

Adjournment.

9 In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1305 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 MEARNIS	STEPHEN DOCHERTY	NORMAN MACLEOD
JAMES ADAMS	LAURA DOHERTY	ELAINE MCSPORRAN
SAQIB AHMED	STEPHEN DORNAN	ANNE MCTAGGART
SUSAN AITKEN	SEAN FERGUSON	LEÒDHAS MASSIE
IMRAN ALAM	ELAINE GALLAGHER	ANGUS MILLAR
BLAIR ANDERSON	MARIE GARRITY	MALCOLM MITCHELL
KEN ANDREW	ALLAN GOW	JON MOLYNEUX
ALEXANDER BELIC	WILLIAM GRAHAM	ROBERT MOONEY
RICHARD BELL	SHARON GREER	MARGARET MORGAN
DECLAN BLENCH	GREG HEPBURN	EVA MURRAY
EVA BOLANDER	FIONA HIGGINS	CECILIA O'LONE
ABDUL BOSTANI	SEONAD HOY	JILL PIDGEON
PHILIP BRAAT	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	KEVIN LALLEY	SORYIA SIDDIQUE
ANNETTE CHRISTIE	PAUL LEINSTER	KIERAN TURNER
CHRIS CUNNINGHAM	FRANK MCAVEETY	CATHERINE VALLIS
STEPHEN CURRAN	PAUL MCCABE	MARTHA WARDROP
FEARGAL DALTON	ELAINE MCDUGALL	
JOHN DALY	DONNA MCGILL	

Attending: E Rodger (Clerk), M Millar, Director of Legal and Administration; S Millar, Chief Executive; J McGhee, Interim 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.

Programme for Government – Emergency motion as adjusted approved, after division.

11 Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Kelly, moved that

“Council welcomes the publication of the Scottish Government’s Programme for Government, Ambitious for Scotland. The PfG seeks to deliver tangible improvements in the lives of our people and creating new opportunities for all to succeed by focusing on eradicating child poverty; growing the economy; tackling the climate emergency and delivering a stronger NHS and public services.

Council supports the aims of eradicating child poverty and supporting families with the cost of living; recognises the ambition to go further by transforming the childcare offer for families, delivering a £2 bus fare cap across all of Scotland, and investing record public sector funding in affordable housing; welcomes the focus on ensuring support for families is integrated, person-centred and accessible, including through delivery of the £20 million Whole Family Support Third Sector Fund; supports the commitment to build on action set out in the Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan for 2026-31, which is estimated to keep 100,000 children out of relative poverty this year.

Council further welcomes its aims for a strong and sustainable economy; welcomes the commitment to deliver economic growth and make Scotland the best place to invest and do business; recognises that raising living standards through supporting the creation of more good, secure and well-paid jobs, can help generate the resources needed to invest in high-quality public services; and welcomes continued investment in infrastructure, connectivity and innovation so that more opportunities can be realised in Scotland.

Council knows that Glasgow will have a huge part to play in ensuring that our economy, climate and all communities benefit from a green industrial transition, through decarbonising heat in buildings by 2045; introducing a Heat in Buildings Bill, while also supporting clean heating and energy efficiency measures for around 100,000 properties in Scotland, enabling the scale up of heat networks; and by investing in a transport network that is more resilient.

Council also realises that no problem in Scotland is solved by one public body, or one policy choice, and supports the aim to simplify the public sector landscape to best deliver for the people of Scotland, and welcomes the opportunity for dialogue over the coming months with SG and other partners about the reform of local government.

While there is much in the PfG to commend, Council notes that the seriousness of the housing emergency is not as acutely addressed as we believe it should be. While we welcome a wider move towards prevention instead of crisis management; it is undeniable that we are currently still in a crisis which requires an ongoing emergency response, including additional funding provided to support the impact of Scottish Government policy on Glasgow.

Council also acknowledges that Glasgow City Council, along with our cities other elected representatives, needs reassurance that the Scottish Government can go as far as it can in this Programme for Government to help Glasgow help Scotland meet these ambitions.

Council therefore asks that the Chief Executive write to relevant Ministers to ask them that they continue the work being undertaken already between GCC Officers and SG Civil Servants and:

- Ensure that funding for the 110,000 affordable homes due to be delivered by 2032 is allocated by need and not divided equally among 32 Local Authorities, recognising Glasgow's particular circumstances but also particular ability to deliver compact urban growth, local living and rebalanced development.
- Go further than simply supporting progress on Clyde Metro proposals and recognise the strategic regional and national imperative for a link between central Glasgow and Glasgow Airport, via the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, GRID, Renfrew and the AMID.
- Acknowledge the significant work already undertaken by Glasgow City Region in advancing the next stage of regional devolution during the upcoming dialogue on local government reform, and ensure that it can act as a pathfinder for devolution of economic development, transport, planning and skills powers to help the Scottish Government deliver their ambitious agenda."

