

Support for displaced residents – Motion as adjusted approved.

13 Councillor Molyneux, seconded by Bailie Wardrop, moved that

“Council notes that dozens of Pollokshields residents have been displaced for almost two months due to the collapse of a neighbouring tenement at Albert Cross. Council also recalls similar circumstances in the recent past affecting residents around the India Buildings in Laurieston, the Trinity Building in Park, and Lancefield Quay in Anderston, as well as the previous fires at Albert Cross.

Council understands that in such circumstances, residents are largely prohibited from re-entering their homes until they are made safe, and that this can mean they lose access to vital documentation, medication, work files or other essential items. This can result in loss of earnings, disruption to studies, immigration problems, health worries and added stress, as well as meaning that people have to make expensive ‘repurchases’ of items, often while insurance positions are unclear and they may not be eligible for other sources of support such as the Scottish Welfare Fund.

Council believes that residents who find themselves in this position should be well supported and notes that there is precedent for providing direct financial support following major fires, such as Sauchiehall Street.

Council therefore agrees:

- (1) To make a donation of £150,000 to the Lord Provost’s Fund for Vulnerable Citizens if it agrees to ringfence those funds for the purposes of enabling immediate, direct financial assistance to Glasgow households who are forced from their homes and are unable to return for an extended period due to action taken by the Council under emergency powers, such as those in the Building (Scotland) Act 2003.
- (2) To ask the Trustees to make awards of £2,000 from this fund to qualifying households, backdated to 1st April this year.
- (3) To ask the Trustees to consider whether the Fund can also be a suitable vehicle for gathering and distributing funds from citizens who wish to donate in such circumstances.
- (4) To instruct the Chief Executive to undertake a review of existing arrangements for supporting residents and small businesses in such circumstances, with a view to ensuring the Council and other agencies are as responsive and supportive as they can be within their powers, and to involve those with lived experience in designing any improvements. The outputs of this work will be reported to an appropriate Committee within two cycles.”

Councillor Kelly, seconded by Bailie MacLeod, moved as an amendment:

- (1) to insert after first 2 paragraphs, the following 2 new paragraphs:

“Council notes that, as regrettable as these situations can be, officers are carrying out their legal duties and that the responsibility of the Council to protect the public from harm is paramount.

Council hopes that these unfortunate incidents will help raise awareness among residents and owners of pre-1919 tenements around the importance of communal buildings insurance; factoring; and regular inspections and maintenance to ensure that our remaining tenement stock is kept in good condition.”;

- (2) to delete the third paragraph and replace with the following:

“Council believes that residents who find themselves in this position should be well supported and notes that there is precedent for providing direct financial support following major fires, such as Sauchiehall Street.”;

- (3) to delete the first 3 bullet points after “Council therefore agrees”.; and

- (4) to insert after the 4th bullet point the following 2 new bullet points:

“Request that the Built Heritage Commission investigates what provisions need to be in place to better protect our pre 1919 tenement stock from disrepair, leading to collapse and the displacement of local residents.

Instructs officers to engage with Scottish Government officials on the outcome of this work with the view to updating the Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004, or other related legislation, so that the recommendations can be enacted.”

Councillor O’Lone, seconded by Councillor Carson, moved as an amendment that:

- (1) in first paragraph after “Anderston”, insert: “Calton” and “after as well as the previous fires at Albert Cross”, insert “and other locations throughout the city.”;

- (2) in the second paragraph after: “and that this can mean” insert “moving into temp accommodation, losing” and after other “essential items” insert “Council extends its sympathy and solidarity with all those affected.”;

- (3) in second paragraph, after insertion of above delete all and insert the following new paragraph:

“Council recognises that residents displaced due to emergency building action often face significant hardship, particularly where they do not have access to insurance, savings, or other forms of support, but that the Council has clear statutory duty to act to protect its citizens.”;

- (4) after the new paragraph above, insert the following:

“Council notes that there is a need for clear and supportive protocols for residents who face these situations”;

- (5) after this new paragraph, insert the following:

“Council notes the urgent need for clear and immediate support for residents displaced due to unforeseen circumstances.

Council further notes that the Lord Provost’s Fund for Vulnerable Citizens is already accessible to affected individuals, but that awareness and clarity around its purpose, eligibility, and application process must be improved for both Members and residents”;

- (6) delete paragraph before Council resolves to, which begins with:

“Council believes that residents who find themselves in this position should be well supported and notes that there is precedent for providing direct financial support following major fires, such as Sauchiehall Street.”; and

- (7) after “Council therefore resolves to” delete the first 3 actions/asks and insert the following:

1. To ask the Lord Provost to consider the utilisation of existing funds within the Lord Provost’s Fund to support residents displaced under emergency powers.
2. To request a review of current city policy regarding financial assistance for displaced households, and for a report to be brought to the relevant committee outlining options for improving responsiveness and transparency.
3. To establish a clear process for addressing the structural challenges contributing to displacement, including communication protocols and coordination between departments and the third sector and other sources of support.

