UK Government budget 2026 – Emergency motion as adjusted approved, after division.

8 Councillor Richard Bell, seconded by Councillor Ruairi Kelly, moved that

“Council notes the UK Government Budget announced yesterday, the first delivered by Chancellor John Healey and the first Budget since Andy Burnham became Prime Minister in the summer.

Council welcomes the investment announced for the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) and the support provided for the wider development of the campus. Council recognises the significant economic, cultural and tourism contribution that the SEC makes to Glasgow and Scotland, and supports the vision and ambition of the SEC team in securing the venue’s long-term success.

Council believes that funding announced by the UK Government to tackle homelessness in England should result in Barnett consequentials for Scotland, ensuring that equivalent investment is made available to local authorities and partners working to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping.

Council notes the substantial investment now flowing to cities and regions in England and believes there can be no justification for Glasgow being left behind. To remain competitive, attract investment and drive economic growth, Glasgow and other cities and regions across these islands must receive funding from the UK Government on a comparable basis to that being provided to our English counterparts. Council notes its concern that although this was the busiest budget in terms of the number of policies announced, the average value of those measures is the smallest on record, including anything the Tories did. Council therefore agrees that Andy Burnham has failed to put his money where his mouth is on his commitment to improving lives for people in every postcode.

Council further notes this is confirmed by a range of think tanks, charities, anti-poverty campaigns and unions like the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) who believe that the Budget measures "fall short" of reversing low-income and low living standards; Generation Rent who believe it was "hugely disappointing," trapping families in poverty; Child Poverty Action Group who found it only provided "crumbs of comfort today for struggling families ... leaving millions of vulnerable kids exposed this winter; Unison who say the UK government needs 'to move beyond small fixes' and "to improve ordinary people’s everyday lives, the government needs to deal with the fundamental causes of the miseries so many face."; and STUC General Secretary Roz Foyer who said “This budget doesn’t yet offer the concrete reindustrialisation Scotland needs, nor the further devolved powers for our Parliament and local authorities that had been envisioned.

Council further notes that many households continue to face significant cost-of-living pressures, with rising energy costs and household bills placing substantial strain on family finances. Council believes that the cost of living crisis requires bold, transformative solutions and the Labour Government is falling well short of the scale of intervention and support required by many individuals and families in Glasgow. In particular, Council notes that Labour entered office promising to reduce household

energy bills by £300, but household bills are due to be £1000 more expensive in January than Labour promised. Council believes that households in Glasgow and across Scotland will see little comfort from short-term interventions that fail to address the underlying cost of energy.

Council believes that Westminster – regardless of which Party is in Government – have proved time and again that they are unfit for the task and that only independence for Scotland will deliver on all our aims to eradicate child poverty, tackle inequality and deliver lasting improvements in living standards for the people of Glasgow.

Council agrees to write to the Chancellor asking:

- that he provides Scotland with the same level of fiscal powers and investment opportunities being granted to English regions
- that he reverses the National Insurance hike that continues to have a disproportionate impact on small businesses, charities and Third Sector organisations
- that he announces meaningful action on reducing the price of fuel in the immediate and long term
- that he takes bold initiatives to reduce those in in-work poverty, including those households with children

Councillor Hussain, seconded by Councillor Curran, moved as an amendment to delete all and replace with the following:-

"Council welcomes the Labour UK Government's Budget as an opportunity to ease pressure on household finances, strengthen public services and secure investment in Glasgow's future.

Council believes residents deserve action from every level of government. Council rejects the claim that independence is necessary to tackle poverty and inequality, and calls on the Scottish Government and City Administration to take responsibility for delivering improvements through the powers and resources already available to them.

Council welcomes the £6 million announced towards expanding Glasgow's Scottish Event Campus, subject to business case approval. Council recognises this as an investment in Glasgow's international standing and its tourism, hospitality and events economy. Council supports the SEC's ambition and believes the expansion must deliver opportunities for local workers, apprentices and suppliers, alongside increased business for hotels, restaurants, shops and venues across the city.

Council notes that the Budget provides an additional £600 million for Scottish public services over the Spending Review period from 2026–27 to 2029–30. Council further notes that decisions taken by the Labour UK Government since 2024 have provided more than £18 billion in additional funding across 2024–25 to 2027–28.

Council believes additional funding must reach the communities and services that need it. Glasgow's schools, neighbourhood services, homelessness provision and

support for vulnerable residents require a fair, sustainable settlement. Council calls on the Scottish Government to demonstrate clearly how Glasgow will benefit, rather than allowing additional resources to be absorbed without visible improvements in frontline services.

