

Council

18th September, 2025

PRESENT:-

Councillor Payne, Lord Mayor, in the Chair.
Councillors Beeson, Belcher, Bridges, Burton, Byrne, Cahill, A. Collinson, M. Collinson, Dad, Dearing, Dolman, Drake-Davis, Fudge, Gardiner, Grozav, Haines, Hale, Harper, Healand, Henry, Herrera-Richmond, Hofman, Ieronimo, Kassim, Keal, Kemp, Kennett, Matthews, McCobb, McMurray, K. Neal, T. Neal, Nicola, North, Petrini, Preston, Quinn, Randall, Robinson, Ross, Singh, Smith, A. Thompson, D. Thompson, Tock, Wareing, Wilkinson and Wood.

APOLOGIES:-

Councillors Chambers, Conner, Coward, Harrison, Jepmond, Pantelakis and Pritchard.

Minute No.	Description/Decision	Action By/Deadline
PROCEDURAL ITEMS		
	<p>RECENT BEREAVEMENTS</p> <p>The Lord Mayor referred to the recent sad death of former Councillor Christine Gurevitch, who had represented the Boothferry Ward in the City between 2008 and 2012. The Lord Mayor passed on the Council's condolences to former Councillor Gurevitch's family and friends.</p> <p>Honorary Alderman Bell and Councillors Ross, McCobb, Dad, Hale and Keal passed on their personal condolences.</p> <p>The Lord Mayor then referred to the sad deaths of Stuart McDonald, a former employee of the Council, for 54 years as a Park Ranger, and the Duchess of York, who taught music at Westcott Primary School in the City. The Lord Mayor passed on the Council's condolences to their family and friends.</p> <p>Those present then stood in silent tribute.</p>	
	<p>JULIA WELDON</p> <p>The Lord Mayor explained that Julia Weldon, Director of Public Health and Adult Services, would be retiring from the Council at the end of the month.</p>	

	On behalf of the Council, she thanked her for all the work she had undertaken whilst in post, which had had a massive impact on the City.	
52	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made in respect of the items that follow below.</p>	
53	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>Agreed – That the minutes of the Meeting of the City Council, held on 17th July, 2025, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Lord Mayor.</p>	Director of Legal Services and Partnerships
54	<p>COMPOSITION OF POLITICAL GROUPS</p> <p>The Assistant Director of Legal Services and Governance reported that there had been no changes to the composition of the political groups within the City Council.</p> <p>Agreed – That the report be noted.</p>	
55	<p>MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL BODIES</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Dolman and seconded by Councillor Herrera-Richmond:</p> <p>Councillor Grozav to be appointed to the vacancy on the Hull Aid in Sickness Trust.</p> <p>Councillor Wood to be appointed to the vacancy on the East Riding of Yorkshire and Kingston upon Hull Joint Local Access Forum.</p> <p>Councillor M. Collinson to be appointed to the vacancy on the Amy Johnson Cup for Courage – Board of Trustees.</p> <p>Councillor K. Neal to be appointed as the Chair of the Licensing Committee.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	Director of Legal Services and Partnerships

NON-EXEMPT ITEMS		
56	<p>PROCEDURAL MOTION</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor McCobb:</p> <p>That, under Paragraph 28 of the Council Procedure Rules, Paragraph 17 of the Council Procedure Rules be suspended to allow consideration of the urgent motion at minute 57 below.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	
57	<p>URGENT MOTION</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor Hale:</p> <p>Council noted that on 16th May, 2013, Lord Peter Mandelson was appointed to the role of High Steward of Kingston upon Hull, with the intention that his term of office be for a period of 10 years expiring in May, 2023, and until his successor shall take office. Council resolves that Lord Mandelson be relieved of the position and agrees that, pending the appointment of a successor, the role will remain vacant.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	Director of Legal Services and Partnerships
58	<p>PETITIONS</p> <p>The Assistant Director of Legal Services and Governance reported that she had not received any petitions that needed to be considered by the City Council.</p> <p>Agreed – That the report be noted.</p>	
59	<p>LEADER'S STATEMENT</p> <p>Councillor Ross, the Leader of the City Council, began his statement and commented on the recent sad deaths of Stuart McDonald, a former employee of the Council, for 54 years as a Park Ranger, and the Duchess of York, who taught music at Westcott Primary school in the City; the Sesh; the recent Coldplay gigs held at Craven Park; the Great</p>	

	<p>Neighbour Award; the Combined Authority Mayor and the benefits that could be unlocked; the Peer Review Team visits; the ongoing repairs to Drypool Bridge; the infrastructure to support businesses, and the charity auction that would be taking place in Princes Quay for the 'rat' animal sculptures that had been displayed around the City.</p> <p>Councillor Hale welcomed Andrei Nastase, former Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova, to the public gallery. He then replied to the Leader's statement, and commented on the sad death of Stuart McDonald; the impending retirements of Julia Weldon and Lesley Garner; the need for the Government to recognise a Palestinian state; the toilets in Pickering Park; the closure of Iron Lillies; the need to regulate the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation through amendments to the Local Plan; the work of the Combined Authority, and the repairs to Drypool Bridge.</p> <p>Councillor Wareing replied to the Leader's statement, and commented on the recent sad deaths of former Councillor Chris Gurevitch and Stuart McDonald; Hull KR winning the League Leader's Shield; the recent changes in the Officer Team at the Combined Authority; the new Diagnostic Centre in the City Centre; the recent job losses following the closure of the Vivergo Fuels plant at Saltend; the bonuses paid to senior staff at Yorkshire Water, and the infestation of rats on the Orchard Park Estate.</p> <p>Agreed – That the Leader's Statement, and the responses to that statement, be noted.</p>	
60	<p>QUESTIONS (WITH WRITTEN NOTICE) TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES AND OTHERS</p> <p>Councillor Dolman asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure could provide a summary to the Chamber on what was going on with Drypool Bridge and why it was necessary?</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that, following a detailed inspection of all bridges across the River Hull, a programme of</p>	

