that she would be hosting a charity ball on behalf of her chosen charities, the Air Ambulance Service and the PDSA. The ball would be held at Devonshire Place, London Road on Saturday 7 March 2020.

Fire & Emergency Evacuation Procedure

The Lord Mayor reminded all present of the evacuation procedures as detailed on the agenda for the meeting.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Lord Mayor invited Members to declare any interests they might have in the business on the agenda, not already declared on their register of interests.

There were no declarations.

45. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved by the Lord Mayor, seconded by Deputy Lord Mayor and carried:

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 14th November 2019, copies having been circulated to each Member of the Council, be taken as read and that each be approved as a correct record.

46. STATEMENTS BY THE CITY MAYOR/EXECUTIVE

There were no statements.

47. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

48. QUESTIONS

The following questions were asked by Councillors and details of who responded are included below. The full details of questions and the responses can be viewed on the webcast of the meeting on the Council's website at:

https://leicester.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/466732

We maintain a comprehensive library of webcast Council meetings. The webcast for this meeting will remain on the live website until 13th November 2020, and after this date can be requested from the Democratic Support Team by contacting (0116) 454 6350 or at committees@leicester.gov.uk.

For your convenience, links to each question and response are embedded after each question.

1. **Councillor Broadwell:-**

“Leicester City Council has sought to be the "best landlord in the city" and so I wish to ask what we are proposing in order to make this a reality?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin replied.

[Link to webcast of question 1](#)

2. **Councillor Broadwell:-**

“While I applaud the expansion of the City's cycle network, there are a number of hazardous features that require attention: painted cycle lanes make cyclists statistically less safe, and motorcycle barriers cause damage to bicycles and impede accessible cycling also. What are the plans to mitigate these hazards, and what is the plan for improving cycle infrastructure across the city more generally?”

Deputy City Mayor Adam Clarke replied.

[Link to webcast of question 2](#)

3. **Councillor Broadwell:-**

“It has come to my attention that a number of commercial properties in the City, both in the centre and in the outer estates - are lying empty and unused, partly due to property speculation. What steps have we as a Council taken to bring vacant property back into use?”

City Mayor replied.

[Link to webcast of question 3](#)

4. **Councillor Broadwell:-**

“Many constituents are complaining of dismissive and unhelpful behaviour towards them by Council employees, and many feel ignored by us. What can be done to improve our standing with the public in this matter?”

City Mayor replied.

[Link to webcast of question 4](#)

5. **Councillor Ali:-**

“Does Leicester City Council have a zero-tolerance policy on bullying and discrimination within the Council and when employees and officers raise concerns with councillors, how can we deal with these grievances and raise complaints of employee misconduct?”

City Mayor replied.

[Link to webcast of question 5](#)

6. **Councillor Cole:-**

“Given the recent revelations in Manchester that children in care in the City who it was known were being sexually exploited were abandon by the Manchester Police which therefore follows that the Council would have been aware of the exploitations, can the cabinet lead reassure members that Leicester is not aware of any such sexual exploitation of children in care here in the City and what mechanisms are in place to alert the Council if such activities where taking place in our City?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell replied.

[Link to webcast of question 6](#)

7. **Councillor Cole:-**

“Given that Leicester City Council is in the process of replacing two senior members of staff, can the City Mayor say what process is in place to ensure we get the best candidate and that members from the BME community are encouraged to apply and once they have done so are not disadvantaged by the selection process at any stage?”

City Mayor replied.

[Link to webcast of question 7](#)

8. **Councillor Cole:-**

“To many residents in the Western Park area of the Western Ward, Hinckley Road and Glenfield Road are amongst the most dangerous roads in the City, and recent incidents along these roads support this view. What reassurance can the City Mayor give to the residents that something is being done to make these roads safer?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Master replied.

[Link to webcast of question 8](#)

9. **Councillor Nangreave:-**

“The Council has two new areas of development since May 2019, Poverty and Climate Change. While these areas have had an executive member attached to them, they have not had a scrutiny commission attached. Can the City Mayor tell me why and when this will be rectified?”

City Mayor replied.

[Link to webcast of question 9](#)

10. **Councillor Nangreave:-**

“The congestion is virtually continuous on Upperton Road and Narborough

Road where these roads are in Westcotes Ward. This traffic is not generated in Westcotes but is an ever-present risk to the residents' health and well-being and to their pleasant enjoyment of the area. My supposition is that a modern clean frequent wide- ranging bus service and bans on cars/parking, of some sort, as are being put in place in other authorities, would go a long way to solving this problem. Is there a working party studying this, if not, will the City Mayor sanction one? I would want Councillor Broadwell on the working party"

City Mayor replied.