Council calls on the Scottish Government to deliver the proposed £100 household energy payment through council tax reductions for households in bands A–D. Council notes that more than 1.8 million Scottish households could benefit if this support is passed on, and believes the funding should provide direct relief to households rather than plug gaps elsewhere in the Scottish Government's budget.

Council welcomes continued support with energy bills, plans to remove gas standing charges with protections for vulnerable households, and the extension of the 5p fuel-duty cut and freeze in rates until July 2027.

Council welcomes more than £20 billion of additional capital for the National Wealth Fund and British Business Bank, alongside £1.85 billion for growing businesses. Council believes Glasgow must actively pursue these opportunities to support regeneration, innovation, manufacturing and the growth of local enterprises. Council welcomes the £20 million of joint funding for two Defence Technical Excellence Colleges in Scotland. Council believes Glasgow's shipbuilding, engineering and manufacturing workforce must be supported to benefit from the skilled jobs, apprenticeships and investment arising from increased defence spending.

Council believes Glasgow also needs greater control over its economic future. Council supports a new generation of devolution deals transferring powers and financial flexibility from Westminster and Holyrood directly to cities and communities.

Council therefore:

1. Calls on the Scottish Government to set out Glasgow's share of the additional funding and provide a settlement reflecting the city's deprivation, homelessness pressures and wider economic responsibilities.
2. Calls for the £100 household payment to be passed on promptly through fully funded council tax reductions for households in bands A–D.
3. Requests the Chief Executive to work with the SEC to progress its expansion business case and maximise local employment and economic benefits.
4. Requests officers to bring forward a coordinated plan for securing Glasgow's access to the Budget's investment, business and skills opportunities, with clear priorities, responsible leads and progress reporting through the appropriate committee.
5. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to both Governments seeking early discussions on Glasgow's funding and investment priorities, including a devolution deal giving the city greater powers to support businesses, attract investment and improve living standards."

Councillor Jon Molyneux, seconded by Councillor Lana Reid-McConnell moved as an amendment:-

(1) in paragraph 3, replace “believes that” with “notes”, and “should” with “and seeks clarity to whether this will”

(2) in paragraph 4, after “England and”, replace rest of paragraph with:

“understands that the increasingly complex arrangements around fiscal devolution, including new NDR and Income Tax retention powers for English regions, will make it significantly more difficult to understand what Scotland’s fair share of total funding is, and believes there is a growing case for revisiting the Barnett formula, and this should include putting Glasgow on an equal footing with other city regions.”

(3) at paragraph 8 ending “cost of energy”, insert at the end:

“as well as measures that undermine the transition to clean energy, including a £1bn cut to the Warm Homes Plan, a one-third reduction in the budget for heat pump grants, and the expiry of the 0% VAT rate on insulation, heat pumps and solar panels at the end of March 2027. Council is similarly concerned that transport measures risk undermining decarbonisation, and believes that fuel duty freezes on petrol and diesel should be matched by cuts to underlying bus and rail fares, and that the 0% VAT on household electricity should also extend to the public EV charging network, where it is currently 20%.”

(4) insert additional paragraph after current paragraph 8:

“Council also condemns the UK Labour government’s decision to maintain discriminatory minimum wage rates for younger workers, despite promising to scrap them. Workers aged 18 - 20 will earn almost £2 less per hour than those aged 21 or over who are doing the exact same job, and this will be almost £3 per hour lower than the Real Living Wage.”

(5) in list of actions, replace “provides Scotland” with “works with the Scottish Government to provide Glasgow”

(6) insert additional action as point 3 to read:

“that he announces meaningful action on reducing the price of fuel in the immediate and long term in ways that are consistent with encouraging the transition to clean energy”

(7) at the end of existing point 3, after “with children”, add:

“, and restores the previous commitment to ending pay discrimination against younger workers.”

(8) insert additional paragraph to read:

> “Council also agrees to write to the Scottish Government asking that it pass on the maximum possible share of its total budget allocation for local government in order to protect public services, and for it to set out in detail what its “meaningful contribution” to Glasgow's unique homelessness pressures will mean as soon as possible so this Council can plan accordingly.”

Councillor Bell, with the approval of his seconder, accepted the amendment by Councillor Molyneux, resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

> “Council notes the UK Government Budget announced yesterday, the first delivered by Chancellor John Healey and the first Budget since Andy Burnham became Prime Minister in the summer.
>
> Council welcomes the investment announced for the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) and the support provided for the wider development of the campus. Council recognises the significant economic, cultural and tourism contribution that the SEC makes to Glasgow and Scotland, and supports the vision and ambition of the SEC team in securing the venue’s long-term success.
>
> Council notes that funding announced by the UK Government to tackle homelessness in England and seeks clarity to whether this will result in Barnett consequentials for Scotland, ensuring that equivalent investment is made available to local authorities and partners working to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping.