maintenance and repairs had been established. It was the first time the Council had had a major proactive programme for the City's bridges and infrastructure in that way. It was the right way forward to manage the network for the long term. Drypool Bridge was the first bridge to be repaired as part of that £30 million investment the Administration was making into the bridges of the City. The works to the bridge were necessary to ensure the City's key infrastructure would continue to serve its purpose as a key network link in the City. The works would increase the structure's life span by an additional 60 years. Thanks to a lot of work by Teams at the Council, both in Highways and Communications, residents had had a lot of information on the works, and time to prepare.

Councillor Wareing asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure, he had recently spoke to a lady who was hit by a cyclist riding on the pavement on Chanterlands Avenue. She spent two days in hospital; had 12 stitches in a head wound; suffered extensive bruising, and a constant headache for two days. This was, of course, a Police matter. However, it was a common occurrence on the footpaths in the City. What action had the Portfolio Holder taken to install signs prohibiting cycling on pavements? Where had the Portfolio Holder had barriers installed to prevent pavement cycling? Had the Portfolio Holder requested increased Police action where pavement cycling was a problem?

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that his thoughts went to the resident Councillor Wareing mentioned, and he hoped that she was progressing with her recovery. He would be following up with the Police to make sure they were investigating the matter and would request that pavement cycling was treated as a priority in that area.

Councillor Hale asked the Leader of the City Council, Hull City Council provided £750,000 to open 'Iron Lillies Restaurant' in Princess Quay, which was now shutting down for re-development. Did the Leader think that the people of Hull would see this as a good use of public money, and could the Leader give

assurances that the Council was not providing further funding for its 'redevelopment'?

The Leader of the City Council replied that Councillor Hale well knew that the Johnson Government developed and laid out the rules as to who would qualify for Levelling up Funding. Local Councils were simply responsible for implementing the Government's rules on those funds. Locally, using those national rules, the Council's use of the Levelling Up Fund had brought 19 buildings back into use ensuring 18,000sqm of floorspace was used productively. That had drawn in £13m of private investment into the City. While the Iron Lillies restaurant was currently closed, its owners had publicly stated that they were expecting to reopen soon. He confirmed that no further funding had been requested, or would be provided, to support that. As Councillor Hale would also know, the food and beverage sector was predicted to have lost 100,000 jobs directly due to the Labour Government raising the National Insurance tax. That one sector accounted for almost half of all job losses seen in this country since Labour took power just over a year ago. He was sure that Councillor Hale would take up this matter with his Labour colleagues at their Party Conference.

Councillor McCobb asked if the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development would update the Chamber of recent progresses, with Council support, of the City's highstreets including the Stepney Highstreet Accelerator and other project consultations taking place?

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that, following consultation in the Stepney area of Beverley Road, lighting improvement works had been completed to the Epworth Street Car Park and preparations made for lighting improvements within Sculcoates Park. That was in response to a request from the community for a safer park and reduced anti-social behaviour in the area. The main works to improve the High Street and park were due to commence next month, 6th October, and be completed during December. Graffiti and litter within the Stepney area had visibly reduced since the introduction of the Street Operative and the Hot

Wash Machine, both being key objectives of the Area Vision. The Stepney Partnership was looking to continue beyond the capital project with two anti-social behaviour and diversionary legacy projects aimed at young people. Separately, The Community Highstreets Project Team was undertaking the second stage of consultation for Phase 1 of the Community Highstreets sites. Masterplan documents illustrating potential improvements, along with a short survey, were available via the Yoursay website until 24th October, 2025. The Team also had 'in-person' engagement sessions booked across the locations. That was an opportunity for residents, business owners and other stakeholders to see plans and give feedback. There was clear feedback coming into the Council that projects like that were wanted in other areas of the City too.

Councillor Bridges asked if the Deputy Leader of the City Council and Holderness Ward Councillor would commit to reviewing the vehicle access and exit arrangements at East Park, given the risk posed to pedestrians, including children, by vehicles exiting in contravention of the one-way system? There was footage on Hull Traffic and Travel. In addition, would the Administration commission a further Equality Impact Assessment to evaluate the problems arising from the opening of the gates?

The Deputy Leader of the City Council replied that, as Councillor Bridges should know by now, there was a clear risk that legal action could be taken against the Council for the continued closure of those gates. The then Administration, which Councillor Bridges was part of, made that decision without proper consultation or carrying out an impact assessment. The irony that Councillor Bridges now mentioned an impact statement, several years after she should have made one originally, was noticeable. As a Ward Councillor for the park, she could confirm that a full review was being undertaken for East Park; its gates, and traffic movements.

Councillor Wilkinson asked if the Leader of the City Council could inform the Chamber if he had received a response from his letter to the Mayor of Hull and the East Riding, Mr. Luke Campbell,

inviting him to attend Full Council?

The Leader of the City Council replied he had, and sadly it was 'no'.

