**MINUTES**

**OF**

**GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL.**

Glasgow, 12th September 2024.

**Hybrid meeting, Glasgow City Council.**

Present: The Depute Lord Provost, Christy Mearns (Chair).

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

LORD DEAN OF GUILD

DEACON CONVENER

Apologies: Imran Alam, Laura Doherty, Elaine Gallagher, Matt Kerr and Leòdhas Massie.

Attending: M Millar, Director of Legal and Administration; S Millar, Chief Executive; D Hutchison, Executive Director of Education Services; M Booth, Executive Director of Finanace; G Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability; J Kerr, Interim Chief

Officer, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; and C Edgar, Director of Communication and Corporate Governance.

**Death of former Councillor John Flannagan.**

**1** The Depute Lord Provost referred to the recent death of former Councillor John Flannagan and extended the House's condolences to his family. The House stood in silence as a mark of respect.

**Deacon Convener – Valediction.**

**2** The Depute Lord Provost intimated that Mr Bruce Reidford would shortly demit office from the position of Deacon Convener of the Trades House.

On behalf of the Council, the Depute Lord Provost thanked Mr Reidford for his continued interest in the affairs of the Council, for his assistance on civic and ceremonial occasions and for the willingness of the Trades House to maintain the ancient ties with the Council. Mr Reidford replied in suitable terms.

**Statement by Leader of the Council.**

**3** The Leader of the Council made a statement regarding Fornethy House and, on behalf of the Council, apologised to the women who had suffered abuse while attending the facility in the 1960/70s.

**Minutes approved.**

**4** The minutes of the Council meeting of 27th June 2024 (Print 3, pages 1 to 74) were submitted and approved.

**Minutes of committees submitted and approved.**

**5** The minutes of the undernoted committees were submitted and approved:-

(1) City Administration Committee of 20th June, 8th and 22nd August (Print 3, pages 75 to 96);

(2) City Policy Committees

(a) Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration of 20th August 2024 (Print 3, pages 97 to 102);

(b) Education, Skills and Early Years of 22nd August 2024 (Print 3, pages 103 to 106);

(c) Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods of 27th August 2024 (Print 3, pages 107 to 110); and

(d) Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring of 13th August 2024 (Print 3, pages 111 to 116);

(3) Contracts and Property Committee of 8th and 29th August 2024 (Print 3, pages 117 to 126);

(4) Licensing and Regulatory Committee of 19th, 20th and 26th June and 7th, 8th, 14th, 21st, 22nd and 28th August 2024 (Print 3, pages 127 to 164);

(5) Planning Applications Committee of 18th June and 6th and 20th August 2024 (Print 3, pages 165 to 170);

(6) Planning Local Review Committee of 25th June and 13th and 27th August 2024 (Print 3, pages 171 to 176);

(7) Scrutiny Committees

(a) Finance and Audit of 19th June and 21st August 2024 (Print 3, pages 177 to 182); and

(b) Strathclyde Pension Fund Committee of 26th June 2024 (Print 3, pages 183 to 187).

**Council and Committee Standing Orders approved.**

**6** There was submitted a report by the Director of Legal and Administration regarding the Council and Committee Standing Orders, highlighting proposed amendments which had been made to the existing Standing Orders.

After consideration, the Council approved the Council and Committee Standing Orders as submitted.

The approved Council and Committee Standing Orders are printed as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

**Changes to committees approved.**

**7** The Council approved the following appointments and changes to committees:-

| *Committee etc* | *Appointment* |
|---|---|
| Bailie | Remove Patricia Ferguson and appoint Eva Murray as Bailie |

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|---|---|
| Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee | Remove Imran Alam and appoint Stephen Curran |
| Licensing and Regulatory Committee | Remove Leòdhas Massie and appoint Anthony Carroll |
| Net Zero and Climate Progress Monitoring City Policy Committee | Change Vice chair from Alexander Belic to Declan Blench |
| Operational Performance and Delivery Scrutiny Committee | Remove Maureen Burke and appoint Soryia Siddique as Chair<br><br>Remove Jill Pidgeon and Patricia Ferguson and appoint Stephen Docherty and Eunis Jassemi |
| Planning Applications Committee | Remove Kenny McLean and Maureen Burke and appoint Sean Ferguson and Jill Pidgeon |
| Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee | Remove Cecilia O'Lone and Jill Pidgeon and appoint John Carson and Eva Murray |
| Workforce Board | Remove Laura Doherty and appoint Margaret Morgan |

**Appointments and representation on outside bodies approved.**

**8** The Council approved the following appointments and changes to its representation on outside bodies:-

| *Organisation* | *Appointment* |
|---|---|
| Built Heritage Commission | Remove Soryia Siddique and appoint Stephen Docherty |
| Glasgow City Integration Joint Board | Remove Cecilia O'Lone and appoint Hanif Raja<br><br>Remove Matt Kerr as substitute and appoint Paul Carey |
| Transforming Communities Glasgow Board | Remove Kenny McLean and appoint Ruairi Kelly |

**Questions.**

**9** Answers to the following questions, of which notice had been given under Standing Order No 11, were given as undernoted:-

| *Question by* | *Question* | *Answered by* |
|---|---|---|
| Bailie Soryia Siddique | Can the relevant City Convener advise on the costs of demolition of dangerous buildings over the past five years and how much was recovered from owners? | Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets |
| Councillor Jill Pidgeon | To ask the relevant City Convener if they agree with the Education Secretary, Jenny Gilruth, that it is impossible to improve attainment, attendance, and address challenging behaviour with fewer teachers, in light of the cuts to education made by this City Administration? | Councillor Christina Cannon, City Convener for Education and Early Years |
| Bailie James Scanlon | To ask the relevant City Convener what measures Glasgow City Council is taking to address the proliferation of graffiti and anti-social behaviour along the Clydeside? | Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets |
| Councillor Elaine McDougall | To ask the relevant City Convener how many homeless individuals required bed and breakfast accommodation over the past year? | Councillor Allan Casey, City Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services |
| Councillor Holly Bruce | To ask the relevant City Convener what conversations they have had with the Scottish Government on when the Delivering Equally Safe Funding will be committed to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) services and if they've reconfirmed their commitment to the multi-year funding model? | Councillor Anne McTaggart, City Convener for Communities and Equalities |
| Councillor Dan Hutchison | To ask the relevant City Convener what impact the Scottish Government's cuts to its active and sustainable travel budget will have on the Council's ambitious plans for the city network and liveable neighbourhoods programmes? | Councillor Angus Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery |
| Councillor John Carson | Can the relevant City Convener provide details on how the council | Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for |

