



Tuesday, 23 January 2024

Dear Councillor / Honorary Alderman,

Meeting of the Council – Wednesday, 31st January, 2024

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 31st January, 2024, in The Council Chamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension.

1. The Lord Mayor's Announcements and Special Business

2. Interests

To allow members an opportunity to declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax or Council rent arrears. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item

3. Minutes

To submit for approval the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2023.

7 - 14

4. Notice of Motion - Extension of the Franchise - Our Home Our Vote Residence - Based Voting Motion

This Council notes:

- That all our residents, no matter their nationality, bring significant value to our area.
- 37% of Mancunians were born abroad and 12% are from the European Union (EU). They live, work, study, make use of public services, and call Manchester their home.
- Many of our foreign-born residents from EU and Commonwealth countries can vote in our local elections.
- However, our residents born in non-EU and non-Commonwealth countries cannot.
- Scotland and Wales have implemented residence-based voting rights where all residents with lawful immigration status have the right to vote in local and devolved national elections.

- A poll conducted by Number Cruncher showed that 63% of people agree that all residents should have the right to vote in local elections in England and Northern Ireland.
- The current complexity in voting eligibility causes confusion and will reduce voter turnout in local elections amongst migrant voters, a group which already has a disproportionately lower voter registration rate compared to British voters.

The Council resolves to call upon our leader, Councillor Bev Craig to:-

- To write to the Minister of State for the Cabinet Office, requesting that the Elections Bill be amended to extend local election voting rights in England and Northern Ireland to all qualifying foreign nationals in line with voting rights in Scotland and Wales.”
- Write to the Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities requesting that the franchise for local elections be extended in England and Northern Ireland to all qualifying foreign nationals in line with eligibility criteria in Scotland and Wales. This would ensure a UK-wide and fair approach so that all our residents who are also our council taxpayers are enfranchised.

Proposed by Councillor Bayunu, seconded by Councillor Abdullatif and supported by Councillors Johnson, Wiest, Nunney, Northwood and Kilpatrick.

5. Notice of Motion - Post Office Scandal and Lies

All of Manchester and the country have been horrified at the lies and injustices perpetrated by the Post Office against 900 postmasters.

At the height of the scandal from 2010 to 2012 the Postal Affairs Minister was Sir Ed Davey. The record shows that he refused to meet with postmaster Alan Bates who led the campaign for justice.

The City Council calls on Ed Davey:-

- To apologise to Mr. Bates;
- To apologise to the 900 postmasters whose lives were shattered by the lies and criminal harassment of the Post Office.

Proposed by Councillor Karney, seconded by Councillor Hilal and supported by Councillors I Robinson, Richards, Curley, Flanagan, Rahman and Hitchen.

6. Notice of Motion - Save the Housing Support Fund: Stop Government cutting vital support for families

This Council notes:

- Since 2010, cuts and decisions have led to rising levels of poverty in the UK, made even worse by the Cost-of-Living Crisis.
- In Manchester, we have long worked hard to increase opportunities and reduce poverty. Despite our best efforts over 40% of our children live in poverty. With over 41,000 residents likely to be living with disposable income of less than £30 a month and a further 60,000 who potentially have less than £124 disposal income a month, the situation is acute.
- This council works hard to support those in need and last year alone the council spent over £50 million to support residents in hardship and reduce poverty. Examples include our freephone Cost of living advice line, our food support response service and free school meals for children in the school holidays.
- The Government is now threatening to scrap the Household Support Fund in March 2024. In Manchester we use this to provide support to around 60,000 residents in the form of:
 - 40,000 children and young people receiving free school meals holiday support;
 - 12,500 vulnerable households receiving cost of living support payments;
 - 6,000 children and young people accessing additional Holiday Activity Fund support;
 - 400 care leavers receiving an income top up;
 - Valuable support to charities working in our communities.
- This support makes a real difference to some of Manchester's most vulnerable residents in managing cost of living pressures.

This Council is concerned that across Manchester families are living under the threat of losing this vital lifeline, and that many charities and voluntary groups in Manchester depend on HSF to deliver emergency cost of living support to families who are at risk of financial hardship.

