Challenge Poverty Week.

11 Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor McTaggart, moved

"Council notes Challenge Poverty Week 2023 earlier this month and recognises that for Glasgow City Council challenging poverty is a whole systems, long term commitment as set in our 2022-2027 strategic plan Grand Challenge to "Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities" and "Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens"

Council further recognises that Glasgow is now in the worrying business of helping put food onto tables and heat homes, which is seeing financial and physical capacity diverted from the long-term work of improving life chances and outcomes towards the day-to-day support of the increasing numbers of citizens in financial crisis.

Council notes that poverty is a complex and multi-layered and multigenerational problem which has no simple solutions but wide ranging and long lasting consequences for individuals, families and communities.

Council believes that ending poverty, including child poverty in the city requires significant leadership and urgency from all levels of government, UK, Scottish and local government, and the use of a myriad of different approaches to resolve ingrained poverty and bold long term action must be taken to increase people's income and ensure everyone can afford the essentials.

Council welcomes the increase to the Scottish Child Payment which it is estimated will lift 50,000 children in Scotland out of poverty and reduce child poverty by 5 percentage points.

Council condemns the UK Westminster Government who have inflicted over a decade of austerity on the people of Glasgow. Council believes that these policies are both deliberate and vindictive against our citizens. Council agrees that Brexit continues to have a negative impact on our citizens and is a direct contributor to the cost-of-living crisis being worse in the UK than it is elsewhere in Europe.

Council further believes that the two child limit is a scar on the soul of society directly responsible for plunging over a million children into poverty (or deeper poverty) and the two child limit is the worst example of these punitive, pointless and unproductive policies; and, that the objective of reducing child poverty cannot be achieved without scrapping it, and that abolishing the policy will have an immediate beneficial impact on children suffering hardship.

Council calls on all parties to commit to repealing the two-child limit on benefits immediately. Council calls on all political parties to pledge in their forthcoming UK election manifestos to not only immediately repeal the two child benefit cap, but also the bedroom tax, the five-week wait for Universal Credit and sanctions and payments deducted at source from Universal Credit, as well as demanding restoration of ringfenced funding for devolved governments and local councils to provide crisis support for families."

Councillor Jassemi, seconded by Councillor Pidgeon, moved as an amendment to delete all after the fifth paragraph and insert the following:-

"Council notes that in 16 years of SNP Government, inadequate measures have been taken to reduce the levels of child poverty in society. Many powers available to the Scottish Government have not been utilised, and Scotland is currently not on track to meet its statutory target of reducing child poverty to 18% by 2024. Council agrees that it needs both Governments to work in conjunction to tackle poverty, rather than fighting against each other at every opportunity. Council therefore resolves to write to the Scottish Government, urging them to use their current powers to do more to tackle child poverty in Glasgow.

Council notes that far too many working people face poverty in our country. Council agrees that we urgently need a new deal for working people, driving up wages and ensuring basic rights and protections such as sick pay, holiday pay and parental leave are all guaranteed in law. Banning exploitative zero-hour contracts and strengthening trade union rights to raise pay and provide better conditions will further improve the lives of working people and help lift many out of poverty.

Councils agrees that the current UK Conservative Government have inflicted years of austerity and economic stagnation which has left our country poorer and plunged thousands of hard-working families into poverty. Council further agrees that the current Universal Credit system is deeply flawed and unfair and needs reformed to help people get into work. Council agrees that Glasgow needs a UK Government focused on growing our economy and breaking the class ceiling, with tackling poverty and improving life opportunities at the foundation and core of everything it does."

Adjournment.

12 In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1430 hours until 1445 hours.

Resumption of meeting.

13 The meeting resumed at 1445 hours and the sederunt was taken as follows:-

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

SAQIB AHMED	STEPHEN DOCHERTY	NORMAN MacLEOD
SUSAN AITKEN	LAURA DOHERTY	ELAINE McSPORRAN
IMRAN ALAM	STEPHEN DORNAN	ANNE McTAGGART
BLAIR ANDERSON	PATRICIA FERGUSON	HANZALA MALIK
KEN ANDREW	SEAN FERGUSON	LEÒDHAS MASSIE
ALEXANDER BELIC	ELAINE GALLAGHER	ANGUS MILLAR
RICHARD BELL	ZEN GHANI	MALCOLM MITCHELL
DECLAN BLENCH	ALLAN GOW	ROBERT MOONEY

EVA BOLANDER
ABDUL BOSTANI
PHILIP BRAAT
JILL BROWN
HOLLY BRUCE
MAUREEN BURKE
BILL BUTLER
GRAHAM CAMPBELL
CHRISTINA CANNON
PAUL CAREY
JOHN CARSON
ANTHONY CARROLL
ALLAN CASEY
ANNETTE CHRISTIE
CHRIS CUNNINGHAM
STEPHEN CURRAN
FEARGAL DALTON
JOHN DALY
AUDREY DEMPSEY
WILLIAM GRAHAM
SHARON GREER
GREG HEPBURN
FIONA HIGGINS
RASHID HUSSAIN
DAN HUTCHISON
FYEZA IKHLAQ
EUNIS JASSEMI
ANN JENKINS
RUAIRI KELLY
ALEX KERR
THOMAS KERR
KEVIN LALLEY
PAUL LEINSTER
FRANK McAVEETY
PAUL MCCABE
ELAINE McDOUGALL
KENNY McLEAN
MARGARET MORGAN
EVA MURRAY
CECILIA O'LONE
KEIRAN O'NEILL
JILL PIDGEON
LINDA PIKE
HANIF RAJA
THOMAS RANNACHAN
GEORGE REDMOND
LANA REID-MCCONNELL
ROZA SALIH
FRANNY SCALLY
JAMES SCANLON
SORYIA SIDDIQUE
KIERAN TURNER
CATHERINE VALLIS
MARTHA WARDROP
ALEX WILSON

LORD DEAN OF GUILD

Apologies: Lilith Johnstone, Jim Kavanagh, Paul McCabe, Christy Mearns, Jon Molyneux and Deacon Convener.

Attending: M Millar, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; A O'Donnell, Chief Executive; M Booth, Executive Director of Finance; G Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability; D Hutchison, Executive Director of Education Services; S Millar, Chief Officer, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; I Robertson, Director of City Development; K Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth; and C Edgar, Director of Communication and Corporate Governance.

Challenge Poverty Week – Motion approved, after division.

14 Bailie Thomas Kerr, seconded by Councillor Daly, moved as an amendment to delete all from paragraph 5 onwards and replace with the following:-

"Council recognises that the best route of poverty remains work and that there are 200,000 more people in employment across Scotland since June 2010 and that the UK economy grew faster than any other country in the G7 last year.

Council further recognises that the two-child limit for certain benefits has saved the taxpayer around £300 million a year and notes that there are exemptions to the cap for vulnerable families.

Council notes the Scottish Government's failure to reduce child poverty during its time in power, with the rate remaining stable across Scotland since 2007. Despite having the ability Council notes that SNP Minister's in Holyrood have not acted on the two-child limit and instead continue to play party politics with poverty rather than meaningfully engage with others to tackle child poverty.

Council calls on the Scottish Government to use the powers devolved to it by the UK Government to tackle poverty and notes that the Scottish Government is not due to take control of devolved benefits until 2026, 10 years after these powers were devolved."

On a vote being taken by calling the roll 2 members voted for the amendment by Bailie Thomas Kerr, 33 for the amendment by Councillor Jassemi and 43 for the motion as adjusted which was accordingly declared to be carried.