

Living With Rain – Motion as adjusted approved.

19 Bailie McCabe, seconded by Councillor Kelly, moved that:-

"Council notes the publication of the landmark 'Living with Rain - Planning for Everyday Life in Glasgow' report by Dr Andrew Hoolachan and Dr Victoria Lawson of the University of Glasgow, and funded by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI); further notes the astonishing finding that despite being technically within the zone of what meteorologist would classify as a temperate rainforest, rain and wetness has never featured prominently in planning and other spatial and cultural strategies for our City.

Council is pleased to note the report's acknowledgement of the way that direct impacts of rain and flooding are taken seriously in the Council's work; likewise the positive impact the widespread adoption of 'Blue-Green' infrastructure like Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) in planning policy across the city; the pursuance of high-quality urban realm transformation projects like that of the Argyll St West Avenue at Heilanman's Umbrella that provides high-quality and free dry public space; and the acknowledgement of Glasgow's precipitative climate in the Golden Z spatial strategy.

Council commends the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Glasgow City Region Deal funded flood risk management and greenspace improvement project in Cardonald flats, as part of the work of the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership, which won the Building with Nature National Award at the Landscape Institute Awards in 2021. Council further commends the significant community co-design and creation at Queensland Court and Gardens transforming underused greenspace and creating a community park and a dedicated toddler and children's play spaces, food growing spaces and a community orchard, and another informal woodland featuring local flora and fauna ensuring the enjoyment for residents.

Council recognises that our Open Space Strategy already sets out as an outcome the need for a Resilient Glasgow as more of the City will be exposed to flood risk associated with an increased intensity of rainfall and with sea level rise, and people, nature and infrastructure can all be vulnerable to a changing climate, and how the European Commission Horizon 2020 Connecting Nature project ensured Glasgow was at the forefront of Nature Based Solutions.

However, Council agrees that it is not enough to simply mitigate the effects of our climate: and notes the conclusion of the report that 'there is a general absence of an explicit understanding of Glasgow as a distinctively wet city, that could benefit from a holistic set of plans, programmes and developments to improve and enhance the urban experience in the city'. In a setting that receives 1370mm of rainfall each year and was accepted to be a wet place even before climate related changes, Glasgow must learn to better 'live with rain'.

Council notes with approval the examples of cities around the world that have adopted 'living with rain' principles: from the example of Bergen, Europe's wettest city with 2495mm p/a rainfall: something that it has embraced in many of its own

socio-cultural practices, emphasising the necessity of being able to live an outdoor lifestyle in all weathers; Vancouver, where specific design guidance has been developed, along with public and active travel infrastructure; or Singapore, where rain has been used to inform world-leading and distinctive urban design.

Council also instructs officers to further engage with other cities either bilaterally and through our participation in networks like UN Generation Restoration Cities, Cities with Nature to engage in further knowledge exchanges to living with rain and delivering large scale nature-based solutions and explore further funded partnership opportunities.

Council agrees that there must be a deeper and more comprehensive acknowledgement of itself as a rainy city in the new City Development Plan and attempt to bring spatial coherence to these disconnected programmes in relation to the experience of rain - and ensure Living with Rain is reflected in future supporting guidance.

Council resolves to adopt a living with rain approach to planning, to ensure that we create a resilient urban environment that does not repeat the mistakes of the past and acknowledges Glasgow's distinct climate with the context of these islands; this includes investigating weather protection, shelter and other rain-friendly design features where appropriate in future public realm improvements, including the use of permeable materials where appropriate, working with urban rainfall is not limited to traditional policies on managing water but cuts across policy domains like public transport and active travel, and ensure living with rain is considered in the future Climate Plan update, new City Development Plan and other plans."

Bailie Wardrop, seconded by Councillor Reid-McConnell, moved as an amendment that:-

(1) after the first paragraph insert the following paragraph:

"Glasgow is experiencing extreme rainfall and storms. Storm Éowyn in January 2025 was classified as an "extremely powerful and record-breaking extratropical cyclone" and was the biggest storm seen in Scotland in over twenty years. This storm caused significant disruption across Glasgow, including a red weather warning being issued. The World Weather Attribution group has concluded that human-induced climate change has made heavy storm downpours and total rainfall more frequent and intense.";

(2) after the fifth paragraph insert the following paragraph:

"Council acknowledges that whilst Glasgow is heading in a positive policy direction, there has not been adequate level of implementation of SUDs and that greater investment is required. Whilst there have been significant projects completed with the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership, SUDs and other flood mitigation infrastructure must become integral to the Council's infrastructure budgets and what they mandate of other developers in the city. Council requests a report to the relevant committee within three cycles to outline a business case for implementing further Blue-Green

infrastructure. Further, Council calls on greater funding from Scottish Government and Scottish Water to support the implementation of more Blue-Green infrastructure which will lead to reduced pressure on our drainage system, helping to prevent flooding and damage to public realm, active travel routes, homes, workplaces and more.”;

- (3) after the sixth paragraph insert the following paragraph:

“Council recognises that housing retrofits can significantly impact a home's ability to withstand increased rainfall and potential flooding. By improving insulation, ventilation, and drainage systems, retrofits can make homes more resilient to moisture and prevent issues like damp, condensation, and mould. Conversely, paving over gardens and green spaces with non-porous materials results in excessive uncontrollable water runoff and should be discouraged where possible. Council instructs that detail on existing policy and work in relation to housing retrofit for flood risk management be brought to the relevant committee with examples on improvements to drainage and water management such as gutters and downpipes, as well as windows to protect the city's homes from the impact of heavy rainfall.”;

- (4) at the end of the seventh paragraph insert the following paragraph:

“Glasgow is within a temperate rainforest climate zone, and therefore, Council agrees to engage with the work of the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest to share learning and best practice in rainforest habitat work, as well as support communities to become more resilient.”

Councillor Vallis, seconded by Councillor Mooney, moved as an amendment that:-

- (1) after the sixth paragraph insert the following:

“Council also recognises that climate impacts, including heavy rainfall and poor drainage, disproportionately affect residents in lower-income communities. Council therefore commits to prioritising investment in low-income areas more vulnerable to flooding and infrastructure deficits.” ;

- (2) after the last paragraph insert the following:

“Council further agrees that this must be accompanied by robust delivery and maintenance plans, learning lessons from delay and criticisms of recent active travel and public realm projects. Council therefore instructs the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Regeneration Services to bring forward a design code framework to ensure that maintenance is fully costed in all future rain-friendly infrastructure projects.

Council further instructs that an EQIA be carried out for all new rain-adaptive infrastructure to ensure appropriate accessibility for marginalised groups.”

During the debate Bailie McCabe, Councillor Vallis and Bailie Wardrop, with the agreement of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendments resulting in the following adjusted motion:

“Council notes the publication of the landmark ‘Living with Rain – Planning for Everyday Life in Glasgow’ report by Dr Andrew Hoolachan and Dr Victoria Lawson of the University of Glasgow, and funded by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI); further notes the astonishing finding that despite being technically within the zone of what meteorologist would classify as a temperate rainforest, rain and wetness has never featured prominently in planning and other spatial and cultural strategies for our City.

Glasgow is experiencing extreme rainfall and storms. Storm Éowyn in January 2025 was classified as an "extremely powerful and record-breaking extratropical cyclone" and was the biggest storm seen in Scotland in over twenty years. This storm caused significant disruption across Glasgow, including a red weather warning being issued. The World Weather Attribution group has concluded that human-induced climate change has made heavy storm downpours and total rainfall more frequent and intense. Council recognises these impacts, including heavy rainfall and poor drainage, disproportionately affects residents in lower-income communities. Council, therefore, commits to prioritising investment in low-income areas more vulnerable to flooding and infrastructure deficits.

Council is pleased to note the report’s acknowledgement of the way that direct impacts of rain and flooding are taken seriously in the Council’s work; likewise the positive impact the widespread adoption of ‘Blue-Green’ infrastructure like Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) in planning policy across the city; the pursuance of high-quality urban realm transformation projects like that of the Argyll St West Avenue at Heilanman’s Umbrella that provides high-quality and free dry public space; and the acknowledgement of Glasgow’s precipitative climate in the Golden Z spatial strategy.

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Council recognises that our Open Space Strategy already sets out as an outcome the need for a Resilient Glasgow as more of the City will be exposed to flood risk associated with an increased intensity of rainfall and with sea level rise, and people, nature and infrastructure can all be vulnerable to a changing climate, and how the European Commission Horizon 2020 Connecting Nature project ensured Glasgow was at the forefront of Nature Based Solutions.

However, Council agrees that it is not enough to simply mitigate the effects of our climate: and notes the conclusion of the report that ‘there is a general absence of an explicit understanding of Glasgow as a distinctively wet city, that could benefit from a holistic set of plans, programmes and developments to improve and enhance the urban experience in the city’. In a setting that receives 1370mm of rainfall each year and was accepted to be a wet place even before climate related changes, Glasgow must learn to better ‘live with rain’.

Council notes with approval the examples of cities around the world that have adopted ‘living with rain’ principles: from the example of Bergen, Europe’s wettest city with 2495mm p/a rainfall: something that it has embraced in many of its own socio-cultural practices, emphasising the necessity of being able to live an outdoor lifestyle in all weathers; Vancouver, where specific design guidance has been developed, along with public and active travel infrastructure; or Singapore, where rain has been used to inform world-leading and distinctive urban design.

Council also instructs officers to further engage with other cities either bilaterally and through our participation in networks like UN Generation Restoration Cities, Cities with Nature to engage in further knowledge exchanges to living with rain and delivering large scale nature-based solutions and explore further funded partnership opportunities. Glasgow is within a temperate rainforest climate zone, and therefore, Council agrees to engage with the work of the Alliance for Scotland’s Rainforest to share learning and best practice in rainforest habitat work, as well as support communities to become more resilient.

Council agrees that there must be a deeper and more comprehensive acknowledgement of itself as a rainy city in the new City Development Plan and attempt to bring spatial coherence to these disconnected programmes in relation to the experience of rain – and ensure Living with Rain is reflected in future supporting guidance.

Council resolves to adopt a living with rain approach to planning, to ensure that we create a resilient urban environment that does not repeat the mistakes of the past and acknowledges Glasgow’s distinct climate with the context of these islands; this includes investigating weather protection, shelter and other rain-friendly design features where appropriate in future public realm improvements, including the use of permeable materials where appropriate, working with urban rainfall is not limited to traditional policies on managing water but cuts across policy domains like public transport and active travel, and ensure living with rain is considered in the future Climate Plan update, new City Development Plan and other plans.

Council further instructs that an EQIA be carried out for all new rain-adaptive infrastructure to ensure appropriate accessibility for marginalised groups.

The motion, as adjusted, was unanimously approved.

Adjournment.

20 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 9(f) and 9(g).