

Leicester Council of Faiths Statement

As Faith leaders and representatives from across Leicestershire communities we are shocked and saddened by the news that Simon Cole has passed away today. We are in mourning and at this difficult time our prayers and thoughts are with his family, friends, colleagues and everyone who had the honour to work or meet with him.

Simon was truly a loved person and respected across diverse communities of Leicestershire. He worked tirelessly for all and played a pivotal role in keeping us safe with his dedicated service and leadership. It was only a few weeks ago that he met with faith leaders to be recognised for his contributions to policing and communities at large. He will surely be missed. As faith leaders and representatives, we are praying for him and his family. We encourage everyone to remember and pray for Simon and his family in whatever way they know. May the Almighty grant solace to his loved ones. Rest in Peace.

Fayyaz Suleman (Muslim faith) - Chairman Fr John Lally (Catholic faith) – Vice Chairman Yasmin Surti (Muslim faith) - Secretary Minou Cortazzi (Baha'i faith) - Asst Secretary Narendra Waghela (Hindu faith) - Treasurer Leon Charikar (Jewish faith) Sulakhan Singh Dard (Sikh faith) Rev Paskal Clement (Christian faith) Piyush Madhani (Jain Samaj Europe) Bushra Ali (Muslim faith) Shital Adatia (Hindu faith) Harminder Singh Jagdev (Sikh faith) Bharti Acharya (Hindu faith) Ashiedu Joel (Christian faith) Resham Singh Sandhu (Honorary Life Member) Suleman Nagdi (Honorary Life Member) Smita Shah (Honorary Life Member) Ramanbhai Barber (Hindu faith) Ramesh Bellur (Buddhist faith) Sunil Budheou (Hindu faith) Catherine Danaher (Catholic faith) Mohamed Esat (Muslim faith) Rosemarie Fitton Pradip Gajjar (Hindu faith - ISKON Leicester) Reverend Levy Gono (Christian faith) Julie Harrald (Christian faith) Dr. Angela Jagger (Anglican faith) Rashimkant Joshi (Hindu faith)

Manjula Sood (Hindu faith) Janette Macdonald (Bahai faith) Ramesh Mashru (Hindu faith) Tony Nelson (Jewish faith) Dr. Gurpreet Parmar (Sikh faith) Rabbi Shmuli Pink (Jewish faith) Naresh Popat (Hindu faith) Maunesh Shah (Jain faith) Marcus Solanki (Anglican faith) Gail Kenney (Christian faith) - Coordinator Pramod Thakkar – Jalaram Charitable Trust (Temple) Zubeir Hassam – Oadby Wigston Muslim Association & Muslim School Oadby Jai Purohit - Shree Shakti Mandir Temple Leicester Praful Thakrar - Shreejidham Haveli, Leicester Barbara Czyznikowska- Project Polska Sanjiv Patel - BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir Abdul Karim Gheewala – Federation of Muslim Organisations Leicestershire Ashok Mahindra – Geeta Bhavan Temple Nikunj Shah - Oshwal Association of UK - Leicester area Kartar Singh – (Sikh Faith) Mumtaz Suleman – Muslim Khatri Association Leicester Mustafa Malik (Muslim faith) Vibhooti Acharya - Shree Sanatan Mandir