Democracy Matters – Motion as adjusted, approved.

14 Bailie Carroll, seconded by Bailie Gallagher, moved that:-

"Council notes that 2023 is the 50th anniversary of the legislation which introduced community councils in Scotland. Council thanks all community councillors past and present who have given their time in service of their local communities and worked hard to strengthen democratic participation over the past 50 years which we have seen them operate in their current form.

Council notes the launch of the Democracy Matters consultation by the Scottish Government which seeks to inform proposals for a reinvigoration of local democracy through a forthcoming Local Governance Bill.

Council notes that Scotland has the largest first tier of local governance anywhere in Europe and that while we have community councils established by statute, they are entirely voluntary and have limited powers.

Council notes the findings of the first phase of Democracy Matters consultative work, which highlighted a broad range of barriers to community engagement and empowerment, and that there has to be a multi-faceted approach to engaging communities as one size does not fit all. Council acknowledges the role other forms of community groups such as youth forums, local strategy groups, and area partnerships have in providing spaces for communities to organise and enact local change.

Council agrees to engage with communities during this second phase of Democracy Matters consultation and to advocate in earnest for radical action to grow grassroots democracy and to transfer powers and resources to new or strengthened forms of grassroots local governance.

Council also agrees to strengthen existing frameworks for community engagement and empowerment, such as community councils, including by:

- Aiming to ensure there are no dormant community councils, including exploring temporary arrangements with neighbouring active community councils if required.
- Exploring with Community Councils the challenges they currently face in retention, and supporting research via the Democracy Matters consultation on them, such as remuneration for Community Councillors.
- Prioritising redevelopment of Glasgow City Council's online services within Glasgow's new Digital Strategy to be more user friendly and varied in approach to best support accessibility in engagement on areas such as community consultation and planning.
- Undertaking a review with community councils of additional powers which could be exercised at grassroots level, potentially including powers over community asset management, elements of traffic regulation and allocation of street cleansing and other environment services.

- Improve support to community councils including updating training, and help to ensure community council membership is inclusive of the whole community including those with protected characteristics.
- Ensure that the reform of area partnerships to citizen panels empowers communities both with and without community councils, but is done in conjunction with them so as not to conflict with their democratic, statutory role."

Councillor McTaggart, seconded by Councillor Cannon, moved as an amendment:-

(1) to insert the following paragraph after the third paragraph:

"Council also notes how our Education Services are pioneering youth empowerment in partnership with Glasgow Life and the wider Glasgow family as evidenced by the citywide School Forum, senior Phase Parliament and recent Young People's Conference in October.";

(2) to insert the following three paragraphs after the fourth paragraph:

"Council notes its renewed resolve to put local people and communities at the centre of local decision-making by drawing on the experiences gained by local communities during and since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Council underlines its commitment as stated in the strategic plan Grand Challenge 4 Mission 2 to "Run an open, well governed council in partnership with all our communities". Council acknowledges it won the European category Open Government Partnership Award 2023 - testament to the work being undertaken by our Corporate Policy and Governance Team and the Centre for Civic Innovation on Citizen Power expanding participative democracy through citizens panels and the further review and empowerment of Community Councils in how they exercise change at a grassroots level which can provide a frequent source of consultation with individuals on a range of local issues across the city and can be integral to both community engagement and Neighbourhood Management processes and complements the general purpose of a Community Council to ascertain, coordinate and express the wider views of the entire community, and showcased at the OGP Global Summit 2023.

Council congratulates the staff involved and recognises that OGP commended the models of Citizen Power that are embedded in the way the city functions to create sustainable changes; that this includes understanding people's values, attitudes and behaviours towards local and city-wide policy and services, and applying design thinking, co-creation, and data science to achieve successful outcomes with stakeholders and resources aligned. Council also recognises how People Make Glasgow's Communities and the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Fund have been commended as decision-making models for Neighbourhoods that can be deployed for infrastructure improvements.";

(3) to delete the following fourth bullet at the last paragraph:

"Undertaking a review with community councils of additional powers which could be exercised at grassroots level, potentially including powers over community asset management, elements of traffic regulation and allocation of street cleansing and other environment services.";

(4) to insert after "inclusive" and before "of the whole …" at the last paragraph, fifth bullet:

"and more representative"; and

(5) to delete "citizen panels" at the last paragraph, sixth bullet.

Bailie Carroll, with the approval of his seconder, accepted the amendment by Councillor McTaggart resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

"Council notes that 2023 is the 50th anniversary of the legislation which introduced community councils in Scotland. Council thanks all community councillors past and present who have given their time in service of their local communities and worked hard to strengthen democratic participation over the past 50 years which we have seen them operate in their current form.

Council notes the launch of the Democracy Matters consultation by the Scottish Government which seeks to inform proposals for a reinvigoration of local democracy through a forthcoming Local Governance Bill.

Council notes that Scotland has the largest first tier of local governance anywhere in Europe and that while we have community councils established by statute, they are entirely voluntary and have limited powers.

Council also notes how our Education Services are pioneering youth empowerment in partnership with Glasgow Life and the wider Glasgow family as evidenced by the citywide School Forum, senior Phase Parliament and recent Young People's Conference in October.