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|---|---|---|
| | confirms that the gully cleaning programme is being effectively carried out across the city? | Neighbourhood Services and Assets |
| Councillor John Molyneux | To ask the City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations if she will explore whether the city's Common Good Funds could contribute to the costs of an annual civic fireworks display, as happens in several other Scottish council areas? | Bailie Annette Christie, City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations |
| Bailie Ann Jenkins | To ask the relevant City Convener how many homes are currently lying empty in Glasgow? | Councillor Allan Casey, City Convener for Workforce and Homelessness and Addiction Services |
| Bailie Christy Mearns | To ask the relevant City Convener whether the replacement of 3G "rubber crumb" sports pitches across the Education estate can be accelerated, given the growing evidence of dangerous health and environmental impacts? | Written answer to be provided |
| Councillor Saqib Ahmed | To ask the relevant City Convener if school boilers were serviced prior to the beginning of the new school term? | Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets |
| Councillor Jill Brown | To ask the relevant City Convener how can GCC prevent public health issues that arise from waste bins not being collected on schedule? | Councillor Ruairi Kelly, City Convener for Neighbourhood Services and Assets |
| Bailie Seonad Hoy | To ask the Leader of the Council if she received responses from the then-Foreign Secretary and First Minister to her letters regarding the Solidarity with Palestine motion passed at Full Council in March of this year, and if she intends to write to their successors to share this Council's agreed position on the provision of weapons to Israel? | Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader and Convener for City and City Region Economy and Just Transition |
| Councillor Jon Molyneux | To ask the City Treasurer what discussions he has had with the Chair of the Glasgow City | Councillor Richard Bell, Depute Leader and City |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Integration Joint Board regarding the £7.4m funding the Council received after setting its Budget, of which around £5m stems, via the Barnett Formula, from social care spending in England? | Treasurer and Convener for Financial Inclusion |
| Councillor Sean Ferguson | To ask the City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations about hosting the European Heritage Hub and Glasgow's accolade of being identified as one of ten leading cities for exemplary local practices in the field of cultural heritage? | Bailie Annette Christie, City Convener for Culture, Sport and International Relations |
| Councillor Keiran O'Neill | To ask the relevant City Convener what action the council is taking to ensure Citizens Advice Bureau can effectively support Glaswegians? | Councillor Richard Bell, Depute Leader and City Treasurer and Convener for Financial Inclusion |

**Glasgow rejects racism and far-right extremism – Motion as adjusted approved.**

**10** Councillor Aitken, seconded by Councillor Campbell moved that:-

"Council acknowledges that these have been hugely challenging times for millions across our islands, as over 20 towns and cities across England and the North of Ireland erupted in violent riots as racist far-right agitators shamefully exploited the tragic murders of Bebe King, 6, Elsie Dot Stancombe, 7, and Alice Dasilva Aguiar, 9 in Southport. Council is appalled that there have been fire attacks on hotels housing asylum seekers; that Mosques, homes and businesses have been targeted by race hate thugs; and that members of the public have been assaulted on the streets because of the colour of their skin.

Council is clear that we cannot become complacent or assume that such events could never take place in Glasgow; notes that the same extreme anti-immigration, anti-refugee and Islamophobic rhetoric from certain sections of the press and social media that fuelled these riots elsewhere has also been spread in Glasgow; and that similar bad faith actors seeking to capitalise on heightened emotions have sought to create this type of division in our city.

Council declares its solidarity with Glasgow's global majority and migrant communities; deeply regrets the climate of fear and vulnerability that has been created; and is distressed to hear reports that they feel concerned about their own security and wellbeing in our city. Council records our thanks for the work of faith and community organisations, Council officers and Police Scotland to provide reassurance and ensure support is in place where it is needed.

Council condemns race hate in all its forms; unequivocally rejects far-right rhetoric and activity; and agrees that far-right ringleaders such as Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, known as Tommy Robinson, are not welcome in Glasgow. Council further deplores attempts by some Members of the UK Parliament and sections of the media to justify, excuse or downplay far-right activity.

Council thanks all Glaswegians and others from across Scotland who have come together to take a stand against racism and fascism and to celebrate our diverse, multicultural city. Council records our belief that inward migration has been and continues to be a positive force in Glasgow, enhancing our city socially, culturally and economically; and is proud of our record of strong community relations and of integration of asylum seekers and refugees, not only as the largest asylum dispersal authority in the UK, but also as a city that has itself been built and enriched by successive waves of migration. Council further believes that inward migration to the UK is not only positive but necessary and that policies which have set out to discourage people coming to live and work in the UK, such as Brexit and the so-called "hostile environment", have been deeply damaging to both the national economy and to social cohesion.

Council notes that National Hate Crime Awareness Week will take place 14 to 21 October 2024, and instructs officers to use this opportunity to partner with community and faith organisations, such as Glasgow Central Mosque and others, to further publicise and disseminate the Council's work to prevent hate crimes and provide support to victims and vulnerable communities.

Council further acknowledges the 2023 update report from the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Tackling Islamophobia in Scotland; welcomes its recommendations; and instructs the Chief Executive to undertake a review of how effectively the Council is currently fulfilling the recommendations pertaining to local authorities and whether more could be done."

Bailie Raja, seconded by Councillor Braat, moved as an amendment that:-

(1) at paragraph 4 after “far-right ringleaders” delete “such as Stephen Yaxley Lennon, known as Tommy Robinson.”

(2) after paragraph 4 insert the following paragraph:

“Council calls for the Chief Executive to write to Police Scotland requesting adequately resourced policing to monitor criminal content online including racism, islamophobia, antisemitism and any form of hate. Furthermore, Police Scotland should be requested to designate an officer as a point of contact for reporting or information related to online hate crime”

(3) after the paragraph above, insert the following new paragraph:

“The Council is to setup an anti-racism and hate education working groups to be chaired by an education specialist. Council notes the work undertaken by Gus John. He recommends a change in curriculum, advocating that it should

reflect the diverse histories and contributions from other racial and ethnic groups. In addition, he recommends that teachers and school staff receive training to recognise and challenge racist attitudes and practices.

(4) at the end of paragraph 8, after “vulnerable communities” insert the following:

“Council notes that this work isn’t reactive to the riots and applauds the good work being undertaken in Glasgow’s communities.

Council urges the UK Government to introduce and enforce stricter regulations for social media platforms to effectively address the spread of hate speech, misinformation, and extremist content. We advocate for the development of clear guidelines for the removal of harmful posts and the deplatforming of users who perpetuate hate and violence. Additionally, council requests that the UK Government engage directly with social media companies to create and implement comprehensive strategies for identifying and combating extremist and misleading content. Moreover, we also push for the establishment of transparent reporting mechanisms and accountability measures to ensure platforms take prompt and effective action against harmful content. Council welcomes and supports the Home Office in their efforts to inform a new government counter-extremism strategy on how best to tackle the threat posed by extremist ideologies online and offline.”

Council has long opposed far-right activities and frequently champions inclusivity and anti-racism efforts. Council condemns the far-right protest that took place on 7th September, which, despite attempts to incite division, was decisively outnumbered by ordinary Glaswegians, reflecting Glasgow’s commitment to unity and solidarity. Council makes clear the importance of standing against hate and promoting unity within Glasgow.”

Bailie Wardrop, seconded by Councillor Bruce, moved as an amendment that the following paragraphs be inserted between paragraph 5 beginning “Council thanks” and paragraph 6 beginning “Council notes”:-

“Council stands with all Glaswegians who attended the anti-racist rally in George Square on the 7th of September. Council commends the continuous work undertaken by community organisations, trade unions and activist groups and commits to working on the ground with communities to help tackle all forms of racist abuse.

Council agrees that local elected members have a role to play in ensuring that the far right threat is unable to feed local division and to minimise their impact in Glasgow. Council supports the use of resources from Hope Not Hate including “Showing strong local leadership against the far right, a guide for local councillors” and that this is a key part of the training programme for councillors. Council believes far right recruitment can thrive on disenfranchisement; and local councillors being available to listen and respond to community’s concerns will make it less likely that residents will look to other more extreme forms of representation.

Council also supports and commits to work with anti-racist charities and organisations like Show Racism The Red Card to help prevent racist rhetoric, behaviour and activity from happening within the city."