[Link to webcast of question 10](#)

11. **Councillor Nangreave:-**

"The budget report contains a long section on virement, I think this removes responsibly from the Council for administration and knowledge of changes to and of the budget through the year. I don't think the Council meets so infrequently that to bring things back to Council would hold up the work. I think the Overview Scrutiny Committee should report back to Council about reports of changes to the budget"

City Mayor replied.

[Link to webcast of question 11](#)

12. **Councillor Batool:-**

"What approaches are we using to improve the mental health of children and young people to reduce preventable mental illness and improve their wellbeing?"

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin replied.

[Link to webcast of question 12](#)

13. **Councillor Batool:-**

"With reference to the BBC report published in December 2019 about vulnerable children living in care moved miles away from their homes was really disturbing, my question is what is the situation locally, how many children/young people in care moved away from Leicester?"

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Russell replied.

[Link to webcast of question 13](#)

14. **Councillor Kitterick:-**

"What progress has been made on Leicester City Council taking over the running of the residential properties on Hospital Close currently owned by the NHS?"

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin replied.

[Link to webcast of question 14](#)

15. **Councillor Waddington:-**

“How many families are on the Housing waiting list, seeking a larger property, because they are overcrowded; how long on average do they wait before being offered a larger property and what are the banding criteria for overcrowding and how are the bands determined?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin replied.

[Link to webcast of question 15](#)

16. **Councillor Kitterick:-**

“In the matter of the decision by Leicester City Council to remove six trees from Museum Square, Leicester; when was Councillor Clarke first consulted on the council's intention to remove six trees from Museum Square?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke replied.

[Link to webcast of question 16](#)

17. **Councillor Kitterick:-**

“In the matter of the decision by Leicester City Council to remove six trees from Museum Square, Leicester; when was Councillor Piara Singh-Clair consulted on the Council's intention to remove six trees from Museum Square?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair replied.

[Link to webcast of question 17](#)

18. **Councillor Kitterick:-**

“In the matter of the decision by Leicester City Council to remove six trees from Museum Square, Leicester; has planning permission been sought for these works? As is usual for works to trees which take place in a Conservation Area?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair replied.

[Link to webcast of question 18](#)

19. **Councillor Kitterick:-**

“In the matter of the decision by Leicester City Council to remove six trees from Museum Square, Leicester; has the final report from the consultation about the future management of the New Walk Conservation Area been published yet?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke replied.

[Link to webcast of question 19](#)

20. **Councillor Kitterick:-**

“In the matter of the decision by Leicester City Council to remove six trees from Museum Square, Leicester, why did officers see fit to only inform local councillors about this decision after 4pm on the Friday before the trees were due to be removed?”.

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair replied.

[Link to webcast of question 20](#)

21. **Councillor Porter:-**

“How much money does the Council have outstanding in debt?”

City Mayor replied.

[Link to webcast of question 21](#)

22. **Councillor Porter:-**

“Has the sale of Franklyn Fields been completed?”

City Mayor replied.

[Link to webcast of question 22](#)

23. **Councillor Porter:-**

“How many people in Leicester are on council tax benefit?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Master replied.

[Link to webcast of Question 23](#)

24. **Councillor Porter:-**

“How many visitors does the New Walk Museum get each year?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clair replied.

[Link to webcast of question 24](#)

25. **Councillor Porter:-**

“What is the average annual rent for a family renting a council property in Leicester?”

Assistant City Mayor Councillor Cutkelvin replied.

[Link to webcast of question 25](#)

26. **Councillor Porter:-**

“Can taxis lawfully pick up or drop off passengers outside the railway station?”

Deputy City Mayor Councillor Clarke replied.

[Link to webcast of question 26](#)

27. **Councillor Porter:-**

“Why has the public consultation on the draft local plan been delayed again?”

City Mayor replied.

[Link to webcast of question 27](#)

49. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF HERITAGE, CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Moved by Councillor Cank, seconded by the City Mayor and carried:

That the appointment of Councillor Stephan Gee as Vice-Chair of the Heritage, Culture, Leisure and Sport Scrutiny Commission be confirmed.

50. NOTICE OF MOTION - LIFT THE BAN CAMPAIGN

Moved by Assistant City Mayor Councillor Myers, seconded by Assistant City Mayor Councillor Patel, and carried:

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.

51. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no other business, the Lord Mayor declared the meeting closed at 6.35pm.