Council notes the findings of the first phase of Democracy Matters consultative work, which highlighted a broad range of barriers to community engagement and empowerment, and that there has to be a multi-faceted approach to engaging communities as one size does not fit all. Council acknowledges the role other forms of community groups such as youth forums, local strategy groups, and area partnerships have in providing spaces for communities to organise and enact local change.

Council notes its renewed resolve to put local people and communities at the centre of local decision-making by drawing on the experiences gained by local communities during and since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Council underlines its commitment as stated in the strategic plan Grand Challenge 4 Mission 2 to "Run an open, well governed council in partnership with all our communities". Council acknowledges it won the European category Open

Government Partnership Award 2023 - testament to the work being undertaken by our Corporate Policy and Governance Team and the Centre for Civic Innovation on Citizen Power expanding participative democracy through citizens panels which can provide a frequent source of consultation with individuals on a range of local issues across the city and can be integral to both community engagement and Neighbourhood Management processes and complements the general purpose of a Community Council to ascertain, coordinate and express the wider views of the entire community, and showcased at the OGP Global Summit 2023.

Council congratulates the staff involved and recognises that OGP commended the models of Citizen Power that are embedded in the way the city functions to create sustainable changes; that this includes understanding people's values, attitudes and behaviours towards local and city-wide policy and services, and applying design thinking, co-creation, and data science to achieve successful outcomes with stakeholders and resources aligned. Council also recognises how People Make Glasgow's Communities and the Neighbourhood Infrastructure Fund have been commended as decision-making models for Neighbourhoods that can be deployed for infrastructure improvements."

Council agrees to engage with communities during this second phase of Democracy Matters consultation and to advocate in earnest for radical action to grow grassroots democracy and to transfer powers and resources to new or strengthened forms of grassroots local governance.

Council also agrees to strengthen existing frameworks for community engagement and empowerment, such as community councils, including by:

- Aiming to ensure there are no dormant community councils, including exploring temporary arrangements with neighbouring active community councils if required.
- Exploring with Community Councils the challenges they currently face in retention, and supporting research via the Democracy Matters consultation on them, such as remuneration for Community Councillors.
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- Improve support to community councils including updating training, and help to ensure community council membership is inclusive and more representative of the whole community including those with protected characteristics.
- Ensure that the reform of area partnerships empowers communities both with and without community councils, but is done in conjunction with them so as not to conflict with their democratic, statutory role."

The motion as adjusted was approved unanimously.

Adjournment.

15 In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1530 hours until 1545 hours.

Resumption.

16 The meeting resumed at 1545 hours and the sederunt was taken as follows:-

Present: The Lord Provost, Jacqueline McLaren (Chair).

SAQIB AHMED	STEPHEN DOCHERTY	NORMAN MacLEOD
SUSAN AITKEN	LAURA DOHERTY	ELAINE McSPORRAN
IMRAN ALAM	STEPHEN DORNAN	KENNY McLEAN
BLAIR ANDERSON	PATRICIA FERGUSON	ANNE McTAGGART
KEN ANDREW	SEAN FERGUSON	HANZALA MALIK
ALEXANDER BELIC	ELAINE GALLAGHER	CHRISTY MEARNS
RICHARD BELL	ZEN GHANI	ANGUS MILLAR
DECLAN BLENCH	ALLAN GOW	MALCOLM MITCHELL
EVA BOLANDER	WILLIAM GRAHAM	JON MOLYNEUX
ABDUL BOSTANI	SHARON GREER	MARGARET MORGAN
PHILIP BRAAT	GREG HEPBURN	EVA MURRAY
JILL BROWN	FIONA HIGGINS	CECILIA O'LONE
HOLLY BRUCE	RASHID HUSSAIN	KEIRAN O'NEILL
MAUREEN BURKE	DAN HUTCHISON	JILL PIDGEON
BILL BUTLER	FYEZA IKHLAQ	LINDA PIKE
GRAHAM CAMPBELL	EUNIS JASSEMI	HANIF RAJA
CHRISTINA CANNON	ANN JENKINS	THOMAS RANNACHAN
PAUL CAREY	LILITH JOHNSTONE	GEORGE REDMOND
JOHN CARSON	RUAIRI KELLY	LANA REID-MCCONNELL
ANTHONY CARROLL	ALEX KERR	ROZA SALIH
ALLAN CASEY	MATT KERR	FRANNY SCALLY
ANNETTE CHRISTIE	THOMAS KERR	JAMES SCANLON
CHRIS CUNNINGHAM	KEVIN LALLEY	SORYIA SIDDIQUE
STEPHEN CURRAN	PAUL LEINSTER	KIERAN TURNER
FEARGAL DALTON	FRANK McAVEETY	CATHERINE VALLIS
JOHN DALY	PAUL McCABE	MARTHA WARDROP
AUDREY DEMPSEY	ELAINE McDOUGALL	ALEX WILSON

LORD DEAN OF GUILD

Apology: Leòdhas Massie.

Attending: M Millar, Director of Legal and Administration; A O'Donnell, Chief Executive; M Booth, Executive Director of Finance; G Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability; I Robertson, Director of City Development; K Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth; C Edgar, Director of

Communication and Corporate Governance; and A Eccles (for the Chief Officer, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership).