

Grassroots music – Motion as adjusted agreed.

16 Bailie Mearns, seconded by Councillor Anderson, moved that:-

"Council notes the significant contribution that music, its creators, performers, promoters, clubs and venues makes to Glasgow, an iconic music city sustained by world-class higher education institutions and infamous audiences. Council further notes that this has created a unique musical culture valued right across the world, providing invaluable opportunities for Glasgow's citizens and which contributes significantly to the success of the music industry globally.

Council further notes that Glasgow's music contributes overwhelmingly to Scotland's vibrancy and success. Night-time industries turn over more than £2 billion every year for the city, supporting 16,600 full-time jobs, with music tourism representing 1.6m visits to Scotland and a visitor spend of £499m in 2023 alone, according to research by UK Music, with much of this generated in Glasgow. Council recognises that this supports culture and tourism in the city and led to Glasgow being the first city in the UK to be awarded UNESCO City of Music status in 2008, as well as being voted the best city in the world for live music this year.

Council recognises the unique contribution of grassroots music venues to Glasgow's musical success; notes that many internationally-acclaimed artists have made their names here; and that these venues make up a significant part of our musical ecosystem, such as Sub Club which recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of its legendary weekly club night, Subculture, and which is nominated for DJ Mag's Best of British 'Best Club' Award this year, King Tuts' Wah Wah Hut, which was named "UK's Best Live Venue" for three years in a row; as well as a network of internationally successful labels, such as Numbers, LuckyMe and Soma Records and the record shops they centre around like Rubadub. Council recognises that these, as well as many others, add immense value to Glasgow's music culture and have placed Glasgow at the forefront of the UK's electronic and wider music scene.

Council, however, notes the ongoing financial pressures facing Scotland's music industry since Covid-19, which has resulted in the closure of grassroots music venues in Glasgow, such as the Blue Arrow Jazz Club and The 13th Note Cafe; that bigger venues are also being impacted, including The Shed nightclub which recently closed its doors, and The Garage nightclub which has reduced operating hours for the first time in its long and successful history. Council further acknowledges the significant loss to Glasgow's music landscape with the demolition of the iconic O2 ABC on Sauchiehall Street.

Council notes that figures from the Night-Time Industries Association (NTIA) show that there are only 82 nightclubs left in Scotland now, from 125 venues in 2020, which is a staggering drop of more than 30% in only four years. The NTIA have recently issued a stark warning that, without urgent intervention, there will be no night clubs left in the UK by 2030.

Council commends the work of Music Venue Trust in campaigning for grassroots music across the UK; as well as recent work on Glasgow's Culture Strategy 2024-

2030. Council celebrates the recent work that has been done on Glasgow's Culture Strategy 2024-2030 and Glasgow's 2030 Tourism Strategy which highlight the value of the city's music as a cultural asset and which recognise the critical importance of music to our visitor economy. Council further commends the work being undertaken by Glasgow's City Centre Taskforce, including the Night-time Economy and Transport sub-groups which have developed specific proposals which must be advanced at pace to support Glasgow's night-time industry and prevent further, irreversible decline to our city's culture.

Council therefore resolves to:

- A. ask the Convenor for Culture to write to the Chair of the Scottish Events Campus requesting a local Stadium Levy pilot to be developed for the Hydro, with revenue raised to be directed towards supporting grassroots music venues, and to table a paper to the appropriate committee detailing the steps needed to take it forward;
- B. write to the Chancellor calling for reform of the VAT system to protect the culture sector, particularly grassroots music venues and nightclubs;
- C. Write to the Finance Secretary calling for reform of Non-domestic Rates to prioritise financial support to genuinely small businesses which recognises the unique challenges facing music venues;
- D. write to all relevant public transport providers requesting enhanced night bus services, incorporating most recent customer and industry feedback, and calling for later operating hours on Subway and trains to support the night-time economy;
- E. develop a local Night-time Economy Strategy for Glasgow, in line with the recommendations of the NTIA Scotland and the City Centre Taskforce's NTE sub-group;
- F. produce a comprehensive UNESCO City of Music trail, in physical and digital form, as one legacy of Glasgow's 850th anniversary which helps to celebrate all that Glasgow has to offer musically;
- G. ensure that grassroots music venues, artists and DJs across all genres are fully involved in Glasgow's 850 celebrations, including at a dedicated civic reception and within the programme for Clyde Chorus;
- H. consider additional opportunities to market Glasgow's music internationally and through Glasgow's Life's destination marketing team."

