Teacher Cuts and MCR Pathways Review – Motion dealt with, after division.

10 Councillor Pidgeon, seconded by Councillor Johnstone, moved that:-

"Council expresses its deep concern over the reduction in teacher numbers and potential consequences of the ongoing review of MCR Pathways, as a result of the latest City Administration Budget.

Council recognises the indispensable role teachers play in shaping the future of our children and communities, as well as closing the attainment gap across the city. Council emphasises that any decision leading to a decrease in classroom teachers within our city's schools will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on the children of the city, as well as the city of Glasgow itself. Council notes that the inadequate funding provided by the Scottish Government means that essential services provided by the Council are being impacted, with education being hardest hit.

Council also notes the ongoing review of MCR Pathways, a vital support system for vulnerable students. This review must not impede the educational journey of these students, many of whom are care experienced. Council notes that the delivery model for MCR Pathways is currently being reviewed and emphasises that it is of the utmost importance that this review should focus on continuing to provide support for these vulnerable students and recognises the need for additional funding to be found.

Council vehemently asserts that education must remain a top priority for the Administration and the Scottish Government. Cuts to teacher numbers and essential student support programmes are unacceptable and must be urgently addressed.

Glasgow Labour stands committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of students and educators across our communities and will continue to hold this City Administration to account for its actions that have a detrimental impact to education.

The Glasgow Labour Group affirms its dedication to safeguarding the future of Glasgow's education and ensuring that every student can thrive. Council asks the Leader of The Council to urgently write to the Scottish Government to seek additional funding."

Councillor Cannon, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved as an amendment that:-

(1) at the first paragraph, delete all and replace with:

"Council recognises the overall budget gap of £107million over the next 3 years has meant that tough decisions need to be taken across all departments; and this difficult financial climate has resulted in extremely difficult decisions having to be taken such as the reduction in teacher numbers and the review of MCR Pathways. Council further acknowledges that all political parties who presented a budget had an element of teacher savings, with Labour proposing to take the most.";

(2) at the second paragraph:

(a) delete first sentence and replace with the following:

"Council recognises the indispensable role teachers, education staff and partner organisations play in shaping the future of our children and communities, as well as closing the poverty-related attainment gap across the city." and

(b) delete last sentence and replace with the following:

"Council notes that the inadequate funding provided by the Scottish Government, UK Government austerity and pressures caused by settling Labour's equal pay scandal are all factors in the budgetary pressures which are currently impacting public services and citizens. Council notes the concerns raised by parents, carers, young people, staff and trade unions in relation to budget savings and will continue to work with key stakeholders to minimise any impact."; and

(3) at the fourth paragraph, delete from "Cuts to teacher numbers and essential student support programmes are unacceptable and must be urgently addressed" until the end and replace with:

"Council acknowledges that Education Services has been largely protected in the last 7 years through SNP budgets, with teacher numbers themselves being protected in that same time; and reinforces our commitment to ensuring every child and young person in the city has a high-quality education and learning experience.

Council acknowledges the range of factors affecting young people's attainment and achievement, including poverty, and therefore calls on the Conservative UK Government and UK Labour Party to fully commit to measures in their manifesto for the upcoming General Election which will lift children and families out of poverty such as abolishing the two child cap, radically reforming the welfare system and backing a new deal for workers; and condemns the Glasgow Labour group for voting to defund the Holiday Food Programme in their most recent budget.

Council further acknowledges the creation of the Political Oversight Group which is looking at various budget options detailed in the Council's budget, including teacher numbers and MCR Pathways; and instructs the group to look at all options for income generation. Council also reiterates the position already taken by the Political Oversight Group that all options presented should have already gone through meaningful consultation with relevant stakeholders. Council expects that the members of the Political Oversight Group work together to achieve the best outcome for young people in Glasgow.

Council therefore agrees that the Leader of the Council and relevant City Convenor should write to the Scottish Government on the funding model for Glasgow; and also write to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition outlining Glasgow's priorities and expectations for additional funding should they win the next General Election."

Councillor Anderson, seconded by Bailie Hoy, moved as an amendment that**:-**

(1) at the end of the first paragraph, insert

“Council recalls that all budgets proposed by political groups in the Council included cuts to the Education Services budget. Council believes that no councillor wants to be in the position of reducing teacher numbers, and therefore councillors are acting out of their legal obligations to set balanced budgets, not out of a political desire to cut education budgets. Council recalls its decision to establish a Service Redesign and Future Income Generation Political Oversight Group (SRFIGPOG), which is the appropriate forum to decide on issues affecting relevant services.”;

(2) at the end of the second paragraph, insert

“Council further notes that the ability of the Scottish Government to fund services is significantly impacted by the block grant it receives from the UK Government, which is determined by the fiscal policy of the UK Government. Council welcomes the political choices taken by the Scottish Government in recent years to devolve more revenue-raising powers to local government and to make Scotland’s taxation system more progressive, raising billions of pounds to invest in public services and to mitigate the effect of austerity. Council expresses a desire to see a UK Government which makes tax more progressive and which invests significantly more in public services.”;

(3) at the third paragraph,

(a) after **“**Council also notes the ongoing review of MCR Pathways, a vital support system for vulnerable students”, insert the following

“Council notes the benefits of a mentoring scheme for young people who need it most, and asks the SRFIGPOG to explore sustainable and cost-effective ways to continue delivering a mentoring scheme for young people who need it most, many of whom are care experienced, in a way which has minimal impact on their educational experience.”;

and

(b) delete “This review must not impede the educational journey of these students, many of whom are care experienced.”