Council notes the substantial investment now flowing to cities and regions in England and believes there can be no justification for Glasgow being left behind. To remain competitive, attract investment and drive economic growth, Glasgow and other cities and regions across these islands must receive funding from the UK Government on a comparable basis to that being provided to our English counterparts. Council notes its concern that although this was the busiest budget in terms of the number of policies announced, the average value of those measures is the smallest on record, including anything the Tories did. Council therefore agrees that Andy Burnham has failed to put his money where his mouth is on his commitment to improving lives for people in every postcode.

Council further notes this is confirmed by a range of think tanks, charities, anti-poverty campaigns and unions like the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) who believe that the Budget measures "fall short" of reversing low-income and low living standards; Generation Rent who believe it was "hugely disappointing," trapping families in poverty; Child Poverty Action Group who found it only provided "crumbs of comfort today for struggling families ... leaving millions of vulnerable kids exposed this winter; Unison who say the UK government needs 'to move beyond small fixes' and "to improve ordinary people’s everyday lives, the government needs to deal with the fundamental causes of the miseries so many face."; and STUC General

Secretary Roz Foyer who said “This budget doesn’t yet offer the concrete reindustrialisation Scotland needs, nor the further devolved powers for our Parliament and local authorities that had been envisioned.

Council further notes that many households continue to face significant cost-of-living pressures, with rising energy costs and household bills placing substantial strain on family finances. Council believes that the cost of living crisis requires bold, transformative solutions and the Labour Government is falling well short of the scale of intervention and support required by many individuals and families in Glasgow. In particular, Council notes that Labour entered office promising to reduce household energy bills by £300, but household bills are due to be £1000 more expensive in January than Labour promised. Council believes that households in Glasgow and across Scotland will see little comfort from short-term interventions that fail to address the underlying cost of energy as well as measures that undermine the transition to clean energy, including a £1bn cut to the Warm Homes Plan, a one-third reduction in the budget for heat pump grants, and the expiry of the 0% VAT rate on insulation, heat pumps and solar panels at the end of March 2027. Council is similarly concerned that transport measures risk undermining decarbonisation, and believes that fuel duty freezes on petrol and diesel should be matched by cuts to underlying bus and rail fares, and that the 0% VAT on household electricity should also extend to the public EV charging network, where it is currently 20%.

Council also condemns the UK Labour government’s decision to maintain discriminatory minimum wage rates for younger workers, despite promising to scrap them. Workers aged 18 - 20 will earn almost £2 less per hour than those aged 21 or over who are doing the exact same job, and this will be almost £3 per hour lower than the Real Living Wage.

Council believes that Westminster – regardless of which Party is in Government - have proved time and again that they are unfit for the task and that only independence for Scotland will deliver on all our aims to eradicate child poverty, tackle inequality and deliver lasting improvements in living standards for the people of Glasgow.

Council agrees to write to the Chancellor asking:

- that he works with the Scotland Government to provide Glasgow with the same level of fiscal powers and investment opportunities being granted to English regions
- that he reverses the National Insurance hike that continues to have a disproportionate impact on small businesses, charities and Third Sector organisations
- that he announces meaningful action on reducing the price of fuel in the immediate and long term in ways that are consistent with encouraging the transition to clean energy
- that he announces meaningful action on reducing the price of fuel in the immediate and long term
- that he takes bold initiatives to reduce those in in-work poverty, including those households with children and restores the previous commitment to ending pay discrimination against younger workers.

- Council also agrees to write to the Scottish Government asking that it pass on the maximum possible share of its total budget allocation for local government in order to protect public services, and for it to set out in detail what its "meaningful contribution" to Glasgow's unique homelessness pressures will mean as soon as possible so this Council can plan accordingly."

On a vote being taken electronically and by calling the roll, 29 voted for the amendment and 44 for the motion as adjusted, with 3 abstentions.

The motion as adjusted was accordingly declared to be carried.

Adjournment.

9 In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1246 hours until 1400 hours.

Resumption of meeting.

10 The meeting resumed at 1400 hours and the sederunt was taken as follows:-

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

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

AUDREY DEMPSEY NORMAN MACLEOD

DEACON CONVENOR

Apology: Philip Braat.

Attending: E Rodger (Clerk), M Millar, Director of Legal and Administration; J McGhee, Executive Director of Education Services; R Emmott, Executive Director of Finance; and C Edgar, Director of Communication and Corporate Governance.