Bailie Christie, seconded by Councillor Doherty, moved as an amendment that:-

Insert in paragraph 3 between "...awarded UNESCO City of Music status in 2008, ..." and "...as well as being voted the best city in the world for live music this year".

"...and remains Scotland's only UNESCO City of Music,..."

Insert in paragraph 6 between “Glasgow’s Culture Strategy 2024-2030,...” and “..and Glasgow’s 2030 Tourism Strategy...”

“Glasgow’s Events Strategy 2035”

Delete final sentence in paragraph 6 from “Council further commends the work being undertaken by Glasgow’s City Centre Taskforce,...” and replace with:

“with aspirations to maintain and enhance Glasgow’s breadth and scale of venues, and to nurture Glasgow’s creative and events workforce to attract, develop and retain good people, reflecting a diverse and inclusive working environment whilst delivering excellence.”

Insert after paragraph 6, 3 new paragraphs:

“City Centre Taskforce’s Night Time Economy Group which is currently developing an action plan, responding to the City Centre Taskforce’s commissioned evidence based report on Glasgow’s Night Time Economy; notes that the City Centre Taskforce’s Transport Sub Group has brought together transport operators, alongside the public and private sector, to seek improvements to public transport to support people to participate in the night time economy; and further notes that the Taskforce has already been advocating and will continue to advocate for operators to increase operating hours.

Council also commends the ‘Choose Public Transport’ campaign as businesses across Glasgow work collaboratively during the busy winter season, with public transport operators joining forces with Glasgow City Council and the Night Time Economy team to encourage visitors coming into the city in the evening to make use of the wide range of public transport options available throughout the day and night.

Council welcomes the statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance in the Scottish Government’s draft budget 2025/26 with the announcement of a £34m increase for the culture sector, including doubling the budget provided to our world-class Scottish Festivals which in turn benefits thousands of grassroots artists, and providing Non-Domestic Rates support to music venues.”

Delete bullets C, D and E and insert a new bullet:

“Support the recommendations of the City Centre Taskforce’s Night Time Economy group which will be brought forward in early 2025, and the aim to co-develop a Night Time Economy Action Plan in partnership with the NTE sector;”

Insert at beginning of bullet F:

“Continue to develop the..”

Insert at the beginning of bullet G:

“Further explore the city’s most notable venues, bringing alive the stories of the legendary performers who have stayed, played, and made music in the UK’s first UNESCO City of Music during Glasgow 850 celebrations, ensuring..”

And change “fully involved” to “engaged”

Insert at the beginning of bullet H:

“Build on the success of the recent Glasgow Non Stop Music and City of Music digital campaigns and...”

Councillor McAveety, seconded by Councillor Lalley, moved as an amendment that:-

After music venues in bullet point A, please insert:

“It is essential that any proposed levy is properly costed, and that a full consultation process be undertaken with relevant stakeholders, including representatives from the music industry, to ensure the levy’s impact on the sector is carefully considered. In addition, Council requests that a report be brought to the appropriate committee, including details of the consultation process, cost analysis, and a clear plan to ensure the levy does not unduly burden the already struggling music industry.”

During the debate Bailie Mearns, Bailie Christie and Councillor McAveety, with the agreement of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendments resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

“Council notes the significant contribution that music, its creators, performers, promoters, clubs and venues makes to Glasgow, an iconic music city sustained by world-class higher education institutions and infamous audiences. Council further notes that this has created a unique musical culture valued right across the world, providing invaluable opportunities for Glasgow’s citizens and which contributes significantly to the success of the music industry globally.

Council further notes that Glasgow’s music contributes overwhelmingly to Scotland’s vibrancy and success. Night-time industries turn over more than £2 billion every year for the city, supporting 16,600 full-time jobs, with music tourism representing 1.6m visits to Scotland and a visitor spend of £499m in 2023 alone, according to research by UK Music, with much of this generated in Glasgow. Council recognises that this supports culture and tourism in the city and led to Glasgow being the first city in the UK to be awarded UNESCO City of Music status in 2008, and remains Scotland’s only UNESCO City of Music as well as being voted the best city in the world for live music this year.

Council recognises the unique contribution of grassroots music venues to Glasgow’s musical success; notes that many internationally-acclaimed artists have made their names here; and that these venues make up a significant part of our musical ecosystem, such as Sub Club which recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of its legendary weekly club night, Subculture, and which is nominated for DJ Mag’s Best of British ‘Best Club’ Award this year; King Tuts’ Wah Wah Hut, which was named “UK’s Best Live Venue” for three years in a row; as well as a

network of internationally successful labels, such as Numbers, LuckyMe and Soma Records and the record shops they centre around like Rubadub. Council recognises that these, as well as many others, add immense value to Glasgow's music culture and have placed Glasgow at the forefront of the UK's electronic and wider music scene.

