

Stonyhurst Street Fire – Motion as adjusted approved.

12 Bailie Hoy, seconded by Councillor Hutchison, moved that:-

“Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the wilful fire raising which has caused significant damage to tenements on Stonyhurst Street in Possilpark.

Council thanks the firefighters who tackled and extinguished the blaze, leading to no injuries.

Council notes that these tenements had been empty long term and were being refurbished by NG Homes at the time of this arson attack. Council acknowledges the importance of refurbishment projects of this kind to provide much needed social housing for all people experiencing housing need in the city, in line with social housing providers' fair and transparent allocations policies.

Council condemns all actors, including politicians, who have been fomenting community tensions based on lies and rumours and reminds those responsible that their actions have negative real world consequences.

Council commits to working with NG Homes to ensure that this project is still able to be delivered, playing its part in easing the impact of the housing emergency.”

Councillor Kelly, seconded by Councillor Gow, moved as an amendment that:-

- (1) in paragraph 3 after ‘NG Homes’ ADD ‘with significant financial support from Glasgow City Council’;
- (2) in paragraph 3, line 2 after ‘Council’ ADD ‘welcomes the over 3500 empty properties which have been brought back into use in the city in the past 7 years.’;
- (3) in paragraph 5 after ‘housing emergency’ ADD ‘and supporting wider regeneration of Possilpark – Council further notes that North Glasgow more generally is awaiting a pipeline of 5,500 new homes: 1,000 of which are planned for the Cowlares development adjacent to Saracen Street and Stonyhurst Street.”

Councillor Higgins, seconded by Councillor Mooney, moved as an amendment that:-

- (1) after paragraph 2, please insert:

“Council calls on Police Scotland to prioritise the criminal investigation into this attack and ensure all available resources are deployed to identify those responsible. Council further requests that officers engage with Registered Social Landlords across the city to undertake a review of security arrangements at social housing development and refurbishment sites and identify any additional measures required to prevent vandalism, arson and other acts of criminal damage.”

(2) after paragraph 4, please insert:

“Council recognises the importance of timely and accurate public information in maintaining community cohesion and confidence in social housing developments. Council therefore requests that officers work with Registered Social Landlords to improve early community engagement and communication around future housing developments, ensuring that accurate information is readily available and misinformation can be challenged quickly where it arises.”

During the debate Bailie Hoy, Councillor Kelly and Councillor Higgins, with the agreement of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendments resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

“Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the wilful fire raising which has caused significant damage to tenements on Stonyhurst Street in Possilpark.

Council thanks the firefighters who tackled and extinguished the blaze, leading to no injuries.

Council calls on Police Scotland to prioritise the criminal investigation into this attack and ensure all available resources are deployed to identify those responsible. Council further requests that officers engage with Registered Social Landlords across the city to undertake a review of security arrangements at social housing development and refurbishment sites and identify any additional measures required to prevent vandalism, arson and other acts of criminal damage.

Council notes that these tenements had been empty long term and were being refurbished by NG Homes with significant financial support from Glasgow City Council at the time of this arson attack. Council welcomes the over 3500 empty properties which have been brought back into use in the city in the past 7 years and acknowledges the importance of refurbishment projects of this kind to provide much needed social housing for all people experiencing housing need in the city, in line with social housing providers' fair and transparent allocations policies.

Council condemns all actors, including politicians, who have been fomenting community tensions based on lies and rumours and reminds those responsible that their actions have negative real world consequences.

Council commits to working with NG Homes to ensure that this project is still able to be delivered, playing its part in easing the impact of the housing emergency and supporting wider regeneration of Possilpark – Council further notes that North Glasgow more generally is awaiting a pipeline of 5,500 new homes: 1,000 of which are planned for the Cowlares development adjacent to Saracen Street and Stonyhurst Street.”

The motion, as adjusted, was thereafter unanimously approved.