Councillor Aitken, with the agreement of her seconder, accepted the amendments by Bailie Raja and Bailie Wardrop, resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

"Council acknowledges that these have been hugely challenging times for millions across our islands, as over 20 towns and cities across England and the North of Ireland erupted in violent riots as racist far-right agitators shamefully exploited the tragic murders of Bebe King, 6, Elsie Dot Stancombe, 7, and Alice Dasilva Aguiar, 9 in Southport. Council is appalled that there have been fire attacks on hotels housing asylum seekers; that Mosques, homes and businesses have been targeted by race hate thugs; and that members of the public have been assaulted on the streets because of the colour of their skin.

Council is clear that we cannot become complacent or assume that such events could never take place in Glasgow; notes that the same extreme anti-immigration, anti-refugee and Islamophobic rhetoric from certain sections of the press and social media that fuelled these riots elsewhere has also been spread in Glasgow; and that similar bad faith actors seeking to capitalise on heightened emotions have sought to create this type of division in our city.

Council declares its solidarity with Glasgow's global majority and migrant communities; deeply regrets the climate of fear and vulnerability that has been created; and is distressed to hear reports that they feel concerned about their own security and wellbeing in our city. Council records our thanks for the work of faith and community organisations, Council officers and Police Scotland to provide reassurance and ensure support is in place where it is needed.

Council condemns race hate in all its forms; unequivocally rejects far-right rhetoric and activity; and agrees that far-right ringleaders such as Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, known as Tommy Robinson, are not welcome in Glasgow. Council further deplores attempts by some Members of the UK Parliament and sections of the media to justify, excuse or downplay far-right activity.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Police Scotland requesting adequately resourced policing to monitor criminal content online including racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism and any form of hate and to ask them to designate an officer as a point of contact for reporting or information related to online hate crime.

Council thanks all Glaswegians and others from across Scotland who have come together to take a stand against racism and fascism and to celebrate our diverse, multicultural city. Council records our belief that inward migration has been and continues to be a positive force in Glasgow, enhancing our city socially, culturally and economically; and is proud of our record of strong community relations and of integration of asylum seekers and refugees, not only as the largest asylum dispersal authority in the UK, but also as a city that has itself been built and enriched by successive waves of migration. Council further believes that inward migration to the UK is not only positive but necessary and that policies which have

set out to discourage people coming to live and work in the UK, such as Brexit and the so-called “hostile environment”, have been deeply damaging to both the national economy and to social cohesion.

Council stands with all Glaswegians who attended the anti-racist rally in George Square on the 7th of September. Council commends the continuous work undertaken by community organisations, trade unions and activist groups and commits to working on the ground with communities to help tackle all forms of racist abuse.

Council agrees that local elected members have a role to play in ensuring that the far right threat is unable to feed local division and to minimise their impact in Glasgow. Council supports the use of resources from Hope Not Hate including “Showing strong local leadership against the far right, a guide for local councillors” and that this is a key part of the training programme for councillors. Council believes far right recruitment can thrive on disenfranchisement; and local councillors being available to listen and respond to community’s concerns will make it less likely that residents will look to other more extreme forms of representation.

Council also supports and commits to work with anti-racist charities and organisations like Show Racism The Red Card to help prevent racist rhetoric, behaviour and activity from happening within the city.

Council urges the UK Government to introduce and enforce stricter regulations for social media platforms to effectively address the spread of hate speech, misinformation, and extremist content. We advocate for the development of clear guidelines for the removal of harmful posts and the deplatforming of users who perpetuate hate and violence. Additionally, council calls on the UK Government to engage directly with social media companies to create and implement comprehensive strategies for identifying and combating extremist and misleading content and to establish transparent reporting mechanisms and accountability measures to ensure platforms take prompt and effective action against harmful content.

Council notes that National Hate Crime Awareness Week will take place 14th to 21st October 2024, and instructs officers to use this opportunity to partner with community and faith organisations, such as Glasgow Central Mosque and others, to further publicise and disseminate the Council’s work to prevent hate crimes and provide support to victims and vulnerable communities.

Council further acknowledges the 2023 update report from the Scottish Parliament’s Cross-Party Group on Tackling Islamaphobia in Scotland; welcomes its recommendations; and instructs the Chief Executive to undertake a review of how effectively the Council is currently fulfilling the recommendations pertaining to local authorities and whether more could be done.”

The motion as adjusted was approved unanimously.

**Adjournment.**

**11** In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1315 hours until 1415 hours.

**Resumption of meeting.**

**12** The meeting resumed at 1415 hours and the sederunt was taken as follows:-

Present: The Depute Lord Provost, Christy Mearns (Chair).

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|---|---|---|
| SAQIB AHMED | STEPHEN DORNAN | ANNE McTAGGART |
| SUSAN AITKEN | SEAN FERGUSON | LEÒDHAS MASSIE |
| BLAIR ANDERSON | ZEN GHANI | ANGUS MILLAR |
| KEN ANDREW | WILLIAM GRAHAM | MALCOLM MITCHELL |
| ALEXANDER BELIC | SHARON GREER | JON MOLYNEUX |
| RICHARD BELL | GREG HEPBURN | ROBERT MOONEY |
| DECLAN BLENCH | FIONA HIGGINS | MARGARET MORGAN |
| EVA BOLANDER | SEONAD HOY | EVA MURRAY |
| ABDUL BOSTANI | RASHID HUSSAIN | CECILIA O'LONE |
| PHILIP BRAAT | FYEZA IKHLAQ | KEIRAN O'NEILL |
| JILL BROWN | EUNIS JASSEMI | JILL PIDGEON |
| HOLLY BRUCE | ANN JENKINS | LINDA PIKE |
| BILL BUTLER | LILITH JOHNSTONE | HANIF RAJA |
| GRAHAM CAMPBELL | RUAIRI KELLY | THOMAS RANNACHAN |
| CHRISTINA CANNON | ALEX KERR | GEORGE REDMOND |
| PAUL CAREY | THOMAS KERR | LANA REID-MCCONNELL |
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| STEPHEN CURRAN | JACQUELINE McLAREN | CATHERINE VALLIS |
| JOHN DALY | KENNY McLEAN | MARTHA WARDROP |
| AUDREY DEMPSEY | NORMAN MacLEOD | ALEX WILSON |
| STEPHEN DOCHERTY | ELAINE McSPORRAN | |

Apologies: Imran Alam, Laura Doherty, Elaine Gallagher, Dan Hutchison, Matt Kerr and Leòdhas Massie.

Attending: M Millar, Director of Legal and Administration; S Millar, Chief Executive; D Hutchison, Executive Director of Education Services; M Booth, Executive Director of Finanace; J Kerr, Interim Chief Officer, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; and C Edgar, Director of Communication and Corporate Governance.

**Welcoming the New UK Labour Government - Motion dealt with, after division.**

**13** Councillor Redmond, seconded by Bailie Siddique , moved that:-

"Council welcomes the election of a new UK Labour Government, committed to delivering transformative change to the people of the United Kingdom. However, Council acknowledges the significant challenges inherited from 14 years of Conservative rule, such as economic instability, housing shortages, a climate emergency, and growing inequality. Nonetheless, Council recognises the overwhelming support for Labour across Glasgow and the UK at the 2024 General Election, congratulates the new Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers on their appointments, and expresses confidence in their commitment to building a fairer, more equal society.

Council expresses its optimism for a fresh, positive working relationship between the UK and Scottish Governments and hopes that representatives from both governments will meet soon to discuss areas of collaboration. Council believes that collaboration and partnership between both governments will be crucial in addressing the challenges facing our communities, from economic recovery to tackling climate change. Council agrees that by working together, we can ensure the needs and aspirations of all citizens across the United Kingdom are met.

Council applauds the new UK Labour Government for abolishing the abhorrent Rwanda policy, demonstrating a renewed commitment to human rights and ethical governance. In addition, council commends the Government's pledge to uphold the triple lock on pensions, ensuring that pensions rise in line with inflation. Furthermore, Council welcomes the resolution of disputes with rail workers, showing the UK Government's commitment to improving working conditions and enhancing the quality of public transport.

Council supports the New Deal for Working People, which aims to strengthen workers' rights, enhance job security, and ensure fair wages across all sectors. Moreover, Council supports plans to repeal the draconian Trade Union Act, empowering trade unions to better represent and protect workers' rights.

Council welcomes plans for increased funding in schools, which aims to reduce class sizes, improve school facilities, increase salaries, expand access to early years and supporting disadvantaged students. Council hopes that the Scottish Government will follow the lead of the UK Government and invest in Scotland's schools.

Council resolves to:

- Support the new UK Labour Government in its efforts to deliver its manifesto commitments.
- To work closely with local communities, trade unions and other key stakeholders to ensure that the Government's plans for economic recovery, social justice and environmental recovery are implemented effectively for the benefit of all.
- Actively engage with the UK Government to ensure that Glasgow's specific needs and priorities are heard and addressed in the national agenda.
- Celebrate this historic achievement, ushering in a new era of effective

government, and transforming Britain for the better."

Councillor Aitken, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved as an amendment to delete all after “Council welcomes” in paragraph 1 and replace with the following:-

“the removal of the most right-wing, corrupt and economically damaging Conservative UK government in living memory. Council deeply regrets the legacy of economic and social devastation left by 14 years of austerity and understands that the impacts of this will take time to rectify. Council is alarmed therefore that the early actions of the new UK Labour government have pointed to a continuation of fiscal austerity and reduced public spending and agrees that this approach will almost certainly deepen inequalities and worsen an already unprecedentedly challenging environment, both for public service funding and for the cost and quality of living for people and communities.

Council notes the stated willingness to pursue a positive working relationship between the UK and Scottish Governments and notes that representatives from both governments have already met to discuss areas of collaboration. Council believes that collaboration and partnership between both governments will be crucial in addressing the challenges facing our communities, from economic recovery to tackling climate change. Council further notes that the Leader of the Council has had a cordial early meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland and has written to the Prime Minister to outline key asks for Glasgow, including support for our Child Poverty Pathfinder work to eradicate child and family poverty. Council expresses regret however that there are no constitutional protections in place for devolved governments when faced with intransigent UK administrations, and notes that a proper written constitution which respects the dignity of the Scottish nation and recognises the UK’s multinational status is a prerequisite for ensuring harmonious working arrangements between government at all levels across our islands.

Council approves the new UK Labour Government’s abolition of the abhorrent Rwanda policy, but expresses concern that it continues to adopt the hardline rhetoric about migrants and asylum seekers used by the previous Conservative government and has made no commitment to delivering vital reform of the asylum system to remove private profiteering, permit asylum seekers to work, and embed human rights, welfare and dignity as core principles.

Council supports the original plans for a New Deal for Working People, which aimed to strengthen workers’ rights, enhance job security, and ensure fair wages across all sectors, but notes the remarks of Unite the Union that current plans are ‘*totally unrecognisable from the original proposals produced with the unions’, f*urther noting that *‘Workers will see through this and mark this retreat after retreat as a betrayal’*. ~~C~~ouncil supports plans to repeal the draconian Trade Union Act, empowering trade unions to better represent and protect workers’ rights, but urges the UK Labour Government to show more ambition than simply rolling back bad Tory policy.

Council understands that, under the current devolution settlement, spending decisions by UK governments have direct and unavoidable consequences for the Scottish Government’s budget and Scottish public services. Council recalls that while promises were made during the UK general election campaign of additional

funding flowing to Scotland from, for example, public sector pay deals and increased funding for schools in England, the reality is that because of spending cuts in other areas, the consequentials for Scotland are likely to be only a fraction of the funding required for similar investments in Scotland. Council understands that if the Chancellor continues down the path of public spending cuts, this could even result in negative consequentials and further reductions to the Scottish budget.

Council therefore agrees to:

- Continue to actively engage with the UK Government to ensure that Glasgow's specific needs and priorities are heard and addressed in the national agenda.
- Work closely with local communities, trade unions and other key stakeholders to oppose austerity measures such as the two child cap and the cut to winter fuel allowances.
- Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging her to abandon her insistence on cleaving to the ideologically right-wing and economically and socially damaging "fiscal rules" established by former Chancellor George Osborne, and instead use the opportunity of her October budget to use the many fiscal levers at her disposal to set out a programme of investment in public services and sustainable infrastructure, in order to stimulate inclusive economic growth, create jobs, tackle the climate emergency, and start to undo the damage to the physical and social fabric of our communities caused by the last 14 years of austerity."

Councillor Molyneux, seconded by Councillor Anderson, moved as an amendment:-

(1) to delete paragraph 1 and replace with the following:

"Council notes the outcome of the UK General Election on 4 July 2024; congratulates the Labour Party on forming a Government; in particular congratulates all new MPs elected to represent Glasgow constituencies; thanks all those who they have replaced for their service to the city; and hopes that all progressive parties elected to the new Parliament will work constructively to advance fairness and deliver economic, social and climate justice, following 14 years of Conservative misrule."

(2) at paragraph 2 delete "hopes that representatives from both governments will meet soon to discuss areas of collaboration" and replace with the following:

"notes that meetings have already taken place at various levels to this end."

(3) at the end of paragraph 2 add the following:

"Council believes that this should begin with reform of the Internal Market Act to undo that Act's undermining of the devolution settlement, and that, where requested by the Scottish Parliament, the UK Government should consider the devolution of more powers to the Scottish Parliament, such as employment rights, migration and tax policy."

(4) to delete all from the start of paragraph 3 and replace with the following:

"Council welcomes some early actions of the new Government, including scrapping the abhorrent Rwanda asylum policy, overturning the block on onshore windfarms, making progress on public sector pay deals, re-establishing positive working relationships with trade unions and committing to improving workers' rights, and suspending some arms sales to Israel. However, Council is gravely concerned by the impact of planned public spending cuts, the decision to remove Winter Fuel Payments from millions of pensioners, the failure to end the two-child benefit cap, and vastly reduced plans for low carbon investment. Council believes that the new Government has different choices it can make, by taxing the wealthiest more, rejecting austerity, and prioritising urgent climate action.

Council welcomes the decision to remove VAT relief from private schools, with more money to be invested in state schools. Council notes, however, that for Scotland's schools to truly benefit from this, the UK Government's block grant to the Scottish Government must increase in line with inflation, reflect public sector pay deals, and account for the impact of 14 years of austerity.

Council further believes that an immediate priority must be for the UK Government to support the Council in meeting the costs arising from Home Office batch decision-making on historic asylum cases, which is the most significant factor in the extraordinary pressures currently facing Glasgow's homelessness services.

Council therefore resolves to write to the Prime Minister in these terms and invite him to visit Glasgow to discuss the impact of Home Office pressures."

During the debate Councillor Aitken and Councillor Molyneux, with the agreement of their seconders, agreed to combine their amendments resulting in the following adjusted amendment:

"Council notes the outcome of the UK General Election on 4th July 2024; congratulates the Labour Party on forming a Government; in particular congratulates all new MPs elected to represent Glasgow constituencies; thanks all those who they have replaced for their service to the city; and hopes that all progressive parties elected to the new Parliament will work constructively to advance fairness and deliver economic, social and climate justice, following 14 years of Conservative misrule.