Councillor Wilkinson asked the Leader of the City Council a supplementary question, now Mr. Campbell had turned down the offer to attend a Council meeting, did the Leader agree with him that the Mayor was shirking his responsibilities to be accountable to Elected Members and the public?

The Leader of the City Council replied that it was noticeable during the election campaign the candidate at the time made great play in wanting to make the local Councils more accountable. When asked, following his election, how he was going to do that, he said bringing more accountability, or something to that effect. He thought that underlined (a) he had no power to do that, and (b) it wasn't his job. The Mayor should be accountable to the public of Hull and the East Riding, he was not there to hold the local Councils accountable.

Councillor Byrne asked if the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services would update the Chamber on the assistance provided by the Council to those families who required support paying for school uniforms?

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services replied that the request from Council was considered by the Leader and his Cabinet colleagues a few weeks ago. It was agreed to raise the grant from £40 to £50 for all eligible students in Hull. That increase reflected a number of factors, such as the cost of inflation affecting uniform prices due to the state of the national economy. The criterion of eligibility remained unchanged. It meant that approximately 1,400 students were able to apply for the grant. That would see the spend increase to £70,000 for the year. However, she had seen no clear indication from Government about continuing the Fund. She also pointed out that Central Government regulation of the school uniform market was lacking and needed a radical overhaul.

Councillor Herrera-Richmond asked the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing

and Organisational Development, an initial £1m was set aside in the budget in February for consultancy and feasibility works on the restoration of Victoria Pier. How much of that had been spent so far, what on, and when would Members and the public be consulted?

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that the budget allocation was intended to fund professional services' fees for feasibility studies; further in-depth investigatory works to the Pier, and initial consultation with key statutory organisations. That work was currently underway. Once complete, options would be presented to key stakeholders, including Elected Members and residents, for comment, as was the process with any other development in the City.

Councillor Henry asked if the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development could explain what the new "Repairs and Maintenance Policy" would mean for Council tenants?

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that the Repairs and Maintenance Policy set out clear expectations, duties, and responsibilities for both tenants and the Council. It helped the Council, along with its partner, Kingstown Works Limited, to provide timely and effective repairs, keeping homes safe, warm and sustainable. The Policy reflected the service tenants already received, where repairs were grouped into three categories: emergency, urgent, or routine, with each category having a different response time. The Policy wasn't static. The Administration would continue to update it, making improvements in line with customer needs and national standards. A good example was the new five-day urgent repair category, introduced by this Administration back in June. That change came directly from tenant feedback and had already been shared widely, through Hull Housing News; the Tenants' Forum; dedicated Repairs and Maintenance groups; social media, and frontline Officers. The Tenants' Forum welcomed that update and the policy. It now meant that tenants could report more types of repairs online via the app; choose their own appointment time, and reduce the

problem of missed visits. That made life easier for tenants, and it also made the service more efficient. Finally, the Administration had also built in flexibility for those with vulnerabilities or disabilities. If an urgent repair needed a faster response, tenants could request that it be re-categorised as an emergency repair, which the Council would respond to within 24 hours.

Councillor Smith asked the Deputy Leader of the City Council, why hadn't the Cabinet considered the Labour Council motion from July to increase the School Clothing Grant element of the Household Support Fund until after the school holiday period when parents had already bought school uniforms?

The Deputy Leader of the City Council replied that the Administration did, but as Councillor Smith knew, real change took time. The Administration wanted to make sure the support was at the right level. She was happy to announce that the request had now been considered and the amount available increased to £50.

Councillor Cahill asked if the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure could update the Council if there were any plans to celebrate Hull KR's achievements if they win the treble?

Councillor Cahill explained that as Councillor Pritchard had given his apologies for today's meeting, he was happy to receive a written response to his question.

Councillor North asked the Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development, over 80% of businesses in Hull were Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) with under 10 employees. The Levelling Up Fund provided by the Labour Government had provided the Council with an excellent opportunity to support business within a limited area of the City. Could the Portfolio Holder provide full details about the level of grants and business support given to SMEs with under 10 employees in the last year, including how many of those were genuinely local businesses and not part of national and international chains?

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Renewal, Housing and Organisational Development replied that the first step that needed to be taken was to set the record straight and get the factual ducks in a row. It pained him greatly to point out anything positive that happened during the last Conservative Government. The Levelling Up Fund was a Johnson Government initiative that started life in Hull in 2021, under a Labour Administration as the Humber Highstreet Challenge Fund. It later became known as the Levelling Up Grant Fund, just before the Liberal Democrat's took control in the City in 2022. That very successful scheme wasn't some act of business benevolence from the current Labour Government. In fact, quite the opposite had happened. There had been interest and success of the scheme from businesses all across the City of all different sizes. The Council requested additional funding from the Government, but that request was declined. That was probably the first warning sign of how unfriendly the Labour Government was going to be to small businesses. It was also worthwhile clearing up the Scheme's parameters measured by outputs which determined the validity of any submitted application. The assessed outputs were: amount of floorspace brought back in to use; number of jobs created or saved; repairs to dilapidated buildings, and the restoration of a building's heritage. An applicant could apply for up to 50% of a project's costs up to £750,000. Applicants must also be able to prove they had the capital to fund the rest of the work. It was important to emphasise that the scheme was not what those in the Labour Group opposite were seemingly suggesting to the public it was, a local hardship fund for small businesses. They should have asked Councillor Hale how the scheme worked as he was overseeing the scheme in the last year of the previous Labour Administration. Councillor Hale awarded Tokio Industries, owners of Princes Quay, £325,000 to open up the Brew Dog franchise that now occupied part of the ground floor. Upon the award, Councillor Hale was quoted in the Hull Daily Mail as saying "the project to be funded was compliant with the objectives of the Humber Highstreet Challenge Fund. The securing of such an offer would lead to other national and international food and drink, and entertainment offers in Princes Quay. He confirmed that 91% of the Levelling Up Funding directed to City Centre businesses had

been distributed to SMEs. Unfortunately, the Team did not have a record of the number of employees those SMEs had, as recording that had never been a stipulation of the scheme since its inception.

Councillor Dolman, on behalf of Councillor Coward, thanked the Love Your Neighbourhood Team for its work around Anlaby Park, and asked if the Portfolio Holder for Environment would be able to inform the Chamber of the work that Team carried out over the summer and their coming autumn projects?

The Portfolio Holder for Environment replied and thanked Councillor Dolman for reporting Councillor Coward's feedback. He would ensure her comments reached the Team. The Liberal Democrats had developed the "Love Your Neighbourhood Scheme". It had been active over the summer carrying out two-week interventions across the City. Since the beginning of June, 2025, the Team had attended 42 streets across eight different Wards, with plans to visit another 26 streets in five further Wards before the end of the year. The scheme was becoming more diverse. One development was going in to local schools to educate young children on keeping their area tidy, and involving them in community litter picks. The Community engagement work that the Team had done was terrific. Feedback from the People's Panel had shown that the perception and recognition of local residents across the City was that neighbourhoods were getting cleaner; tidier, and greener under the Liberal Democrat Administration. He was sure that the Team was playing a massive role in shifting that Key Performance Indicator in such a positive direction. The Team received that sort of praise day-in, day-out, when it was out in communities making them cleaner and tidier. It continued to work in an objective and equitable manner across all areas of the City. The work of the Team would only get more established over the months to come.

Councillor Nicola asked if the Deputy Leader of the City Council could confirm that since the reopening of East Park gates, despite the opposition of thousands of local residents, there had been at least one near miss involving a woman and her small child, as well as an incident where a wheelchair user was trying to

cross the road as a large van sped towards her?

The Deputy Leader of the City Council replied, and thanked Councillor Nicola for bringing this to her attention today. She had asked for a full briefing and details of the incident.

Councillor A. Collinson asked the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, as the skills bootcamps had been a success in recent years, would the Portfolio Holder provide an insight as to what that service had achieved and its future?

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services replied that Hull City Council managed the Skills Bootcamp programme across the Hull and East Riding region. It delivered high-impact, in-demand skills training. The programme had grown rapidly from £447,000 in 2021/22 to £11m for 2025/26. That was based on the Council's track record of delivery and confidence of the Department for Education in the Council and the programme. The Council was currently working with 26 different training providers, showing the diversity of Skills Bootcamps across the region. Going forward, specific details on the exact funding transition and impact on the existing local authority allocations would depend on the final devolution agreements and guidelines published by the Department for Education and the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority. According to the Department for Education's evaluation of Skills Bootcamps for 2022/23, Hull Training and Adult Education was rated number one nationally for completions.

Councillor North asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure, just five years after they had been announced, the changes to Freetown Way appeared to finally be on the horizon and scheduled to begin during the second phase of Drypool Bridge repairs. He was interested to hear more about the Cycle Optimised Protected Signals Junctions proposed for Blundell's Corner as well as those at the Preston Road junctions with Marfleet Lane and Southcoates Avenue. Could the Portfolio Holder explain to the Chamber how priority was given to cyclists with the proposed Cycle Optimised Junctions and provide a summary of the overall response from cyclists during the

consultation period?

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that a Cycle Optimised Protected Signals junction was a tried and tested design in the UK and other nations. It was where a road junction was designed to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Evidence had shown that when used effectively, benefits included a reduction in collisions. In feedback to the Council, those that cycled specifically stated that they considered the proposals to be safer due to the removal of on-road cycle lanes.

Councillor Burton asked if the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure would provide an update on the A63 works?

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure replied that he had recently met with National Highways to understand their progress on the A63 and reinforce the importance of completing the scheme as soon as possible. He was pleased to report that the underpass construction was progressing well with all concrete pours completed, props removed, and cladding panels installed on the northern wall. The next phase of the works would be completing waterproofing and cladding on the southern wall. He had been re-assured by National Highways that they remained on track to complete works in Spring '26. He would be checking in with the Team periodically over the coming months to ensure that this was the case as the residents in Hull had waited long enough for this to be completed.

Councillor Harper asked the Leader of the Majority Opposition Group, the Deputy Leader of Reform UK, who enjoyed high speed travel from the UK to his tax haven home in Dubai, had stated that a Reform UK Government would axe all the investment in high-speed rail links in the North of England so that the money could be spent on what the country needed. What were the Leader of the Majority Opposition Group's views on that policy announcement and its potential impact on the northern economy and jobs?

