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.