This Council resolves:-

- To restate the fact that political choices have seen levels of poverty rise in the UK.
- To call on the Government to provide urgent clarity and reassurance to these families and community groups reliant on this funding and extend the Household Support Fund beyond its current end date of March 2024.

- That the Leader of the Council is requested to write to the Government to restate Manchester's deep worry that this lifeline for many will be scrapped.
- To campaign alongside the LGA, Labour MPs and community groups to save the HSF.

Proposed by Councillor Midgely seconded by Councillor Marsh and supported by Councillors Akbar, Bridges, Craig, Igbon, Rahman, Mahadi Mahamed, Irene Robinson, Butt and Taylor.

7. **Proceedings of the Executive** 15 - 24
To submit the minutes of the Executive on 13 December 2023 and 17 January 2024 (to follow).
8. **Questions to Executive Members and Others under Procedural Rule 23**
To receive answers to any questions that councillors have raised in accordance with Procedural Rule 23.
9. **Scrutiny Committees** 25 - 126
To note the minutes of the following committees:
- Economy & Regeneration – 5 December 2023 & 9 January 2024
 - Communities & Equalities – 5 December 2023 & 9 January 2024 (to follow)
 - Children & Young People – 6 December 2023 & 10 January 2024 (to follow)
 - Health – 6 December & 10 January 2024
 - Resources & Governance – 7 December 2024 & 11 January 2024
 - Environment, Climate Change & Neighbourhoods – 7 December 2023 & 11 January 2024
10. **Proceedings of Committees** 127 - 152
To submit for approval the minutes of the following meetings and consider recommendations made by the committee:
- Audit Committee – 28 November 2023
 - Planning and Highways Committee – 14 December 2023 & 18 January 2024 (to follow)
 - Health and Wellbeing Board – 24 January 2024 (to follow)

11. Key Decisions Report

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The report of the City Solicitor is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Roney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joanne Roney OBE
Chief Executive

Information about the Council

The Council is composed of 96 councillors with one third elected three years in four. Councillors are democratically accountable to residents of their ward. Their overriding duty is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them.

Six individuals with previous long service as councillors of the city have been appointed Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester and are entitled to attend every Council meeting. They do not however have a vote.

All councillors meet together as the Council under the chairship of the Lord Mayor of Manchester. There are seven meetings of the Council in each municipal year and they are open to the public. Here councillors decide the Council's overall strategic policies and set the budget each year.

Agenda, reports and minutes of all Council meetings can be found on the Council's website www.manchester.gov.uk

Members of the Council

Councillors:-

Y Dar (Chair), Andrews (Deputy Chair), Abdullatif, Akbar, Azra Ali, Ahmed Ali, Nasrin Ali, Shaukat Ali, Alijah, Amin, Appleby, Bano, Bayunu, Bell, Benham, Brickell, Bridges, Butt, Chambers, Chohan, Collins, Connolly, Cooley, Craig, Curley, Davies, Doswell, Douglas, Evans, Flanagan, Fletcher, Foley, Gartside, Good, Green, Grimshaw, Hacking, Hassan, Hewitson, Hilal, Hitchen, Holt, Hughes, Hussain, Igbon, Ilyas, Iqbal, Johns, Johnson, T Judge, Kamal, Karney, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Lanchbury, Leech, J Lovecy, Ludford, Lynch, Lyons, Marsh, McCaul, McHale, Midgley, Moran, Muse, Noor, Northwood, Nunney, Ogunbambo, H Priest, Rahman, Rawlins, Rawson, Razaq, Reeves, Reid, Riasat, Richards, I Robinson, T Robinson, Rowles, Sadler, M Sharif Mahamed, Sheikh, Shilton Godwin, Simcock, Stogia, Taylor, Wheeler, Wiest, Whiston, White, Wills, Wilson and Wright

Honorary Aldermen of the City of Manchester –

Hugh Barrett, Andrew Fender, Paul Murphy OBE, Nilofar Siddiqi and Keith Whitmore.

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the meeting Clerk:

Andrew Woods

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This agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 23 January 2024** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension (Library Walk Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA