

CITY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE'S MINUTES.

Hybrid meeting, 30th January 2025.

City Administration Committee.

Present: Susan Aitken (Chair), Saqib Ahmed, Richard Bell, Jill Brown, Christina Cannon, Allan Casey, Annette Christie, Chris Cunningham, Greg Hepburn, Ruairi Kelly, Frank McAveety, Elaine McDougall, Anne McTaggart, Angus Millar, Jon Molyneux, Robert Mooney, Jill Pidgeon, George Redmond, Lana Reid-McConnell, Soryia Siddique, Kieran Turner (substitute for Cecilia O'Lone) and Martha Wardrop.

Apology: Cecilia O'Lone.

Attending: E Rodger (Clerk); S Millar, Chief Executive; D Hutchison, Executive Director of Education Services; G Gilliespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability; M Johnston, Director of Financial and Business Services; C Edgar, Director of Communication and Corporate Governance; M Millar, Director of Legal and Administration; K Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth; and P Togher, Chief Officer, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership.

Visitor Levy Scheme for Glasgow – Formal consultation approved.

1 Councillor Bell, Depute Leader of the Council, City Treasurer and City Convener for Financial Inclusion, presented a report regarding a proposed Visitor Levy (VL) Scheme for Glasgow, advising

- (1) that the Scottish Parliament had passed the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Bill on 28th May 2024, with Royal Assent being received on 5th July 2024, and this gave Councils the legal power to introduce a VL Scheme with the guidance to support the implementation of the Act having been developed by Visit Scotland and published in October 2024;
- (2) that the VL was charged on the purchase of overnight accommodation at a percentage rate set by the local authority and the levy applied to hotels, hostels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts, self-catering accommodation, caravan and campsites, and would not apply to gypsy and traveller sites, neither could it be charged for accommodation in a vehicle or on board a vessel that was undertaking a journey involving one or more overnight stops;
- (3) that there was a specified timeline of activities to be carried out when establishing a VL Scheme and it had been recommended that local authorities conducted some early informal engagement and following an initial meeting with officers of the Council and Glasgow Life, Visit Scotland and key

stakeholders from the hospitality sector and businesses, a working group had been established to carry out the co-design and consultation process;

- (4) of the findings of the informal consultation;
- (5) that formal consultation was required for the introduction of a VL scheme which should last for 12 weeks and a local authority must prepare and publicise an outline of the scheme, a statement of the scheme objectives and an assessment of the impact of the proposals, then following the consultation, a local authority must prepare and publicise a report which summarises the consultation responses, states whether or not the authority intends to proceed with a scheme and sets out the reasons for whether or not it intends to proceed;
- (6) that if a VL scheme for Glasgow was approved, following consultation, there would be a minimum 18-month implementation period after the date on which the local authority published the report outlining the scheme, Scottish Ministers would also need to be notified and a Visitor Levy Forum must be established within 6-months of the formal public announcement of the decision to introduce the levy, businesses would then be notified of their liability to pay the new levy;
- (7) of the potential revenue from a VL scheme in Glasgow and of the administration costs to support the successful start-up and delivery of the scheme;
- (8) that accommodation providers had raised concerns about the economic impact of the VL scheme, however at this stage there was no evidence to suggest that the introduction of a VL in Glasgow would have an adverse effect on visitor numbers; and
- (9) of the proposed VL Scheme for Glasgow, which could be subject to change after the proposed consultation stage.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) agreed to proceed to formal consultation for the introduction of a Visitor Levy Scheme for Glasgow.