The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group replied

that it was outrageous that the Deputy Leader of Reform who didn't even live in this Country, could decide with one strike of the pen to do away with all the high speed rail links to the North of England. It would not do anything to aid the future investment in the economies of the North. This Council, in general had been absolutely committed to electrification of the section of rail between Hull and Selby. Not just because it was electrification, but with it would come a re-pinning and a renewal of the rails for that section of track, which would improve journey times. To even put the idea out there, and cast doubt over the future of those rail links, when there wasn't even a current agreement for the high speed links, was outrageous. Yesterday at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority, the Mayor said he supported electrification. That was the irony, the Mayor said he supported electrification, but his party was doing all it could to undermine investment in the North's railways. It was a confused picture to say the least. What he would ask, was that the Council needed to be clear, the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority was looking to dumb down their proposals for electrification and just have some 'super boost' charging points. That would mean only sections of the Hull to Selby line would be electrified and the trains would run off batteries on the rest. The problem with that was it would need a whole new set of rolling stock to enable that to happen and would stymie any future investment. It was quite clear electrification was needed from Hull to Selby, full electrification, not some dumbed down version or a policy completely undermined by the reckless comments of Reform and its Deputy Leader.

Councillor Beeson asked if the Leader of the City Council could outline the changes to the Community Initiative Budgets for Wards and detail what that additional funding could be used for?

The Leader of the City Council replied, in terms of the previous question, he agreed that electrification of the Hull to Selby train line did need to happen. One of the reasons it was written in to the deal in the first place, and it needed to be made to happen. Fundamentally, what we had seen from Reform was that they did not speak for or represent the interests of the North. With regards to this question, the

Community Initiatives Budget had been increased by £3,750 per ward. That provided additional capacity for local initiatives in all Wards, to be used at the discretion of the Ward Councillors. Of course, that budget could be used for Bring Out Your Rubbish Days but didn't have to be. The extra funding provided by the Liberal Democrat Administration to all Wards would also be kept in at that level in future budget proposals the Administration presented to Council. He had been surprised that Members opposite chose to 'call-in' additional funding for Ward budgets.

Councillor Hale asked the Leader of the City Council, the Mayor for Hull and East Yorkshire had had an interesting few months. Initially supporting green renewable investment in this area, then warning investors against investing in it. He had welcomed 'fracking' in East Yorkshire, despite the Reform led Lancashire County Council ruling it out. Now, having pledged to drive electrification and improved transport links across Yorkshire, his Party's Deputy Leader had said that a Reform UK Government would cancel all investment in improved high speed rail in the whole of the North of England. What exactly was the position of the Board of the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority (HEYCA) and, as the Leader of Hull City Council, and a member of the HEYCA Board, was the Leader going to condemn those economically damaging comments, and what was the Leader's personal position and opinion on those matters?

The Leader of the City Council replied that the comments from the Deputy Leader of the Reform Party were absurd. They would be judged in terms of the impact they will have for transport issues for the North. They didn't represent the interests of Hull or the East Riding and further afield. The Council needed to make sure electrification happened. In terms of the position of the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority Board, there had been no change at Board level in terms of the intention to seek electrification. In terms of the 'economically damaging comments', he had given his position on that. He felt it was the wrong move from Reform, and underlined again that, for all they claimed to speak on behalf of the public, they really didn't.

Councillor M. Collinson asked if the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services could provide the Chamber with an update on the purpose and impact of the new Hull Training and Adult Education website?

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services replied that Hull Training and Adult Education had recently launched a new website as part of the Council's wider commitment to improving accessibility; user experience, and service transparency across all its platforms. The purpose of the new website was to provide a modern, intuitive, and user-friendly platform that better served the needs of learners, employers, and partners. It brought together all course information; learner support; employer engagement, and organisational updates into one accessible and easy-to-navigate space. It aligned with the Council's Digital Strategy to ensure residents could access services and information quickly, clearly, and efficiently. Since its launch on 18th August, 2025, the website had already demonstrated strong engagement: 3,800 total visits and 24,100 pageviews.

Councillor Dearing asked the Leader of the Majority Opposition Group, there had been a number of traveller encampments on land across the City over the summer, including in her Ward of Newington and Gipsyville. Under Labour a new traveller temporary stop-over site was due to be completed by 2023. That would have allowed the Council to move on illegal encampments in a matter of a couple of days. That was now two years late under the Liberal Democrats. What should local residents be told when they asked about those encampments?

The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group replied that it was really frustrating for someone who represented a Ward where there were regular traveller encampments. He didn't blame the Travellers per se, he blamed the fact that the provision the Council should have put in place was not available. He knew the reasons for the delay and that was the fact that there had been a row going on between the Drypool Ward Councillors who clearly didn't want the site on Bempton Street close to the listed Travellers site. Whilst the Liberal

	<p>Democrats had spent months and months rowing about whether they were going to have the site or not or whether they could get out of it and find an alternative site, his Group had consulted on where else there could be a site. It was never going to happen. Belatedly, the Liberal Democrats agreed the plan suggested by the Labour Group for the temporary stop-over site for Travellers. What that meant was that if you had been on the receiving end of an incursion since 2023, the only people you could level the blame at were the Liberal Democrats. In a sense they would prefer to weaponise the issue, complain about it, rather than show leadership and take control of the issue and do something about it. That site should be open. The Council needed to make sure it was open next year so many of the issues that befall many of the Wards would go away. He added that it was really frustrating in what was seen again, again and again, such as further consultations causing delays. He could just as easily be talking about traffic. There was money in the budget to do Chapman Street five years ago. He understood now that the Liberal Democrats weren't even going to start Chapman Street for at least five more years. That was failure. That was folly. That was the Liberal Democrats for you.</p> <p>Agreed – That the questions and answers be received.</p>	
61	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Bridges and seconded by Councillor Wareing:</p> <p>This Council is alarmed by the intentions of Operation Raise the Colours, a campaign rooted in far-right ideology which seeks to hijack national symbols, including the St. George's Cross, to legitimise intolerance and division. There have been St. George's flags put up in parts of Hull and even mini-roundabouts painted.</p> <p>Hull is a welcoming and proud City so using St. George's Cross for pride in our country and/or a national team is not problematic at all, we all share that unifying pride in our city and country.</p>	Director of Public Health

Council further notes that the English flag itself is of European origin, adopted from Genoa; used by English and French armies during the crusades, and linked to wider traditions across the continent. Far-right attempts to portray it as the property of a narrow, exclusionary nationalism are both historically false and socially damaging.

Council recognises that the true history of our national symbols is one of shared heritage, exchange, and openness to the wider world, values which are the very opposite of far-right ideology.

Council also recognises that silence from elected representatives, whether from fear of confrontation, political calculation, or misplaced belief that extremist groups will fade away if ignored, only emboldens those who peddle hate. To stay quiet is to create a vacuum in which far-right voices dominate the public debate, leaving vulnerable communities exposed and public trust undermined.

Council believes that politicians of all parties, and none, have a moral duty to speak out against far-right ideology and organised campaigns such as Operation Raise the Colours. Council also believes that local government has a key role in safeguarding community cohesion and making clear that far-right movements are not welcome here.

This Council resolves:

- To make a clear public statement condemning Operation Raise the Colours and reaffirming the Council's opposition to far-right extremism in all its forms.
- To encourage all elected representatives in this City, regardless of party, to speak out against far-right campaigns and not remain silent in the face of extremism.
- To work with local partners, including schools, community organisations, trade unions, and faith groups, to strengthen education, resilience, and solidarity against far-right organising.
- To call on national politicians, including local MPs and regional leaders, to take responsibility in challenging extremism by their words and deeds, and to stop granting

	<p>legitimacy through silence or accommodation.</p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p> <p><u>'Operation Raise the Colours' Organised by Well-Known Far-Right Extremists – HOPE not hate</u></p> <p><u>What is Operation Raise the Colours? - Politics UK</u></p> <p><u>The questions about St George's and union jack flags lining English streets - BBC News</u></p> <p><u>origin of the cross of st george - Google Search</u></p> <p>Moved by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor McCobb as an amendment:</p> <p>The motion with the following amendments:</p> <p>Remove paragraph one: 'This Council is alarmed by the intentions of Operation Raise the Colours, a campaign rooted in far-right ideology which seeks to hijack national symbols, including the St. George's Cross, to legitimise intolerance and division.'</p> <p>Remove line one of paragraph two: 'There have been St. George's flags put up in parts of Hull and even mini roundabouts painted.'</p> <p>Add at the start of the motion: 'Council notes the St. George's Cross and The Union Flag have been going up across England, and here in Hull, in recent weeks.'</p> <p>Council further notes that national, regional and local flags are for many symbols of pride and unity. Used in the right way they can bring communities together to celebrate national sporting success or important national events like the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Council is proud to have flown at various times, the three coronets of Hull and the white rose of Yorkshire alongside the country's national flags.</p> <p>Council believes no organisation should attempt to use our nation's flags to undermine our British</p>	
--	--	--

values of decency, tolerance and respect for the rule of law.

This Council is therefore alarmed by the clear evidence that some of the initial organisers of 'Operation Raise the Colours' are far-right activists.

And whilst Council notes that people are free to fly whatever permitted flags they choose on their own homes or businesses, they need permission when it comes to someone else's property or public property, to avoid trespass, vandalism, criminal damage or the unnecessary expenditure of taxpayers' money.'

Remove: 'Council also recognises that silence from elected representatives, whether from fear of confrontation, political calculation, or misplaced belief that extremist groups will fade away if ignored, only emboldens those who peddle hate. To stay quiet is to create a vacuum in which far-right voices dominate the public debate, leaving vulnerable communities exposed and public trust undermined.'

In paragraph 6 remove: 'and organised campaigns such as', and replace with 'that is inspiring the original organisers of'.

In paragraph 7', after 'To make a clear public statement condemning', add 'the far right ideology motivating the original organisers of'

Remove: 'and not remain silent in the face of extremism.'

At the end of the motion remove – 'and to stop granting legitimacy through silence or accommodation.'

Councillors Burton and Hale also spoke on the motion.

Amendment carried.

Moved by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor McCobb as the substantive motion:

Council notes the St George's Cross and The Union Flag have been going up across England, and here in Hull, in recent weeks.

Council further notes that national, regional and local flags are for many symbols of pride and unity. Used in the right way they can bring communities together to celebrate national sporting success or important national events like the 2012 Olympics, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee or any number of sporting events where we've backed our country. The Council is proud to have flown at various times, the three coronets of Hull and the white rose of Yorkshire alongside the country's national flags.

Council believes no organisation should attempt to use our nation's flags to undermine our British values of decency, tolerance and respect for the rule of law.

This Council is therefore alarmed by the clear evidence that some of the initial organisers of 'Operation Raise the Colours' are far-right activists.

And whilst Council notes that people are free to fly whatever permitted flags they choose on their own homes or businesses, they need permission when it comes to someone else's property or public property, to avoid trespass, vandalism, criminal damage or the unnecessary expenditure of taxpayers' money.

Hull is a welcoming and proud City so using St. George's Cross for pride in our country and/or a national team is not problematic at all, we all share that unifying pride in our city and country.

Council further notes that the English flag itself is of European origin, adopted from Genoa; used by English and French armies during the crusades, and linked to wider traditions across the continent. Far-right attempts to portray it as the property of a narrow, exclusionary nationalism are both historically false and socially damaging.

