

Fire safety and lithium-ion battery risk management - Motion as adjusted, approved.

6 Councillor Rannachan, seconded by Bailie Jenkins, moved that:-

“Council notes the major fire on 8 March 2026 on Union Street, adjacent to Glasgow Central Station, which is believed to have begun in a vape shop and resulted in significant structural damage, the partial collapse of a B listed building, and major disruption to the rail network.

Council further notes the scale of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service response and the wider public safety concerns associated with lithium ion battery fires, which are known to burn hotter and faster than conventional fires and have been implicated in incidents involving vape devices and waste handling processes.

Council acknowledges that the affected building forms part of Glasgow's historic built environment and that the incident highlights the vulnerability of older properties to fast spreading fires.

Council recognises that lithium-ion battery fire risks have implications for Council operations, including cleansing activity, waste handling procedures, and the management of property within the Council's ownership or stewardship. Council also notes the work already being undertaken through the Take Charge Glasgow campaign to improve public awareness of safe battery disposal and reduce fire risk within waste services.

Council notes that statutory fire safety duties for commercial premises rest with individual businesses under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and that City Property already considers proposed business uses as part of its assessment processes, supported by robust lease conditions requiring tenants to comply with fire safety and insurance obligations.

Council also notes that investigations into the Union Street incident are ongoing, and nothing in this motion should be interpreted as prejudging their outcome.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Request a report from the Chief Executive to the appropriate committee that:
 - Reviews existing Council activity relating to lithium-ion battery fire risk, including the Take Charge Glasgow campaign and relevant operational procedures within Council services.
 - Identifies opportunities to strengthen public awareness and partnership working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Transport Scotland, Network Rail, and local businesses.
 - Sets out any options for enhancing fire prevention and emergency preparedness measures within older and heritage buildings that are owned or managed by the Council.

2. Instruct the Chief Executive to engage with City Property (Glasgow) LLP to:
 - Discuss whether any additional non statutory guidance or good practice approaches may support consideration of lithium ion battery fire safety issues when assessing tenant proposals, particularly within heritage or mixed use properties.
3. Agree that these actions constitute a proportionate and precautionary response to established fire risk evidence and support the safeguarding of residents, workers, visitors, and Glasgow's built heritage."

Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Andrew, moved as an amendment that:-

- (1) in paragraph 1, replace 'vape shop' with 'shop that sold vapes';
- (2) in paragraph 2, after 'waste handling process.' Insert

"Council further notes that lithium-ion batteries are ubiquitous in modern portable electrical products, including mobile phones, laptops and power tools: and that the quality of the batteries themselves can vary greatly.';

- (3) at the end of paragraph 6, insert the following sentence:

"And further notes that in a building of this type, with so many uses, that there could be multiple reasons for both the initial fire and its acceleration."

- (4) at the end, create action 4:

"Write to the Scottish Government, and all MSPs in the city, to ask them to explore bringing forward legislation on the greater regulation of vape products and the storage of lithium-ion batteries."

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

"Council notes the major fire on 8 March 2026 on Union Street, adjacent to Glasgow Central Station, which began in a shop that sold vapes and resulted in significant structural damage, the partial collapse of a B-listed building, and major disruption to the rail network.

Council further notes the scale of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service response and the wider public-safety concerns associated with lithium-ion battery fires, which are known to burn hotter and faster than conventional fires and have been implicated in incidents involving vape devices and waste-handling processes. Council further notes that lithium-ion batteries are ubiquitous in modern portable electrical products, including mobile phones, laptops and power tools: and that the quality of the batteries themselves can vary greatly.

Council acknowledges that the affected building forms part of Glasgow's historic built environment and that the incident highlights the vulnerability of older properties to fast-spreading fires.

Council recognises that lithium-ion battery fire risks have implications for Council operations, including cleansing activity, waste-handling procedures, and the management of property within the Council's ownership or stewardship. Council also notes the work already being undertaken through the Take Charge Glasgow campaign to improve public awareness of safe battery disposal and reduce fire risk within waste services.

Council notes that statutory fire-safety duties for commercial premises rest with individual businesses under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and that City Property already considers proposed business uses as part of its assessment processes, supported by robust lease conditions requiring tenants to comply with fire-safety and insurance obligations.

Council also notes that investigations into the Union Street incident are ongoing, and nothing in this motion should be interpreted as prejudging their outcome. Council therefore resolves to:

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3. Agree that these actions constitute a proportionate and precautionary response to established fire-risk evidence and support the safeguarding of residents, workers, visitors, and Glasgow's built heritage.

4. Write to the Scottish Government, and all MSPs in the city, to ask them to explore bringing forward legislation on the greater regulation of vape products and the storage of lithium-ion batteries.

Adjournment.

7 In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1245 hours until 1400 hours.

Resumption of meeting.

8 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 MCDOUGALL
JAMES ADAMS	LAURA DOHERTY	DONNA MCGILL
SAQIB AHMED	SEAN FERGUSON	NORMAN MACLEOD
SUSAN AITKEN	ELAINE GALLAGHER	ELAINE MCSPORRAN
IMRAN ALAM	MARIE GARRITY	ANNE MCTAGGART
KEN ANDREW	ZEN GHANI	LEÒDHAS MASSIE
ALEXANDER BELIC	ALLAN GOW	ANGUS MILLAR
RICHARD BELL	WILLIAM GRAHAM	MALCOLM MITCHELL
DECLAN BLENCH	GREG HEPBURN	JON MOLYNEUX
EVA BOLANDER	FIONA HIGGINS	ROBERT MOONEY
ABDUL BOSTANI	SEONAD HOY	MARGARET MORGAN
PHILIP BRAAT	MHAIRI HUNTER	CECILIA O'LONE
JILL BROWN	RASHID HUSSAIN	JILL PIDGEON
HOLLY BRUCE	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	LANA REID-MCCONNELL
JOHN CARSON	JIM KAVANAGH	ROZA SALIH
ALLAN CASEY	RUAIRI KELLY	FRANNY SCALLY
ANNETTE CHRISTIE	ALEX KERR	SORYIA SIDDIQUE
CHRIS CUNNINGHAM	KEVIN LALLEY	KIERAN TURNER
STEPHEN CURRAN	PAUL LEINSTER	CATHERINE VALLIS
FEARGAL DALTON	FRANK MCAVEETY	MARTHA WARDROP
JOHN DALY	PAUL MCCABE	ALEX WILSON
AUDREY DEMPSEY		

DEACON CONVENER

LORD DEAN OF GUILD

Apologies: Sharon Greer, Eva Murray, Thomas Kerr and George Redmond.

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