Council, however, notes the ongoing financial pressures facing Scotland's music industry since Covid-19, which has resulted in the closure of grassroots music venues in Glasgow, such as the Blue Arrow Jazz Club and The 13th Note Cafe; that bigger venues are also being impacted, including The Shed nightclub which recently closed its doors, and The Garage nightclub which has reduced operating hours for the first time in its long and successful history. Council further acknowledges the significant loss to Glasgow's music landscape with the demolition of the iconic O2 ABC on Sauchiehall Street.

Council notes that figures from the Night Time Industries Association (NTIA) show that there are only 82 nightclubs left in Scotland now, from 125 venues in 2020, which is a staggering drop of more than 30% in only four years. The NTIA have recently issued a stark warning that, without urgent intervention, there will be no night clubs left in the UK by 2030.

Council celebrates the recent work that has been done on Glasgow's Culture Strategy 2024-2030, Glasgow's Events Strategy 2035 and Glasgow's 2030 Tourism Strategy which highlight the value of the city's music as a cultural asset and which recognise the critical importance of music to our visitor economy with aspirations to maintain and enhance Glasgow's breadth and scale of venues, and to nurture Glasgow's creative and events workforce to attract, develop and retain good people, reflecting a diverse and inclusive working environment whilst delivering excellence.

Council further commends the City Centre Taskforce's Night Time Economy Group which is currently developing an action plan, responding to the Taskforce's commissioned evidence based report on Glasgow's Night Time Economy; notes that the Taskforce's Transport Sub Group has brought together transport operators, alongside the public and private sector, to seek improvements to public transport to support people to participate in the night time economy; and further notes that the Taskforce has already been advocating and will continue to advocate for operators to increase operating hours.

Council also commends the 'Choose Public Transport' campaign as businesses across Glasgow work collaboratively during the busy winter season, with public transport operators joining forces with Glasgow City Council and the Night Time Economy team to encourage visitors coming into the city in the evening to make use of the wide range of public transport options available throughout the day and night.

Council welcomes the statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance in the Scottish Government's draft budget 2025-26 with the announcement of a £34m increase for the culture sector hailed as 'transformational', including doubling the budget provided to our world-class Scottish Festivals which in turn benefits

thousands of grassroots artists, and providing Non-Domestic Rates support to music venues. However, Council notes the ongoing challenges around funding for culture more broadly which may not be fully resolved by this forthcoming Scottish Government budget.

Council therefore resolves to:

- A. Ask the Convenor for Culture to write to the Chair of the Scottish Events Campus requesting a local Stadium Levy pilot to be developed for the Hydro, with revenue raised to be directed towards supporting grassroots music venues, and to table a paper to the appropriate committee detailing the steps needed to take it forward.

Council agrees it is essential that any proposed levy does not unduly burden the already struggling music industry, and that at the appropriate stage a full consultation process be undertaken with relevant stakeholders, including representatives from the music industry, to ensure the levy's impact on the sector is carefully considered. In addition, Council requests that reports be regularly brought to the appropriate Council committee to keep elected members updated;

- B. Write to the Chancellor calling for reform of the VAT system to protect the culture sector, particularly grassroots music venues and nightclubs;
- C. Support the recommendations of the City Centre Taskforce's Night Time Economy group which will be brought forward in early 2025, and the aim to co-develop a Night Time Economy Action Plan and Strategy in partnership with the NTE sector which would include later public transport operating hours, with a report to be brought to the relevant Council committee by summer recess of 2025 which would include further details on the draft Night Time Economy Strategy;
- D. Continue to develop the comprehensive UNESCO City of Music trail, in physical and digital form, as one legacy of Glasgow's 850th anniversary which helps to celebrate all that Glasgow has to offer musically;
- E. Further explore the city's most notable venues, bringing alive the stories of the legendary performers who have stayed, played, and made music in the UK's first UNESCO City of Music during Glasgow 850 celebrations, ensuring that grassroots music venues, artists and DJs across all genres are engaged INVOLVED in Glasgow's 850 celebrations, including at a dedicated civic reception and within the programme for Clyde Chorus; and
- F. Build on the success of the recent Glasgow Non Stop Music and City of Music digital campaigns and consider additional opportunities to market Glasgow's music internationally and through Glasgow's Life's destination marketing team.

The motion, as adjusted, was unanimously agreed.