Council recognises that the true history of our national symbols is one of shared heritage, exchange, and openness to the wider world, values which are the very opposite of far-right ideology.

Council believes that politicians of all parties, and none, have a moral duty to speak out against far-right ideology that is inspiring the original organisers

	<p>of Operation Raise the Colours.</p> <p>Council also believes that local government has a key role in safeguarding community cohesion and making clear that far-right movements are not welcome here.</p> <p>This Council resolves:</p> <p>To make a clear public statement condemning the far right ideology motivating the original organisers of Operation Raise the Colours and reaffirming the Council's opposition to far-right extremism in all its forms.</p> <p>To encourage all elected representatives in this City, regardless of party, to speak out against far-right campaigns.</p> <p>To work with local partners, including schools, community organisations, trade unions, and faith groups, to strengthen education, resilience, and solidarity against far-right organising.</p> <p>To call on national politicians, including local MPs and regional leaders, to take responsibility in challenging extremism by their words and deeds.</p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p> <p><u>'Operation Raise the Colours' Organised by Well-Known Far-Right Extremists – HOPE not hate</u></p> <p><u>What is Operation Raise the Colours? - Politics UK</u></p> <p><u>The questions about St George's and union jack flags lining English streets - BBC News</u></p> <p><u>origin of the cross of st george - Google Search</u></p> <p>Substantive motion carried.</p>	
	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>The meeting stood adjourned at 11.55 p.m. and reconvened at 12.30 p.m.</p>	
62	NOTICE OF MOTION	Councillor Ross/

<p>Moved by Councillor Hale and seconded by Councillor Herrera-Richmond:</p> <p>This Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The ongoing uncertainty around a number of key energy and infrastructure assets based around the Humber. b) The recent uncertainty around Scunthorpe Steel, the closure of Vivergo and the closure of the Lindsey Oil Refinery have recently highlighted these major issues. c) Following the announcement of the closure of the Lindsey Oil Refinery there was an increase in the cost of petrol in North Humberside compared to the south coast (Kent) and the closure will leave the country with only four oil refineries. d) That a huge number of Humber jobs, directly and indirectly rely on these industries and their related supply-chain. <p>This Council believes: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That this Country's economic prosperity will rely upon having independent British steel manufacture. b) Until there are longer term green alternatives, there is a need for energy refining independence, further recognising that Lindsey Oil Refinery was responsible for 20% of the UK domestically refined fuel capacity. c) There must be a national plan to transition oil and gas workers into green jobs and to quote Unite General Secretary, Sharon Graham, "We can't let go of one rope before we have hold of another." d) That the decision to divide Mayoral and Combined Authority boundaries down the Humber has undermined the cohesive argument for an integrated industrial strategy for the Humber and diluted a united political response on these issues. <p>This Council calls for the Chief Executive to write, alongside willing Group Leaders, to the Government's Trade and Local Government Ministers asking them to:</p>	<p>Councillor Hale/ Councillor Wareing/ Chief Executive</p>
--	---

- a) Work with Regional MPs, Local Authorities, Mayors, businesses, and all other stakeholders for a coherent pan-Humber industrial strategy which feeds into a national Energy Strategy.
- b) Use all their leverage to secure a viable future for Scunthorpe Steel and help save Lindsey Oil Refinery due to their strategic importance for the Hull and Humber Economy.
- c) Consider reviewing the current mayoral geography, as previously indicated in writing from the Minister so that the Humber speaks as one cohesive geographical political entity.
- d) Urgently seek a meeting between the local MPs, the Chief Executive and all Group Leaders to relay to them this Council's concerns.

Sources:

[Campaigners take fight to save Lindsey Oil Refinery to Parliament - Grimsby News - Gi Grimsby](#)

[Compare Petrol and Diesel Prices | Fuel Prices UK | Cheapest Petrol and Diesel Prices | Fleet News](#)

[United Kingdom Gasoline Prices](#)

[UK court freezes £150m of assets of collapsed Prax Lindsey oil refinery owner | Oil | The Guardian](#)

[Lindsey oil plant set to close with loss of 400 jobs leaving UK with just four major refineries](#)

[ABF announces closure of Vivergo - ABF](#)

[Vivergo: UK's largest bioethanol plant in Hull to close](#)

[2,700 jobs at risk at British Steel's Scunthorpe steelworks as furnace closure consultation announced - live updates - Grimsby Live](#)

['It's madness': Scunthorpe fights to save steel industry - BBC News](#)

Lee, S. (2002). "Four: Yorkshire (and the Humber)". In *England*. Bristol, UK: Policy Press. Retrieved Sep

	<p>9, 2025, from https://doi.org/10.51952/9781847425539.ch004</p> <p><u>Constrained discretion and English regional governance</u> The case of Yorkshire and the Humber</p> <p>Letter to Councillor D Hale 8th November 2024 from Jim McMahon MP Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution.</p> <p>Councillors Ross, Smith and Wilkinson also spoke on the motion.</p> <p>Councillor Hale then exercised his right of reply on the motion.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	
63	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Grozav and seconded by Councillor Robinson:</p> <p>Council will note that in the Derringham Ward, a disused community facility was recently successfully reopened. This building was unused but is now a hub of activity, being used by local groups who had nowhere to organise themselves.</p> <p>Council further notes that there may be many more such under-used facilities in communities, owned by the Council, in either their or Hull Culture and Leisure’s Management, across the City which can be revitalised, and which could help bring communities together and provide much needed bases for existing and future groups.</p> <p>Council welcomes the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, which states that if nationally, libraries or youth clubs are sold off, the community will have the right to step in and buy them first. Football pitches and sports venues will automatically be protected in law as community assets. This motion accords with the very sentiment of this legislation, which all parties in this Council have previously supported the principles of.</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to request the Executive to carry out a citywide survey across all Wards to</p>	Director of Legal Services and Partnerships