Council deeply regrets the legacy of economic and social devastation left by 14 years of austerity and understands that the impacts of this will take time to rectify. Council is alarmed therefore that the early actions of the new UK Labour government have pointed to a continuation of fiscal austerity and reduced public spending and agrees that this approach will almost certainly deepen inequalities and worsen an already unprecedentedly challenging environment, both for public service funding and for the cost and quality of living for people and communities.

Council notes the stated willingness to pursue a positive working relationship between the UK and Scottish Governments and notes that representatives from both governments have already met to discuss areas of collaboration. Council believes that collaboration and partnership between both governments will be crucial in addressing the challenges facing our communities, from economic recovery to tackling climate change. Council believes that this should begin with reform of the Internal Market Act to undo that Act's undermining of the devolution settlement, and that, where requested by the Scottish Parliament, the UK Government should consider the devolution of more powers to the Scottish Parliament, such as employment rights, migration and tax policy. Council further notes that the Leader of the Council has had a cordial early meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland and has written to the Prime Minister to outline key asks for Glasgow, including support for our Child Poverty Pathfinder work to eradicate child and family poverty.

Council welcomes some early actions of the new Government, including scrapping the abhorrent Rwanda asylum policy, overturning the block on onshore windfarms, making progress on public sector pay deals, re-establishing positive working relationships with trade unions and committing to improving workers' rights, and suspending some arms sales to Israel. However, Council is gravely concerned by the impact of planned public spending cuts, the decision to remove Winter Fuel Payments from millions of pensioners, the failure to end the two-child benefit cap, and vastly reduced plans for low carbon investment. Council believes that the new Government has different choices it can make, by taxing the wealthiest more, rejecting austerity, and prioritising urgent climate action. Council is further concerned that the Government continues to adopt the hardline rhetoric about migrants and asylum seekers used by the previous Conservative government and has made no commitment to delivering vital reform of the asylum system to remove private profiteering, permit asylum seekers to work, and embed human rights, welfare and dignity as core principles, and notes the remarks of Unite the Union that current plans are '*totally unrecognisable from the original proposals produced with the unions', f*urther noting that *'Workers will see through this and mark this retreat after retreat as a betrayal'*. ~~C~~ouncil supports plans to repeal the draconian Trade Union Act, empowering trade unions to better represent and protect workers' rights, but urges the UK Labour Government to show more ambition than simply rolling back bad Tory policy.

Council welcomes the decision to remove VAT relief from private schools, with more money to be invested in state schools. Council notes, however, that for Scotland's schools to truly benefit from this, the UK Government's block grant to the Scottish Government must increase in line with inflation, reflect public sector pay deals, and account for the impact of 14 years of austerity. Council understands that, under the current devolution settlement, spending decisions by UK governments have direct and unavoidable consequences for the Scottish Government's budget and Scottish public services. Council recalls that while promises were made during the UK general election campaign of additional funding flowing to Scotland from, for example, public sector pay deals and increased funding for schools in England, the reality is that because of spending cuts in other areas, the consequentials for Scotland are likely to be only a fraction of the funding required for similar investments in Scotland. Council understands that if the

Chancellor continues down the path of public spending cuts, this could even result in negative consequentials and further reductions to the Scottish budget.

Council therefore agrees to:

- Continue to actively engage with the UK Government to ensure that Glasgow's specific needs and priorities are heard and addressed in the national agenda.
- Work closely with local communities, trade unions and other key stakeholders to oppose austerity measures such as the two child cap and the cut to winter fuel allowances.
- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging her to abandon her insistence on cleaving to the ideologically right-wing and economically and socially. damaging "fiscal rules" established by former Chancellor George Osborne, and instead use the opportunity of her October budget to use the many fiscal levers at her disposal to set out a programme of investment in public services and sustainable infrastructure, in order to stimulate inclusive economic growth, create jobs, tackle the climate emergency, and start to undo the damage to the physical and social fabric of our communities caused by the last 14 years of austerity.
- Write to the Prime Minister to ask him to make it an immediate priority to support the Council in meeting the costs arising from Home Office batch decision-making on historic asylum cases, which is the most significant factor in the extraordinary pressures currently facing Glasgow's homelessness services. and invite him to visit Glasgow to discuss the impact of Home Office pressures."

On a vote being taken electronically and by roll call, 42 members voted for the combined amendment by Councillor Aitken and Councillor Molyneux and 29 for the motion with 3 abstentions.

The combined amendment was accordingly declared to be carried.

**Free Concessionary Bus Travel for Asylum Seekers – Motion as adjusted approved.**

**14** Bailie Carroll, seconded by Bailie Hoy, moved that:-

"Council recalls the motion as adjusted passed by Council on 11th May 2023 which acknowledged "the immense benefits which could be gained from free bus travel for people seeking asylum…and therefore resolves to support the extension of free bus travel to those seeking asylum". Council notes that Free Bus Travel is available through concessionary cards to anyone aged under 22 as well as 60 and over, regardless of Asylum status.

Council further notes an Asylum Seeker in receipt of statutory support receives £49.18 per week to cover all living costs in self-catered accommodation, or £8.86 in catered accommodation, and that 4,520 people are in receipt of support in Glasgow as of December 2023. Council recognises the findings in "The Mental Health of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the UK" report by Mental Health UK, that "getting

out of the house improved their wellbeing, but that affording public transport services was difficult", with 84% of Asylum Seekers and Refugees they surveyed saying that they had "experienced being unable to use public transport because of the cost" in Scotland.

Council notes Refugee Survival Trust's 12 week pilot in the Spring and Summer of 2023 providing 150 Asylum Seekers with Free Bus Travel, which was a springboard for the Scottish Government's plans to roll out a national pilot.

Council notes its deep disappointment in the Scottish Government's decision to reverse their pledge to provide Free Bus Travel to Asylum Seekers nationally. Council agrees to affirm its support for the rollout of Free Bus Travel through a national concessionary card scheme for Asylum Seekers aged 22-59 who are not covered by existing provision.

Council agrees with Maryhill Integration Network on how this announcement is particularly disappointing following the Scottish Government's New Scots Integration Strategy launch, where transport was identified as a key theme to further enhance integration.

Therefore, Council requests the Convener for Transport writes to the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Transport to state Council's support for the free bus travel scheme for Asylum Seekers to ask that the decision to not expand this provision nationally be reversed.

Council also asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Secretary of State for Transport within the UK Government to request that work is carried out to roll out a free concessionary bus card scheme for Asylum Seekers UK-wide, following the successful pilot in Glasgow."

Councillor Millar, seconded by Bailie Salih, moved as an amendment that:-

(1) at paragraph 4:

(a) after "nationally", insert the following:

"Council regrets that this decision has been taken as part of an extremely challenging budgetary position facing the Scottish Government due to in-year cost pressures, similar to those identified by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at UK Government level which have also resulted in spending constraints. Council notes that the Scottish Government, unlike the UK Government, does not have access to in-year borrowing or tax-varying powers, and that the new Labour UK Government has indicated that their forthcoming UK Budget is likely to involve significant further cuts and spending constraints, with profound impacts for Scotland's public services and the deliverability of and timescales for some Scottish Government policy commitments."; and

(b) after "provision" add the following:

"and to continue to make the case to both the Scottish and UK Governments to support this policy".; and

(2) at the last paragraph after "carried out" add "and funding provided".; and

(3) at the end add the following paragraph:

"Council acknowledges that one of the fundamental barriers to integration and financial inclusion for asylum seekers in Scotland is the Home Office's refusal to allow asylum seekers the right to work, and further believes that the aforementioned levels of statutory support available for asylum seekers undermine the aims of creating a welcoming environment for those seeking asylum. Council therefore calls on the new Labour UK Government to extend the right to work to asylum seekers, and to review statutory support to ensure asylum seekers can live with dignity and respect, and requests that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the new Prime Minister to outline the Council's position on this matter."

Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Bailie Murray, moved as an amendment that:-

(1) at paragraph 3 insert the following at the start:

"Council notes the campaign which was launched by the VOICES Network and Paul Sweeney MSP in 2021 which has since gained broad support across the Scottish Parliament, third sector and public bodies as well as the".

to read as follows:

"Council notes….. as well as the Refugee Survival Trust's 12-week pilot in the Spring and Summer of 2023 providing 150 Asylum Seekers with Free Bus Travel, which was a springboard for the Scottish Government's plans to roll out a national pilot.";

(2) after paragraph 3 insert the following paragraph:

"Council re-iterates its belief that granting concessionary bus travel to asylum seekers is not just about fairness but vital to ensure that all members of our community can fully participate in society. Council recognises the concerns associated around the cost of implementing such a policy at a time when public finances are under such pressure but believes the cost of the ongoing exclusion and isolation associated with inaction are far higher.";

(3) at paragraph 4 after the first sentence insert the following:

"Council recognises this as the latest in a series of regressive policy decisions since the collapse of the Bute House Agreement.";

(4) at the end of paragraph 5 insert the following:

"Council also agrees with the letter from Mark Ruskell MSP and Paul Sweeney MSP highlighting the poor communication with stakeholders who are some of the most vulnerable people in our society."; and

(5) before the last paragraph insert the following paragraph:

"Council believes that is vital to reduce the long periods of time that people seeking asylum spend awaiting determinations of their application and re-iterates its call that applicants should have the right to work. Council calls on the UK and Scottish Governments to work constructively with local authorities to address this and other issues to break away from the failed legacy of the previous Conservative Government."

Bailie Carroll, with the agreement of his seconder, accepted the amendments by Councillor Millar and Councillor O'Neill resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

"Council recalls the motion as adjusted passed by Council on 11 May 2023 which acknowledged "*the immense benefits which could be gained from free bus travel for people seeking asylum…and therefore resolves to support the extension of free bus travel to those seeking asylum*". Council notes that Free Bus Travel is available through concessionary cards to anyone aged under 22 as well as 60 and over, regardless of Asylum status.

Council further notes an Asylum Seeker in receipt of statutory support receives £49.18 per week to cover all living costs in self-catered accommodation, or £8.86 in catered accommodation, and that 4,520 people are in receipt of support in Glasgow as of December 2023. Council recognises the findings in "*The Mental Health of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the UK*" report by Mental Health UK, that "*getting out of the house improved their wellbeing, but that affording public transport services was difficult*", with 84% of Asylum Seekers and Refugees they surveyed saying that they had "*experienced being unable to use public transport because of the cost*" in Scotland.

Council notes the campaign which was launched by the VOICES Network in 2021 which has since gained broad support across the Scottish Parliament, third sector and public bodies as well as the Refugee Survival Trust's 12 week pilot in the Spring and Summer of 2023 providing 150 Asylum Seekers with Free Bus Travel, which was a springboard for the Scottish Government's plans to roll out a national pilot.

Council reiterates its belief that granting concessionary bus travel to asylum seekers is not just about fairness but vital to ensure that all members of our community can fully participate in society. Council recognises the concerns associated around the cost of implementing such a policy at a time when public finances are under such pressure but believes the cost of the ongoing exclusion and isolation associated with inaction are far higher. Council notes the extremely challenging budgetary position facing the Scottish Government due to in-year cost pressures, similar to those identified by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at UK Government level.

Council notes its deep disappointment in the Scottish Government's decision to reverse their pledge to provide Free Bus Travel to Asylum Seekers nationally. Council agrees to affirm its support for the rollout of Free Bus Travel through a national concessionary card scheme for Asylum Seekers aged 22-59 who are not covered by existing provision and to continue to make the case to both the Scottish and UK Governments to support this policy

Council agrees with Maryhill Integration Network on how this announcement is particularly disappointing following the Scottish Government's New Scots Integration Strategy launch, where transport was identified as a key theme to further enhance integration. Council also highlights the poor communication with stakeholders and those seeking asylum who are some of the most vulnerable people in our society, of this policy's scrapping being announced during the Strategy Launch.

Therefore, Council requests the Convener for Transport writes to the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Transport to state Council's support for the free bus travel scheme for Asylum Seekers to ask that the decision to not expand this provision nationally be reversed.

Council also asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Secretary of State for Transport within the UK Government to request that work is carried out and funding provided to roll out a free concessionary bus card scheme for Asylum Seekers UK-wide, following the successful pilot in Glasgow.

Council acknowledges that one of the fundamental barriers to integration and financial inclusion for asylum seekers in Scotland is the Home Office's refusal to allow asylum seekers the right to work, and further believes that the aforementioned levels of statutory support available for asylum seekers undermine the aims of creating a welcoming environment for those seeking asylum. Council believes that is vital to reduce the long periods of time that people seeking asylum spend awaiting determinations of their application and reiterates its call that applicants should have the right to work. Council therefore calls on the new Labour UK Government to extend the right to work to asylum seekers, and to review statutory support to ensure asylum seekers can live with dignity and respect, and requests that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the new Prime Minister to outline the Council's position on this matter. Council calls on the UK and Scottish Governments to work constructively with local authorities to address this and other issues to break away from the failed legacy of the previous Conservative Government."

The motion as adjusted was approved unanimously.

**Adjournment.**

**15** In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1545 hours until 1605 hours.

**Resumption of meeting.**

**16** The meeting resumed at 1605 hours and the sederunt was taken as follows:-

Present: The Depute Lord Provost, Christy Mearns (Chair).

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

Apologies: Imran Alam, Laura Doherty, Elaine Gallagher, Dan Hutchison, Matt Kerr and Leòdhas Massie.

Attending: M Millar, Director of Legal and Administration; S Millar, Chief Executive; D Hutchison, Executive Director of Education Services; M Booth, Executive Director of Finanace; J Kerr, Interim Chief Officer, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; and C Edgar, Director of Communication and Corporate Governance.

**End pensioners and the poor paying for UK austerity and energy hikes – Motion as adjusted approved, after division.**

**17** Councillor Mitchell, seconded by Councillor McTaggart , moved that:-

"Council urges the UK Government to review its decision to scrap winter fuel payments for 10m pensioners after the energy regulator Ofgem announced

household energy bills will rise by £150 in October, hiking its price cap from the current £1,568 for a typical household in England, Scotland and Wales to £1,717 of which older people will feel the brunt.

Council notes that analysis by the End Fuel Poverty Coalition has found that in real terms, the changes this winter mean that people will face the highest energy bills on record with energy bills for the winter ahead now confirmed as being 65% above where they were before the crisis, and that the UK Labour Government needs to come up with a plan to prevent even more households entering fuel poverty this winter.

Council is appalled that adding insult to injury, in the detail of the Ofgem announcement is the fact that the profit margins energy suppliers are allowed to make will increase by 11%, whilst massive profits for firms in the wider energy industry continue to be made and that it is time to tax these firms fairly - instead of targeting pensioners and the poor - curb profiteering and use the money to keep people warm now and in the long term.

Council further notes that the UK Labour Prime Minister has been warned the double hit will lead to disaster for pensioners on low and modest incomes or living in vulnerable circumstances due to ill health and that older people are being put in jeopardy.

Council joins campaigners and charities, calling for the UK Labour Government to change course.

Council agrees with Age UK that with pensioners also "losing the cost-of-living payments they've received over the last two years we simply cannot see how some of them will cope"; concurs with the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, that the Labour Government's "cruel decision" will see more vulnerable people succumb to health complications from living in cold and damp conditions, turning to the NHS for support; and in accord with National Energy Action that the Labour UK government is "cutting off support from those who have zero flexibility in their own budget, with no choice other than debt or going cold".

Council condemns the ongoing cynicism of the Labour Party in continuously calling for the Scottish Government and Scottish taxpayers to mitigate UK austerity.

Council agrees with Age Scotland and Energy Action Scotland who have said the Scottish Government has been left with no choice but to replicate plans to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment, and the End Fuel Poverty Coalition that it is "a decision essentially made in Westminster by the Chancellor, but it is pensioners in Scotland and across the rest of the UK that will pay the price."

Council notes that the Scotland Office is being given expanded powers turning it into a "spending department" and that is a direct assault on devolution and the power of the Scottish Government and the priorities the people of Scotland have elected it to address. Council further notes reports that the Secretary of State for Scotland is to be allocated £150million bypassing democratic oversight, and that if he chose to do so, this money could cover the Winter Fuel Payment cuts being

forced on Scottish pensioners by his colleagues. Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Scottish Secretary requesting that he gives pensioners back their money.

Council understands that, under the current devolution settlement, spending decisions by UK governments have direct and unavoidable consequences for the Scottish Government's budget and Scottish public services.

Council is alarmed at the signals from the UK Chancellor that she intends to use her Autumn Statement to propose further public spending cuts in order to fulfil the arbitrary, unnecessary and economically damaging right-wing "fiscal rules" established by previous UK Chancellors, to which she has chosen to adhere. Council agrees that this would have a devastating impact on Scottish public resources, with direct consequences for local government services, the public sector workforce and poverty and hardship in our communities.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to compile a briefing for elected members of the potential impact on the Council should further cuts to the Scottish Government budget leave it in a position of being unable to provide a flat cash settlement for local government in 2025/26, and agrees that this should be shared with the Chancellor ahead of her autumn statement along with the clear view of Glasgow City Council that she must abandon the path of fiscal austerity and commit to a programme of investment in public services in a way that will deliver tangible benefits for all parts of the UK.

Council also instructs the Chief Executive to write to the UK Labour Pensions Minister Emma Reynolds regarding Council's emergency motion in March earlier this year in support of WASPI women's justice and highlight that 6 months later she still has not responded, and in that time WASPI estimates 20,000 women will have died.

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to all Glasgow MP's asking them to join the call for justice for WASPI women and stop the jeopardy other pensioners are being placed in by their ruthless policies. Council agrees that the UK Government must stop asking local and Scottish governments to mitigate the poverty and despair the UK is causing which highlights the necessity of Scottish independence to put Scotland's energy future safely in Scotland's hands."

Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Pidgeon, moved as an amendment to delete all and insert the following:-

"Council notes the publication of the Spending Audit by the new UK Government, confirming the worst fiscal inheritance of any incoming administration in generations. Council notes that after 14 years of economic carnage, the Conservatives not only left the economy in a mess, but they were not straight with the public about the dire state of the nation's finances. Council further notes that as a result of the economic vandalism inflicted by the last Tory Government, the UK is facing a £22 billion black hole in our public finances for this year alone.

Council further notes that the projected spending gap for this fiscal year includes £9.4bn in public sector pay awards, settled within days of the new Government coming to office. Council believes that these pay awards are an investment in local communities, public services and in the economy of this country; and that this stands in stark contrast to the approach of the current SNP Government at Holyrood who have failed to plan for adequate public sector pay awards.

Council notes the Fiscal Statement given by the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance which outlined up to £500m worth of additional in-year savings because of poor financial planning; and that this transfers the burden of consequences of this poor planning to workers, commuters, asylum seekers, families with young children, local government and action to mitigate and prevent catastrophic climate change.

Council recognises the Fraser of Allander Institute, the Institute for Fiscal Studies, Audit Scotland, the Scottish Fiscal Commission have all been absolutely clear that the pressure on the Scottish finances is because of the decisions made by the SNP Scottish Government.

Council believes that, over the past 14 years, Scotland the UK have been badly governed by parties unserious about achieving sustainable economic growth and have deterred growth and investment by their reckless and unnecessary constitutional positions. Council believes that the difficult decisions necessary now is due to this lack of ambition and political stagnation.

Council regrets the decision to review the universal eligibility for the winter fuel payment but recognises that at a time of such unprecedent pressure on public finances these reforms will mean that this support is more targeted to those who need it most, and further notes that the continuing triple lock on pensions will ensure that overall pension income rises significantly over the lifetime of this Parliament, far outstripping the value of the Winter Fuel Allowance, which has not changed in cash terms since first introduced in 2000.

Council also recognises that Winter Fuel Payment is becoming a devolved benefit, meaning the Scottish Government will have the responsibility to decide how best to target support for pensioners in Scotland. Council believes that in Scotland and across the UK that being in receipt of pension credit alone is too tight a criterion and encourages both the UK and Scottish Governments to review and expand said criteria as part of the upcoming budget process to ensure as many people are able to access this support as possible.

Council welcomes the restoration and empowerment of the Scotland Office as part of the Labour Party's commitment to have Scotland to the heart of a UK Government. Council also welcomes the Scotland Office in addition to being the custodian of devolution will be able to invest resources directly into areas of greatest need, such as tackling child poverty.

Finally, Council reiterates its belief that Scotland leaving the United Kingdom, and the continued uncertainty caused by the SNP's inability to accept the definitive

judgement of the people, will prevent economic growth and deliver turbo-charged austerity onto the communities that we seek to represent.

Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to:

- Congratulate her on her appointment as the first women to hold the role.
- Ask her to commit to sustainable and real-terms economic growth across the UK and particularly in communities outside of London and the Greater South East.
- Outline the opportunities to invest in Glasgow and its people to a broader mission of improving UK growth and productivity.
- Welcome the announcements regarding the creation of Great British Energy, which will improve community resilience, tackle climate change and bring down energy bills over the long-term."

Councillor Molyneux, seconded by Councillor Reid-McConnell, moved as an amendment:-

(1) that at paragraph 3 after "tax these firms fairly", insert the following:

"including by a comprehensive windfall tax that closes the loopholes created by the previous Conservative government which allow firms 91pc tax relief for investment in climate-wrecking oil and gas expansion plans.";

(2) to delete paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 and replace with the following:

"Council condemns the ongoing cynicism of the Labour Party in continuously calling for the Scottish Government and Scottish taxpayers to mitigate UK austerity. Council agrees that it would be unfair to expect Scotland to fully mitigate the effects of cutting the Winter Fuel Payment, especially given that there is an average temperature differential of -4 degrees C between the south of England and the north of Scotland, and as Scotland has no powers to regulate the energy market, and therefore supports the view of the End Fuel Poverty Coalition that it is "a decision essentially made in Westminster by the Chancellor, but it is pensioners in Scotland and across the rest of the UK that will pay the price.

Council notes that the Scotland Office is being given expanded powers turning it into a "spending department". Council believes that this must not be allowed to undermine the devolution settlement and there should be effective cooperation between the UK and Scottish Governments to ensure that any spending on reserved matters in Scotland is aligned with and complementary to devolved spending approved and overseen by the Scottish Parliament, including action on warm homes.";

(3) that after the replacement text above, insert the following 2 paragraphs:

"Council understands that UK homes are the least energy efficient in western Europe and that they lose heat, on average, three times faster than those in

Germany and Norway. Council further understands that the age of the UK's housing stock is a major factor in that and consequently a comprehensive package of measures is needed to insulate and retrofit UK homes. Council notes the work underway within Glasgow to address these issues, including the agreement of a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, which is a significant step toward the decarbonisation of domestic and non-domestic heating. The strategy covers the areas of potential heat networks, heat pumps and fabric improvements to upgrade existing housing stock. Council also recalls the reporting of the Just Transition Working Group, ongoing actions to develop community energy schemes, and programmes of work designed to modernise Glasgow's ageing housing stocks, particularly pre-1919 tenements.

Council is however very concerned at the impact that the Labour UK Government dropping its £28 billion climate investment pledge will have on the UK-wide supply chain for low carbon retrofit. Council welcomes the proposed Heat in Buildings Bill and urges the Scottish Government to deliver an ambitious plan for decarbonising home heating. Council also believes that the Housing Bill can encourage warmer private rented homes by tying potential rent controls to the condition (including the energy performance) of homes and urges the Scottish Government to support amendments to the Bill which explicitly allow for this via flexible rent caps."; and

(4) to delete paragraph 12 beginning "Council therefore instructs" and replace with the following:

"Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to compile a briefing for elected members of the potential impact on the Council of cuts to UK and Scottish Government spending, and agrees that this should be shared with both the Chancellor and the Depute First Minister ahead of the Autumn Statement and the Scottish Budget later this year, along with the clear view of Glasgow City Council that both Governments must abandon the path of fiscal austerity and commit to programmes of investment in public services and fiscal empowerment of local councils in a way that will deliver tangible benefits for Scotland and all parts of the UK."

During the debate Councillor Mitchell, with the agreement of his seconder, circulated the following adjusted motion:-

"Council urges the UK Government to review its decision to scrap winter fuel payments for 10m pensioners after the energy regulator Ofgem announced household energy bills will rise by £150 in October, hiking its price cap from the current £1,568 for a typical household in England, Scotland and Wales to £1,717 of which older people will feel the brunt.

Council notes that analysis by the End Fuel Poverty Coalition has found that in real terms, the changes this winter mean that people will face the highest energy bills on record with energy bills for the winter ahead now confirmed as being 65% above where they were before the crisis, and that the UK Labour Government needs to

come up with a plan to prevent even more households entering fuel poverty this winter.

Council is appalled that adding insult to injury, in the detail of the Ofgem announcement is the fact that the profit margins energy suppliers are allowed to make will increase by 11%, whilst massive profits for firms in the wider energy industry continue to be made and that it is time to tax these firms fairly - instead of targeting pensioners and the poor - curb profiteering and use the money to keep people warm now and in the long term.

Council further notes that the UK Labour Prime Minister has been warned the double hit will lead to disaster for pensioners on low and modest incomes or living in vulnerable circumstances due to ill health and that older people are being put in jeopardy.

Council joins campaigners and charities, calling for the UK Labour Government to change course.

Council condemns the ongoing cynicism of the Labour Party in continuously calling for the Scottish Government and Scottish taxpayers to mitigate UK austerity. Council agrees that it would be unfair to expect Scotland to fully mitigate the effects of cutting the Winter Fuel Payment, especially given that there is an average temperature differential of -4 degrees C between the south of England and the north of Scotland, and as Scotland has no powers to regulate the flawed energy market which also locks in regional disparity. Council agrees with Age Scotland and Energy Action Scotland who have said the Scottish Government has been left with no choice but to replicate plans to means-test the Winter Fuel Payment, and the End Fuel Poverty Coalition that it is "a decision essentially made in Westminster by the Chancellor, but it is pensioners in Scotland and across the rest of the UK that will pay the price."

Council notes that the Scotland Office is being given expanded powers turning it into a "spending department" and that is a direct assault on devolution and the power of the Scottish Government and the priorities the people of Scotland have elected it to address. Council further notes reports that the Secretary of State for Scotland is to be allocated £150million bypassing democratic oversight, and that if he chose to do so, this money could cover the Winter Fuel Payment cuts being forced on Scottish pensioners by his colleagues. Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Scottish Secretary requesting that he gives pensioners back their money.

Council understands that UK homes are the least energy efficient in western Europe and that they lose heat, on average, three times faster than those in Germany and Norway. Council further understands that the age of the UK’s housing stock is a major factor in that and consequently a comprehensive package of measures is needed to insulate and retrofit UK homes. Council notes the work underway within Glasgow to address these issues, including the agreement of a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy, which is a significant step toward the decarbonisation of domestic and non-domestic heating. The strategy covers the areas of potential heat networks, heat pumps and fabric improvements to upgrade

existing housing stock. Council also recalls the reporting of the Just Transition Working Group, ongoing actions to develop community energy schemes, and programmes of work designed to modernise Glasgow's ageing housing stocks, particularly pre-1919 tenements.

Council is however very concerned at the impact that the Labour UK Government dropping its £28 billion climate investment pledge will have on the UK-wide supply chain for low carbon retrofit. Council welcomes the proposed Heat in Buildings Bill and urges the Scottish Government to deliver an ambitious plan for decarbonising home heating.

Council understands that, under the current devolution settlement, spending decisions by UK governments have direct and unavoidable consequences for the Scottish Government's budget and Scottish public services.

Council is alarmed at the signals from the UK Chancellor that she intends to use her Autumn Budget to propose further public spending cuts in order to fulfil the arbitrary, unnecessary and economically damaging right-wing "fiscal rules". Council agrees that this would have a devastating impact on Scottish public resources, with direct consequences for local government services, the public sector workforce and poverty and hardship in our communities.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to compile a briefing for elected members of the potential impact on the Council should further cuts to the Scottish Government budget leave it in a position of being unable to provide a flat cash settlement for local government in 2025/26, and agrees that this should be shared with the Chancellor ahead of her autumn budget along with the clear view of Glasgow City Council that she must abandon the path of fiscal austerity and commit to a programme of investment in public services in a way that will deliver tangible benefits for all parts of the UK.

Council also instructs the Chief Executive to write to the UK Labour Pensions Minister Emma Reynolds regarding Council's emergency motion in March earlier this year in support of WASPI women's justice and highlight that 6 months later she still has not responded, and in that time WASPI estimates 20,000 women will have died.

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to all Glasgow MP's asking them to join the call for justice for WASPI women and stop the jeopardy other pensioners are being placed in by their ruthless policies. Council agrees that the UK Government must stop asking local and Scottish governments to mitigate the poverty and despair the UK is causing which highlights the necessity of Scottish independence to put Scotland's energy future safely in Scotland's hands."

On a vote being taken electronically and by roll call, 8 members voted for the amendment by Councillor Molyneux, 27 for the amendment by Councillor O'Neill and 34 for the motion with 1 abstention.

As there was no overall majority the amendment by Councillor Molyneux, having the fewest votes, was dropped.

On a further vote being taken electronically and by roll call, 28 members voted for the amendment by Councillor O'Neill and 35 for the motion with 9 abstentions.

The motion was accordingly declared to be carried.

**Adjournment.**

**18** In terms of Standing Order No 5 (12), the time being after 1630 hours, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting, the remaining items of business being 8(e), 8(f) and 8(g).