

Resumption of meeting.

11 The meeting resumed at 1415 hours and the sederunt was taken as follows:-

Present: Depute Lord Provost, Christy Mearns (Chair).

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

Apologies: Philip Braat, Audrey Dempsey, Elaine Gallagher, Thomas Kerr, Jacqueline McLaren, Jill Pidgeon and Thomas Rannachan.

Present: 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; K Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth and C Edgar, Director of Communication and Corporate Governance.

Reclaiming Glasgow's Streets: Public advertising, street clutter and kiosk blight – Motion as adjusted, approved.

12 Councillor Andrew, seconded by Councillor Graham, moved that:-

“Council applauds that significant public investment is currently being made in the public realm through the Avenues Programme and neighbourhood regeneration, which aims to prioritise safety, accessibility and high-quality streetscape design. Council notes that outdoor advertising and related infrastructure can contribute to street clutter, driver distraction and poorer health outcomes, particularly in areas of higher inequality, and are often concentrated along transport corridors and in more deprived communities, increasing exposure for children and those most reliant on public space and public transport.

Council also notes the increasing prevalence of unauthorised and unsightly advertising trailers and mobile billboard units placed on public roads and footways, which contribute to visual clutter, obstruct pedestrian movement, and may pose risks to road safety.

Council further notes that the Council has previously raised concerns about digital kiosks and illuminated advertising posing risks to road safety, particularly near junctions, crossings and active travel routes and that redundant and poorly maintained phone boxes, kiosks and ATMs are widely regarded as a blight on Glasgow’s streets, detracting from place quality and accessibility.

Council recognises that digital connectivity is vital to supporting our economy and connecting the city’s residents, businesses, and communities and our Digital Glasgow strategy is successfully facilitating digital infrastructure investment and deployment in the area.

Council also recognises that improved connectivity and digital access to public infrastructure with ultra-fast wi-fi and Small Cell 4G and 5G capabilities are being provided through initiatives like BT Street Hubs with 5% of screen time dedicated for council use and sensors can be added that allow the monitoring of air quality, and that this also provides a vehicle to inform the public of council services and initiatives.

Council agrees however that a more coordinated and strategic approach is required to public advertising and street-level infrastructure to reduce clutter, improve road safety in line with our Vision Zero road safety principles and protect the quality of Glasgow’s public spaces, and, that obsolete and underused phone boxes and kiosks represent an immediate and visible opportunity for decluttering.

Council further agrees that such advertising structures including trailers, where lacking appropriate consent or causing obstruction, should be subject to enforcement action with a view to their prompt removal and the strengthening of policy and enforcement mechanisms to prevent recurrence.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to:

- Engage directly with owners and operators, including telecommunications providers to identify the scale of the issue and :
 - repair or upgrading only where there is a demonstrable public benefit;
 - ensure that the Council is making full use of the opportunity to promote key council messaging through digital Street Hubs;

- removal of obsolete or vandalised units;
 - funding solutions for removal where appropriate.
- Write to Chair of Ofcom, the Secretary of State for Science and Technology, Minister for Digital Government and Data, and Glasgow MPs raising whether existing statutory rights for telecoms infrastructure adequately reflect modern usage, and that councils require stronger powers to ensure the removal of redundant structures; highlighting the need for Ofcom to review its Protection Criteria to include a strengthened duty for providers to repair public call boxes and other digital kiosks or remove them.
 - Progress a phased decluttering approach, beginning with phone boxes, kiosks and similar structures in so far as we are able within existing enforcement powers.
 - Report back to Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee by 6 October 2026 with an update on street clutter and these actions, as well as options to strengthen Council policy and guidance on outdoor advertising and enforcement and consideration of what powers would be required for us to deliver a wider decluttering programme.”

Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Matt Kerr moved as an amendment:-

In the first paragraph, after “Council” delete all and insert:

“notes ongoing investment in the public realm, including through the Avenues Programme and wider regeneration activity, but further notes that many areas across the city continue to experience significant levels of street clutter, poor-quality infrastructure, and inconsistent enforcement.”

In the second paragraph, after “those most reliant on public space and public transport” please insert:

“and further notes that these impacts have not been adequately addressed through existing enforcement or policy measures.”