(4) at the fourth paragraph

(a) after **“**Council vehemently asserts that education must remain a top priority for the Administration and the Scottish Government,” insert “while also noting the many pressures on the Scottish Government’s budget, including but not limited to, climate action, the eradication of poverty and the funding of the NHS in Scotland. Cuts to teacher numbers and essential student support programmes are undesirable and Council hopes that all parties will bring forward detailed fiscal proposals to ensure these services are funded properly.”; and

(b) delete **“**are unacceptable and must be urgently addressed” and insert:

"Council hopes that all parties and all councillors will approach the SRFIGPOG process constructively and in good faith, with a recognition that all proposed budgets had reductions in education spending due to the fiscal context the Council faces.

While noting and respecting the role of the SRFIGPOG, Council believes that the priorities of the SRFIGPOG should be:

- To support and drive forward the development of innovative and ambitious ways to generate more income for the Council, including but not limited to a Workplace Parking Levy, a road user charging scheme, a Visitor Levy, a review of Glasgow Life income generation opportunities, and a review of the discretionary powers held by the Council over council tax and non-domestic rates, particularly around reliefs and exemptions.

- To identify potential savings which can be delivered in a way which protects or has minimal impact on staff and service delivery.

- To protect the most vulnerable people from the harshest effects of austerity, noting the significant barriers faced by young people with Additional Support Needs, young people with English as a Second Language, and young people who face Adverse Childhood Experiences, including experience of care.

- To engage meaningfully and constructively with the Council's staff, partners and stakeholders, including but not limited to trade unions, groups representing parents, and groups representing young people; specific consideration should be given to consulting with groups which face unique or distinct pressures, such as the Gaelic Medium Education working group.";

(5) delete the fifth paragraph; and

(6) at the sixth paragraph delete

"The Glasgow Labour Group affirms its dedication to safeguarding the future of Glasgow's education and ensuring that every student can thrive."; and

after "Council asks the Leader of The Council to urgently write to the Scottish Government to seek additional funding," insert

"as well as delivery of further revenue-raising powers to local government, including but not limited to:

- Devolution of more rate-setting powers for fees and charges.

- Devolution of more powers over reliefs, exemptions and supplements to council tax and non-domestic rates.

- Devolution of new powers such as a Cruise Ship Levy, a Carbon Emissions Land Tax, a Public Health Levy, an Infrastructure Levy, a Building Safety Levy, and further powers to set a Second Home Surcharge on council tax.

- Devolution of power of general competence."

Councillor Daly, seconded by Bailie Thomas Kerr, moved as an amendment that:-

(1) at the fifth paragraph, remove "Glasgow Labour" and replace with "Council"; and

(2) at the sixth paragraph, remove "Glasgow Labour Group" and replace with "Council"

During the debate Councillors Pidgeon and Daly, with the agreement of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendment resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

"Council expresses its deep concern over the reduction in teacher numbers and potential consequences of the ongoing review of MCR Pathways, as a result of the latest City Administration Budget.

Council recognises the indispensable role teachers play in shaping the future of our children and communities, as well as closing the attainment gap across the city. Council emphasises that any decision leading to a decrease in classroom teachers within our city's schools will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on the children of the city, as well as the city of Glasgow itself. Council notes that the inadequate funding provided by the Scottish Government means that essential services provided by the Council are being impacted, with education being hardest hit.

Council also notes the ongoing review of MCR Pathways, a vital support system for vulnerable students. This review must not impede the educational journey of these students, many of whom are care experienced. Council notes that the delivery model for MCR Pathways is currently being reviewed and emphasises that it is of the utmost importance that this review should focus on continuing to provide support for these vulnerable students and recognises the need for additional funding to be found.

Council vehemently asserts that education must remain a top priority for the Administration and the Scottish Government. Cuts to teacher numbers and essential student support programmes are unacceptable and must be urgently addressed. Council stands committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of students and educators across our communities and will continue to hold this City Administration to account for its actions that have a detrimental impact to education.

The Council affirms its dedication to safeguarding the future of Glasgow's education and ensuring that every student can thrive. Council asks the Leader of The Council to urgently write to the Scottish Government to seek additional funding."