Councillor Bill Butler, seconded by Councillor Catherine Vallis, moved as an amendment:-

- (1) in the first paragraph, remove "welcome" and replace with "notes" and in the same paragraph, delete all after "Scotland";
- (2) in the second paragraph, remove "supports the aims of" and replace with: "welcomes the aims in the Programme for Government relating to delivering economic growth, a green industrial transition,"
- (3) In the same paragraph, after "child poverty" delete the rest of the paragraph and replace with:

"but notes that the people of Glasgow have been promised radical change by the SNP before and been delivered with very little very slowly."
- (4) delete the next two paragraphs;
- (5) in the paragraph beginning with "Council also realises" after "Council" remove all and replace with:

"expresses concern over austerity dressed up as "public sector reform" and notes that Unite the Union called the Scottish Government's proposals to cut the number of health boards from 14 to 2 "a slash and burn programme for the NHS".

- (6) In the following paragraph, delete:

“While there is much in the PfG to commend”, “as acutely” & “While we welcome a wider move towards prevention instead of crisis management;”

After this paragraph, insert a new paragraph, which should read as:

“Council notes that Glasgow continues to face acute housing pressures, including rising homelessness presentations, record demand for temporary accommodation and a shortage of affordable and social housing. Council further notes the acknowledgement by the city’s Housing Convenor that Glasgow has not met its affordable housing delivery ambitions and believes this underlines the need for additional support and investment to help meet the city’s housing needs.”

- (7) After the paragraph beginning with “Council also acknowledges that Glasgow City Council” insert a new paragraph, which should read as follows:

“Council recognises that many of the ambitions contained within the Programme for Government are underpinned by the increased resources made available to the Scottish Government through the largest funding settlement since devolution, delivered by the UK Labour Government. Council believes that this significant additional investment should be used to support local government, accelerate affordable housing delivery, tackle homelessness and invest in strategic infrastructure projects that will support economic growth across Glasgow and Scotland.”

- (8) delete this paragraph:

“Acknowledge the significant work already undertaken by Glasgow City Region in advancing the next stage of regional devolution during the upcoming dialogue on local government reform, and ensure that it can act as a pathfinder for devolution of economic development, transport, planning and skills powers to help the Scottish Government deliver their ambitious agenda”

Bailie Carroll, seconded by Councillor Anderson, moved as an amendment-

- (1) at the end of paragraph five ending “...reform of local government.”, add:

“However, Council expresses serious concerns over plans to massively centralise oversight of health services and to take social care away from local democratic accountability, and believes that attempting to force through these reforms at a time when social care services are in desperate financial crisis is the wrong priority. Council also expresses a strong preference for other core functions of Integration Joint Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships to be transferred to local or regional government rather than transferred to new strategic health boards, such as child protection and children’s services, social work, homelessness and addiction services.”

(2) After paragraph seven ending "...meet these ambitions.", add new section:

"Council regrets the opportunities which were missed in the Programme for Government and believes that the Scottish Government should have set out:

- plans to roll out the £2 bus fare cap to all of Scotland on the same timetable as in Strathclyde
- detailed proposals for a Better Buses Bill to make it easier to take back public control of our bus network
- substantial increases of investment within our affordable housing supply programme & commit to cover our homelessness pressures in full
- how it will implement the Scottish Parliament's decision to endorse the campaign to Boycott, Divest from, and Sanction Israel in response to the genocide in Palestine
- legislation to ban conversion therapy of LGBTQ+ people in Scotland
- a moratorium on planning approvals for hyperscale AI data centres
- a detailed plan to expand the provision of funded childcare, along with the workforce plan that is required to make any expansion possible
- a timescale for the Scottish Government's takeover of responsibility of the Clyde Tunnel's maintenance
- how it will meaningfully empower local authorities in the years before any reorganisation takes effect, such as through a general power of competence for revenue-raising or plans to empower councils to implement congestion charging
- plans of ensuring a new Local Government tax model is created within this Parliament"

(3) in the bulleted list, in the third action, after "Acknowledge the...", replace text with:

"Acknowledge the potential to deliver meaningful regional governance for the Glasgow City Region during the upcoming dialogue on local government reform. Council considers this should go beyond the existing City Region Cabinet model, ensuring simple and coherent governance which replaces duplicative local and regional structures within a transparent, accountable, democratic model that is able to receive substantial devolved powers, including over economic development, transport, planning and skills, alongside broad fiscal powers. Council also considers that the geography for any regional governance should be principally defined by the travel-to-work area, meaning that it need not encompass entire areas of the current City Region authorities. Council calls on all regional partners and political parties to engage seriously and credibly with this proposition, not retreat into parochialism, and instructs the Chief Executive to cooperate with regional peers to create a space for constructive, cross party dialogue on how this may be developed."