In the next paragraph, replace “also notes” with:
“further notes that”

In the same paragraph, after “public roads and footways” please insert:
“reflects a lack of consistent enforcement,”

In the following paragraph, please remove: “further notes that the Council has previously raised concerns about digital kiosks and illuminated advertising posing risks to road safety” and insert:

“notes that concerns regarding digital kiosks, illuminated advertising, and redundant telecommunications infrastructure have been raised previously”

In the same paragraph, please delete: “particularly near junctions, crossings and active travel routes and that redundant and poorly maintained phone boxes, kiosks and ATMs are widely regarded as a blight” and insert:

“yet progress in addressing redundant, poorly maintained or obsolete infrastructure has been limited, contributing to a continued deterioration in place quality.”

In the next paragraph, please remove: “recognises that digital connectivity is vital” and replace with:

“acknowledges the importance of digital connectivity”

In the same paragraph, delete “and our Digital Glasgow strategy is successfully facilitating digital infrastructure investment and deployment in the area” and replace with:

“but recognises that this must be balanced with clear standards on design, placement, and maintenance of infrastructure in the public realm.”

In the following paragraph please delete:

“also recognises that improved connectivity and digital access to public infrastructure” and insert:

“further notes that initiatives such as digital kiosks and Street Hubs provide connectivity and communication benefits”

After the above, please delete the rest of the paragraph and insert:

“however these benefits do not outweigh the need for effective control of street clutter, safe siting, and ongoing maintenance.”

In the next paragraph, after “Glasgow’s public spaces” please add:

“, and believes that this must now move beyond strategy towards demonstrable, resourced action.”

In the same paragraph, please delete: “and, that obsolete and underused phone boxes and kiosks represent an immediate and visible opportunity for decluttering.”

In the resolves to section, please remove:

- Engage directly with owners and operators, including telecommunications providers to identify the scale of the issue and;
- repair or upgrading only where there is a demonstrable public benefit;
- ensure that the Council is making full use of the opportunity to promote key council messaging through digital Street Hubs;
- removal of obsolete or vandalised units;
- funding solutions for removal where appropriate.”

And insert:

- Report on current enforcement activity, powers and capacity, including an assessment of gaps in resource, legal powers, and operational delivery which have contributed to the current situation;
- Bring forward a clear, prioritised and costed action plan for the removal of unauthorised, unsafe or obsolete infrastructure, including measurable targets and delivery timescales;
- Set out how accessibility considerations, particularly for disabled people, including wheelchair users and those with visual impairments, will be embedded in enforcement and design standards;

Please remove:

“• Progress a phased decluttering approach, beginning with phone boxes, kiosks and similar structures in so far as we are able within existing enforcement powers.”

And insert:

“• Implement an initial phase of targeted enforcement and removal in identified high-priority locations in advance of the full programme, to demonstrate early, visible progress.”

Councillor Reid-McConnell, seconded by Bailie Hoy moved as a joint amendment:-

After paragraph two ending “...space and public transport.”, insert new paragraph:

“Council expresses concern about the prevalence of advertising for products which are harmful to public health, particularly high carbon products such as sports utility vehicles, fossil fuels, arms manufacturers and flights, vapes, gambling venues both physical and online, and high fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) products. Council notes that many other councils have introduced restrictions on advertising of these types of products due to similar concerns, including City of Edinburgh Council which banned high carbon advertising in 2024, Transport for London and neighbouring local authorities’ restrictions on HFSS advertising and the Coalition to End Gambling Ads work which has been endorsed by several local authorities.”

In bulleted list of instructions, after “of the issue and:”, insert additional first bullet point:

“seek to agree service level agreements setting out minimum standards for maintenance and graffiti removal”

In bulleted list of instructions, in final bullet point, between “...advertising and enforcement” and “and consideration of...”, insert:

“drawing on bans and restrictions imposed by other UK local authorities, including potential to introduce byelaws using powers in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to enforce minimum standards”

Add an additional final bullet at end of list:

“Consider how the harms caused by advertising can be addressed in the new iteration of the City Development Plan as well as consider the development of an ethical advertising policy for Council land and infrastructure, particularly in areas around public buildings including schools, community centres, libraries, museums, sports facilities and health centres.”

Councillor Andrew, with the approval of his seconder, accepted the amendment by Councillor Curran, and the joint amendment by Councillor Reid-McConnell and Bailie Hoy, resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

"Council applauds that significant public investment is currently being made in the public realm through the Avenues Programme and neighbourhood regeneration, which aims to prioritise safety, accessibility and high quality streetscape design. Council agrees that the Avenues Programme and wider public realm improvements must work for everyone, including parents, carers and children, people who are partially sighted, blind, disabled, older, or who have other accessibility needs, and that inclusive design and lived experience must be at the heart of this work. Council affirms that efforts to reduce street clutter, regulate advertising, and manage street level infrastructure must support clear sightlines, safe navigation, and a genuinely accessible public realm for all users

Council notes that outdoor advertising and related infrastructure can contribute to street clutter, driver distraction and poorer health outcomes, particularly in areas of higher inequality, and are often concentrated along transport corridors and in more deprived communities, increasing exposure for children and those most reliant on public space and public transport.

Council expresses concern about the prevalence of advertising for products which are harmful to public health, particularly high carbon products such as sports utility vehicles, fossil fuels, and flights, vapes, gambling venues both physical and online, and high fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) products. Council notes that many other councils have introduced restrictions on advertising of these types of products due to similar concerns, including City of Edinburgh Council which banned high carbon advertising in 2024, Transport for London and neighbouring local authorities' restrictions on HFSS advertising and the Coalition to End Gambling Ads work which has been endorsed by several local authorities.

Council also notes the increasing prevalence of unauthorised and unsightly advertising trailers and mobile billboard units placed on public roads and footways, which contribute to visual clutter, obstruct pedestrian movement, and may pose risks to road safety.

Council further notes that the Council has previously raised concerns about digital kiosks and illuminated advertising posing risks to road safety, particularly near junctions, crossings and active travel routes and that redundant and poorly maintained phone boxes, kiosks and ATMs are widely regarded as a blight on Glasgow's streets, detracting from place quality and accessibility and community safety.

Council recognises that digital connectivity is vital to supporting our economy and connecting the city's residents, businesses, and communities and our Digital Glasgow strategy is successfully facilitating digital infrastructure investment and deployment in the area where there is a clear and demonstrable public benefit.”

Council also recognises that improved connectivity and digital access to public infrastructure with ultra-fast wi-fi and Small Cell 4G and 5G capabilities are being provided through initiatives like BT Street Hubs with 5% of screen time dedicated for council use and sensors can be added that allow the monitoring of air quality, and that this also provides a vehicle to inform the public of council services and initiatives and that such infrastructure can support air quality monitoring and public information where appropriately located, regulated and maintained by the providers.

Council agrees however that a more coordinated and strategic approach is required to public advertising and street level infrastructure to reduce clutter, improve road safety in line with our Vision Zero road safety principles and protect the quality of Glasgow's public spaces and ensure that commercial advertising does not undermine public health or place making objectives, and, that obsolete and underused phone boxes and kiosks represent an immediate and visible opportunity for decluttering.

Council further agrees that such advertising structures including trailers, where lacking appropriate consent or causing obstruction, should be subject to enforcement action with a view to their prompt removal and the strengthening of policy and enforcement mechanisms to prevent recurrence

Council instructs the Chief Executive to:

- "Engage directly with owners and operators, including telecommunications providers to identify the scale of the issue and :
 - seek to agree service level agreements setting out minimum standards for maintenance and graffiti removal
 - repair or upgrading only where there is a demonstrable public benefit and no adverse impact on road safety, accessibility or local amenity;
 - ensure that the Council is making full use of the opportunity to promote key council messaging through digital Street Hubs;
 - removal of obsolete or vandalised units;
 - funding solutions for removal where appropriate.

- Write to Chair of Ofcom, the Secretary of State for Science and Technology, Minister for Digital Government and Data, and Glasgow MPs raising whether existing statutory rights for telecoms infrastructure adequately reflect modern usage, and that councils require stronger powers to ensure the removal of redundant structures; - highlighting the need for Ofcom to review its Protection Criteria to include a strengthened duty for providers to repair public call boxes and other digital kiosks or remove them.

- Progress a phased decluttering approach, beginning with phone boxes, kiosks and similar structures.

- Consider how the harms caused by advertising can be addressed in the new iteration of the City Development Plan as well as consider the development of an ethical advertising policy for Council land and infrastructure, particularly in areas around public buildings including schools, community centres, libraries, museums, sports facilities and health centres
- Report back to Environment and Liveable Neighbourhoods City Policy Committee by 6 October 2026 with an update on street clutter and these actions, as well as options to strengthen Council policy and guidance on outdoor advertising and enforcement drawing on bans and restrictions imposed by other UK local authorities, including potential to introduce byelaws using powers in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to enforce minimum standards and consideration of what powers would be required for us to deliver a wider decluttering programme."

The motion as adjusted was approved unanimously.