During the debate Councillors Cannon and Anderson, with the agreement of their seconders, agreed to combine their amendments resulting in the following adjusted amendment:-

"Council recognises the overall budget gap of £107million over the next 3 years has meant that tough decisions need to be taken across all departments; and this difficult financial climate has resulted in extremely difficult decisions having to be taken such as the reduction in teacher numbers and the review of MCR Pathways. Council recalls that all budgets proposed by political groups in the Council included cuts to the Education Services budget with Labour proposing to take the most, equivalent to 650 teachers. Council believes that no councillor wants to be in the position of reducing teacher numbers, and therefore councillors are acting out of their legal obligations to set balanced budgets, not out of a political desire to cut education budgets.

Council recognises the indispensable role teachers, education staff and partner organisations play in shaping the future of our children and communities, as well as closing the poverty-related attainment gap across the city. Council emphasises that any decision leading to a decrease in classroom teachers within our city's schools will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on the children of the city, as well as the city of Glasgow itself. Council notes that the inadequate funding provided by the Scottish Government, UK Government austerity and pressures caused by settling Labour's equal pay scandal are all factors in the budgetary pressures which are currently impacting public services and citizens. Council further notes that the ability of the Scottish Government to fund services is significantly impacted by the block grant it receives from the UK Government, which is determined by the fiscal policy of the UK Government. Council welcomes the political choices taken by the Scottish Government in recent years to devolve more revenue-raising powers to local government and to make Scotland's taxation system more progressive, raising billions of pounds to invest in public services and to mitigate the effect of austerity. Council expresses a desire to see a UK Government which makes tax more progressive, and which invests significantly more in public services.

Council also notes the ongoing review of MCR Pathways, a vital support system for vulnerable students. Council notes the benefits of a mentoring scheme for young people who need it most and asks the Service Reform Future Income Generation Political Oversight Group (SRFIGPOG) to explore sustainable and cost-effective ways to continue delivering a mentoring scheme for young people who need it most, many of whom are care experienced, in a way which has minimal impact on their educational experience.

Council vehemently asserts that education must remain a top priority for the Administration and the Scottish Government, while also noting the many pressures on the Scottish Government's budget, including but not limited to, climate action, the eradication of poverty and the funding of the NHS in Scotland.

Council acknowledges that Education Services has been largely protected in the last 7 years through SNP budgets and SNP-Green budget agreements, with teacher numbers themselves being protected in that same time; and reinforces our commitment to ensuring every child and young person in the city has a high-quality education and learning experience. Council hopes that all parties will bring forward detailed fiscal proposals to ensure these services are funded properly. Council notes the concerns raised by parents, carers, young people, staff and trade unions in relation to budget savings and will continue to work with key stakeholders to minimise any impact and reflect the learning needs of individual school communities.

Council acknowledges the range of factors affecting young people's attainment and achievement, including poverty, and therefore calls on the Conservative Party and Labour Party to fully commit to measures in their manifesto for the upcoming General Election which will lift children and families out of poverty such as abolishing the two child cap, radically reforming the welfare system and backing a new deal for workers; and condemns the Glasgow Labour group for voting to defund the Holiday Food Programme in their most recent budget.

Council further acknowledges the creation of the SRFIGPOG which is looking at various budget options detailed in the Council's budget, including teacher numbers and MCR Pathways. Council also reiterates the position already taken by the SRFIGPOG that all options presented should have already gone through meaningful consultation with relevant stakeholders. Council hopes that all parties and all councillors will approach the SRFIGPOG process constructively and in good faith, with a recognition that all proposed budgets had reductions in education spending due to the fiscal context the Council faces.

While noting and respecting the role of the SRFIGPOG, Council believes that the priorities of the SRFIGPOG should be:

- To support and drive forward the development of innovative and ambitious ways to generate more income for the Council, including but not limited to a Workplace Parking Levy, a road user charging scheme, a Visitor Levy, a review of Glasgow Life income generation opportunities, and a review of the discretionary powers held by the Council over council tax and non-domestic rates, particularly around reliefs and exemptions.
- To find any potential genuine efficiencies which can be found, in a way which protects staff and service delivery.
- To protect the most vulnerable people from the harshest effects of austerity, noting the significant barriers faced by young people with Additional Support Needs, young people with English as a Second Language, and young people who face Adverse Childhood Experiences, including experience of care.
- To engage meaningfully and constructively with the Council's staff, partners and stakeholders, including but not limited to trade unions, groups representing parents, and groups representing young people.

Council asks the Leader of The Council to urgently write to the Scottish Government to seek additional funding, as well as delivery of further revenue-raising powers to local government, including but not limited to:

- Devolution of more rate-setting powers for fees and charges.
- Devolution of more powers over reliefs, exemptions and supplements to council tax and non-domestic rates.
- Devolution of new powers such as a Cruise Ship Levy, a Carbon Emissions Land Tax, a Public Health Levy, an Infrastructure Levy, a Building Safety Levy, and further powers to set a Second Home Surcharge on council tax.
- Devolution of power of general competence.
- Council further asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition outlining Glasgow's priorities and expectations for additional funding should they win the next General Election."

On a vote being taken electronically and by roll call, 47 members voted for the amendment as adjusted and 36 for the motion as adjusted.

The amendment as adjusted was accordingly declared to be carried.