During the debate Councillor Molyneux, Councillor Kelly and Councillor O’Lone, with the approval of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendments resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

“Council notes that dozens of Pollokshields residents have been displaced for almost two months due to the collapse of a neighbouring tenement at Albert Cross. Council also recalls similar circumstances in the recent past affecting residents around the India Buildings in Laurieston, the Trinity Building in Park, and Lancefield Quay in Anderston, Calton, as well as the previous fires at Albert Cross and other locations throughout the city.

Council understands that in such circumstances, residents are largely prohibited from re-entering their homes until they are made safe, and that this can mean moving into temporary accommodation, losing access to vital documentation, medication, work files or other essential items. Council extends its sympathy and solidarity with all those affected. This can result in loss of earnings, disruption to

studies, immigration problems, health worries and added stress, as well as meaning that people have to make expensive 'repurchases' of items, often while insurance positions are unclear and they may not be eligible for other sources of support such as the Scottish Welfare Fund.

Council recognises that residents displaced due to emergency building action often face significant hardship, particularly where they do not have access to insurance, savings, or other forms of support.

Council notes the urgent need for clear and immediate support for residents displaced to collapsing buildings.

Council further notes that the Lord Provost's Fund for Vulnerable Citizens can assist individuals in need, but that awareness and clarity around its purpose, eligibility, and application process must be improved for both Members and residents.

Council believes that residents who find themselves in this position should be well supported and notes that there is precedent for providing direct financial support following major fires, such as Sauchiehall Street.

Council therefore agrees:

1. To ask the Trustees of the Lord Provost's Fund for Vulnerable Citizens to urgently consider providing immediate, direct financial assistance to residents currently displaced under emergency powers and to consider levels of awards which are related to need, recalling support previously provided to Sauchiehall St residents.
2. To ask the Trustees to also consider if the Fund can be a suitable vehicle for gathering and distributing funds which citizens wish to donate in such circumstances.
3. To instruct the Chief Executive to undertake a review of existing arrangements for supporting residents and small businesses in such circumstances, including communication protocols and coordination between departments and outlining options for improving responsiveness and transparency, with a view to ensuring the Council and other agencies are as responsive and supportive as they can be within their powers, and to involve those with lived experience in designing any improvements. The outputs of this work will be reported to an appropriate Committee within two cycles.
4. To request that the Built Heritage Commission investigates what provisions need to be in place to better protect our pre 1919 tenement stock from disrepair, leading to collapse and the displacement of local residents.
5. To instruct officers to engage with Scottish Government officials on the outcome of this work with the view to updating the Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004, or other related legislation, so that the recommendations can be enacted."

The motion, as adjusted, was thereafter unanimously approved.

Adjournment.

14 In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1555 hours until 1605 hours.

Resumption of meeting.

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

Present: Chair, Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren

JAMES ADAMS	LAURA DOHERTY	ELAINE McDOUGALL
SAQIB AHMED	STEPHEN DORNAN	DONNA McGILL
SUSAN AITKEN	SEAN FERGUSON	NORMAN MacLEOD
IMRAN ALAM	ELAINE GALLAGHER	ELAINE McSPORRAN
BLAIR ANDERSON	MARIE GARRITY	ANNE McTAGGART
KEN ANDREW	ZEN GHANI	CHRISTY MEARNS
ALEXANDER BELIC	ALLAN GOW	ANGUS MILLAR
RICHARD BELL	WILLIAM GRAHAM	MALCOLM MITCHELL
DECLAN BLENCH	SHARON GREER	JON MOLYNEUX
EVA BOLANDER	GREG HEPBURN	ROBERT MOONEY
ABDUL BOSTANI	FIONA HIGGINS	MARGARET MORGAN
PHILIP BRAAT	SEONAD HOY	EVA MURRAY
JILL BROWN	MHAIRI HUNTER	CECILIA O'LONE
HOLLY BRUCE	RASHID HUSSAIN	JILL PIDGEON
BILL BUTLER	DAN HUTCHISON	LINDA PIKE
GRAHAM CAMPBELL	FYEZA IKHLAQ	HANIF RAJA
CHRISTINA CANNON	EUNIS JASSEMI	DAVENA RANKIN
PAUL CAREY	ANN JENKINS	THOMAS RANNACHAN
ANTHONY CARROLL	LILITH JOHNSTONE	GEORGE REDMOND
JOHN CARSON	JIM KAVANAGH	LANA REID-MCCONNELL
ALLAN CASEY	RUAIRI KELLY	FRANNY SCALLY
ANNETTE CHRISTIE	ALEX KERR	SORYIA SIDDIQUE
STEPHEN CURRAN	THOMAS KERR	KIERAN TURNER
FEARGAL DALTON	KEVIN LALLEY	CATHERINE VALLIS
JOHN DALY	PAUL LEINSTER	MARTHA WARDROP
AUDREY DEMPSEY	FRANK MCAVEETY	ALEX WILSON
STEPHEN DOCHERTY	PAUL MCCABE	

Apology: Roza Salih.

Attending: M Millar, Director of Legal and Democratic Services; D Hutchison, Executive Director of Education Services; R Emmott, Executive Director of Financial Services; and C Edgar, Director of Communication and Corporate Governance.