	<p>identify unused, or under-used, local Council-owned facilities and survey how they can be brought into better use supporting local activity and interest.</p> <p>Councillors Wilkinson, Byrne, Hale, Harper, McMurray, Henry, Dolman and Singh also spoke on the motion.</p> <p>Councillor Grozav then exercised his right of reply on the motion.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	
64	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION</p> <p>Moved by Councillor K. Neal and seconded by Councillor Beeson:</p> <p>This Council notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fireworks are used by people throughout the year to mark different events. While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, they can cause significant problems and fear for other people and animals. • They can be a source of fear and distress for some people who have lived through war and other events as well as many animals (including pet animals, farm livestock and wildlife). • Those affected not only suffer psychological distress, but loud fireworks can also lead to physical injury. <p>This Council therefore resolves to:</p> <p>Request the Overview Scrutiny Management Committee to work with other relevant Overview and Scrutiny Commissions to make recommendations to the Executive on how the Council can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a way to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public consumption and for all council and partner events to only use 'quieter' fireworks. • Review a requirement for all public firework displays within the local authority boundary to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take necessary actions. 	Director of Legal Services and Partnerships/ Councillor Ross

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a public awareness campaign about the impact of loud fireworks– including all precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks. • Engage with all other relevant authorities and partners to ensure existing legislation regarding purchase of and setting off fireworks is enforced across the City. <p>Request that the Leader:</p> <p>Writes to the UK Government and Hull’s three local Members of Parliament urging the introduction of legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB.</p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p> <p>https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/media/27855/Quiet-Fireworks-Policy/pdf/oce22684_Quiet_Fireworks_Policy_A4_NEW.pdf?ccp=true</p> <p>https://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/campaign/fireworks/friendly</p> <p>https://www.ukfr.com/quiet-low-noise-firework-displays</p> <p>Councillors Matthews and Nicola also spoke on the motion.</p> <p>Councillor K. Neal then exercised his right of reply on the motion.</p> <p>Motion carried.</p>	
65	<p>NOTICE OF MOTION</p> <p>Moved by Councillor T. Neal and seconded by Councillor Hofman:</p> <p>Council notes that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Government has concluded its “Fair Funding Review 2.0” consultation, and 2) Humberside Fire and Rescue Authority (HFA) is significantly impacted by the proposed 	Councillor Ross/ Councillor Hale/ Councillor Wareing

changes included in the “Fair Funding review”, and this will have a detrimental impact on the communities in Hull. That HFA is facing the 3rd largest reduction in core spending power, with a reduction of £5 million over the medium term – equivalent to 85 full time firefighter posts - 20% of operational staff in Humberside.

Further, Council notes that the reduction in Government grants appears to be underpinned by an assumption that council tax will be increased by £5, thereby essentially centralising what should be a local decision. That if only a 3% precept increase is approved, the core spending will decrease due to inflation. That this reduction in funding is likely to impact on hardworking fire officers’ future pay awards and this will impact on the working relationships with HFA staff and unions. That many of the Fire Rescue Authorities which, modelling suggests, will see the lowest increases (or lack of an increase) in core spending power cover some of the most deprived areas of England (including parts of Humberside, in particular Hull).

Council notes some political groups have already refused to allow for a precept increase to cover central government cuts meaning likely service reduction and job loss. That those political groups have come to this decision without full engagement and understanding of the impact on resident safety.

Council believes that Fire Rescue Services (FRS) face significant funding pressures because of a range of issues including the evolving role of FRSs in protecting our communities; responding to an increasing number of extreme weather events; inflationary pressures; responding to emerging technology risks; challenges around cyber resilience; the need for increased but unfunded capital investment in aging estates; existing budgetary commitments and more. That Fire Funding is removed from the Fair Funding review and funding is allocated separately (like Policing). In addition to FRSs’ statutory duties, public and Government expectation of an FRS response has also grown in several areas which are not underpinned by a statutory footing but requires investment, such as rescues from water at the request of this council passing a motion, emergency

medical response to support ambulance services, and road and water safety messaging. Without additional investment, there are serious concerns that the level of service provided to communities in Hull may not be sustainable in the medium to long-term. Whilst recognising the current very challenging economic climate.

Council resolves:

- 1) to support HFA's campaign to request government to take appropriate funding steps to support the proper funding of HFA, and
- 2) that the Council should do all it can to support HFA's proper funding.

Council further requests that:

- 1) the Leaders of all Groups write to the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to review the proper funding for HRA, and
- 2) the Group Leaders write to the three local MPs to ask them to support this campaign.

Sources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-fair-funding-review-20>

<https://nfcc.org.uk/incomprehensible-cuts-would-threaten-public-safety-warn-fire-chiefs/>

Letter from Phil Shillito Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Cllr Nigel Sherwood Humberside Fire Authority Chair, dated 15th August 2025, ref: MR/AJB

Councillor Wilkinson also spoke on the motion.

Councillor T. Neal then exercised her right of reply on the motion.

Motion carried.

Start: 10.00 a.m.
Finish: 1.50 p.m.