(4) add fourth action to end of bulleted list:

“Publish the recent consultation of its consultation on replacing the Council Tax and commit to publishing a timetable for replacing Council Tax within the current parliamentary term, also setting out whether the Scottish Government supports a modern, progressive property- and land- based tax system, as endorsed by this Council, how local councils will be engaged in the process of designing and implementing a replacement tax system, whether further tax devolution to councils, such as Non Domestic Rate setting, will also be considered to support public investment and public service reform, and how emerging ideas around regional empowerment can also interact with local tax reform, including helping to address the tax base inequality that is known to hinder Glasgow.”

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

“Council welcomes the publication of the Scottish Government’s Programme for Government, *Ambitious for Scotland*. The PfG seeks to deliver tangible improvements in the lives of our people and creating new opportunities for all to succeed by focusing on eradicating child poverty; growing the economy; tackling the climate emergency and delivering a stronger NHS and public services.

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Council further welcomes its aims for a strong and sustainable economy; welcomes the commitment to deliver economic growth and make Scotland the best place to invest and do business; recognises that raising living standards through supporting the creation of more good, secure and well-paid jobs, can help generate the resources needed to invest in high-quality public services; and welcomes continued investment in infrastructure, connectivity and innovation so that more opportunities can be realised in Scotland.

Council knows that Glasgow will have a huge part to play in ensuring that our economy, climate and all communities benefit from a green industrial transition, through decarbonising heat in buildings by 2045; introducing a Heat in Buildings Bill, while also supporting clean heating and energy efficiency measures for around 100,000 properties in Scotland, enabling the scale up of heat networks; and by investing in a transport network that is more resilient.

Council also realises that no problem in Scotland is solved by one public body, or one policy choice, and supports the aim to simplify the public sector landscape to best deliver for the people of Scotland, and welcomes the opportunity for dialogue

over the coming months with SG and other partners about the reform of local government.

However, Council notes caution over plans to centralise oversight of health services and take social care away from local democratic accountability. Council also expresses a strong preference for other core functions of Integration Joint Boards and Health and Social Care partnerships to be transferred to local or regional government.

While there is much in the PfG to commend, Council notes that the seriousness of the housing emergency is not as acutely addressed as we believe it should be. While we welcome a wider move towards prevention instead of crisis management; it is undeniable that we are currently still in a crisis which requires an ongoing emergency response, including additional funding provided to support the impact of Scottish Government policy on Glasgow.

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Council regrets the opportunities which were missed in the Programme for Government and believes that the Scottish Government should have set out:

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- legislation to ban conversion therapy of LGBTQ+ people in Scotland
- a detailed plan to expand the provision of funded childcare, along with the workforce plan that is required to make any expansion possible a timescale for the Scottish Government's takeover of responsibility of the Clyde Tunnel's maintenance
- how it will meaningfully empower local authorities in the years before any reorganisation takes effect, such as through a general power of competence for revenue-raising or plans to empower councils to implement congestion charging
- plans of ensuring a new Local Government tax model is created within this Parliament

Council therefore asks that the Chief Executive write to relevant Ministers to ask them that they continue the work being undertaken already between GCC Officers and SG Civil Servants and:

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particular ability to deliver compact urban growth, local living and rebalanced development.

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- Publish the recent consultation of its consultation on replacing the Council Tax and commit to publishing a timetable for replacing Council Tax within the current parliamentary term, also setting out whether the Scottish Government supports a modern, progressive property- and land- based tax system, as endorsed by this Council, how local councils will be engaged in the process of designing and implementing a replacement tax system, whether further tax devolution to councils, such as Non Domestic Rate setting, will also be considered to support public investment and public service reform, and how emerging ideas around regional empowerment can also interact with local tax reform, including helping to address the tax base inequality that is known to hinder Glasgow."

On a vote being taken electronically and by calling the roll, 29 members voted for the amendment by Councillor Butler and 45 for the motion as adjusted, with 1 abstention.

The motion as adjusted, was accordingly declared to be carried.