

# Birmingham City Council

## City Council

7 November 2023



**Subject:** Motions for Debate from Individual Members  
**Report of:** Janie Berry, City Solicitor (Monitoring Officer)  
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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential: N/A

### 1 Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 To consider the following Motions of which notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules (section B4.4 G of the Constitution).

### 2 Notices of Motion

#### A. Councillors Darius Sandhu and Richard Parkin have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-

“This Council believes that the City’s heritage and cultural assets are fundamental to our ambitions to attract investment and visitors and essential to the physical and mental well-being of our residents.

Moreover, the Council notes that many of these cultural assets were gifted to the people of Birmingham to be enjoyed in perpetuity, not to be used to balance the books for any one single Administration. Once they are gone, they are gone.

Libraries, public open spaces, playing fields, parks, theatres, orchestras, museums, and galleries, serve as the vibrant core of the communities they are located in.

Council therefore commits to looking at all possible ways to:

- Protect all cultural and heritage assets, including all libraries, parks, playing fields, public open spaces and museum sites, from any capital disposals.
- Work with community campaigns such as the ‘Save Birmingham – protect our community places’ campaign by Cooperatives West Midlands, by supporting community asset transfers and other community-led governance models where these can be shown to be the best and most sustainable solution to protecting the long-term future of these assets.
- Work closely with Arts and Culture organisations, the community sector, external funding organisations and other partners to promote that the city is open for business despite the Council’s own challenges and that its arts and culture offering remains rich and vibrant, with world-class performances and exhibitions with something for everyone.”

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**B. Councillors Ayoub Khan and Izzy Knowles have given notice of the following Notice of Motion:-**

“This council recognises that the horrors and repercussions of the conflict in Palestine and Israel have had a profound affect across all communities, but notably the Muslim and Jewish communities here in Birmingham.

West Midlands Police, and organisations like the CST and Tell Mama have reported a rise in both Islamophobic and antisemitic hate incidents.

This council acknowledges that it has a duty of care to the people of Birmingham, and must lead the way in promoting peace, tolerance and respect.

This Council notes:

1. There is a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. It is likely that this will impact Gazans throughout 2023 and beyond.
2. It is unlikely that many Palestinians will be able to return home for a substantial time.
3. With Birmingham having a proud status as a City of Sanctuary for people fleeing war torn countries and persecution. It is important that we in Birmingham, together with other communities in the UK, prepare to accommodate any refugees from this conflict that seek re-location.

4. Building on the success of the Homes for the Ukraine Scheme, a similar package must be offered to refugees choosing to flee the conflict.

This Council therefore:

5. Will write to the Government seeking the provision of a support package for refugees fleeing the conflict in line with the Homes for Ukraine scheme.
6. Will support the active engagement of the voluntary sector in delivering aid and support to refugees from the conflict.
7. Will proactively engage with any Government schemes to house refugees from the conflict to ensure that all refugees are given a warm welcome in Birmingham.
8. Calls on everyone in Birmingham to show tolerance and respect at this time of significant stress to many communities; especially those of the Muslim and Jewish faiths.”