UK Government Budget and Investment Zones – Motion, as adjusted, approved after division.

12 Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Siddique, moved that:-

"Council notes the UK Government's Budget on 15th March; that the key feature of the Budget amounted to a "large giveaway to a small number of higher earners" at a cost of £1.2billion to public services; that cuts to Fuel Duty amount to £4.8billion from public services, while public sector workers are denied real-terms pay rises; and that the typical energy household bill is expected to be 17% higher in 2023/24 than in 2022/23.

Council also notes the commitment to create an Investment Zone in Scotland; however, it recognises the failure of the UK Government to meaningfully deliver on the “Levelling Up” agenda; and condemns the last-minute changes to Levelling Up funding that denied the City of Glasgow vital investment.

Council believes that it should maximise every opportunity for additional investment into the City; and therefore instructs Officers to engage with the Scottish Government to identify options for bringing the Investment Zone to Glasgow in a way which reflects the values of this Council; but resolves to write to the UK Government outlining its serious concerns about the allocation of funding to date and to secure assurances that time and resources will not be wasted by the last-minute decisions of Ministers."

Councillor Aitken, seconded by Councillor Doherty, moved as an amendment to delete all after the first paragraph and replace with the following:

“Council also notes the commitment to create at least one Investment Zone in Scotland; however, it recognises the failure of the UK Government to meaningfully deliver on the “Levelling Up” agenda; and condemns the last-minute changes to Levelling Up funding that denied the City of Glasgow vital investment. Council notes that the Leader of the Council has: met with both senior UK government officials and the Levelling Up Minister; expressed extreme disappointment and concern at the political manipulation of the process and Glasgow’s exclusion as a consequence; sought reassurance that this will not be repeated in any future bidding phases for the Levelling Up Fund; and initiated discussions about how to build on the considerable investment involved in producing both the Levelling Up and Green Freeport bids to consider how elements of the plans could be taken forward outside of such inefficient competitive processes. Council notes that while the latter discussion is at an early stage, the example of the Innovation Accelerator process, for which the Glasgow City Region was pre-selected, provides an excellent example of how central government funding can be deployed swiftly and with impact through partnerships at local level.

Council further notes that officers are already at an advanced stage of engagement with both the UK and Scottish governments to establish the details of how Investment Zones will be delivered and are making the case that locations should be pre-selected on the basis of need and potential impact rather than chosen through artificial competition and that funding should be provided on a “no strings”

basis so that spend can be aligned with locally-determined values and policy priorities. Council understands that Investment Zones will be awarded to Regional Partnerships rather than individual local authorities, and believes that the Glasgow City Region provides the maturity and strength of governance arrangements, the proven record of delivery, and the opportunity to ensure transformational impact for citizens, communities and climate, that makes it the obvious first choice of location in Scotland for this £80m investment.

Council therefore instructs officers to continue these discussions and to report outcomes to the appropriate Committee."

Councillor Molyneux, seconded by Bailie Gallagher, moved as an amendment that:

(1) at the first paragraph, between "public services" and "while public sector", the following be added:

"and which could instead have been invested in making public transport more affordable and accessible, or on supporting the growth of cheap, clean renewable energy sources to help lower household bills,";

(2) after the first paragraph insert the following paragraph:

"Council contrasts this with a Scottish Budget which, despite the most challenging financial context since devolution, provided funds for: improved public sector pay deals including that recently agreed by teachers; £2.2 billion worth of climate investment, including funding programmes to tackle fuel poverty and energy use in buildings; increased income tax for high earners and on the purchase of second homes; the removal of peak train fares across Scotland's railways later this year; social security entitlements increasing by 10.1%; £80m to expand school catering capacity, which will then allow for the expansion of free school meals to all P6 and 7 pupils, and an interim expansion to P6 and 7 pupils who receive the Scottish Child Payment; and record funding for walking, wheeling and cycling programmes, as well as extra funding for national parks, nature restoration and biodiversity."; and

(3) at the third paragraph remove from "Council believes that" to "this Council; but", and replace with the following:

"Council believes that it should pursue opportunities to bring additional investment into the City which are aligned to our strategic priorities, and therefore instructs Officers to bring a paper to an appropriate committee in the next cycle on the proposed Investment Zones and how they could support our aims; and".

Councillor Daly, seconded by Bailie Thomas Kerr, moved as an amendment to delete all and replace with the following:

"Council welcomes the UK Government budget announced on 15th March 2023. Council notes that this budget is focused on the key priorities of tackling the cost of living crisis and delivering economic stability and growth.

Council welcomes the extension of the Energy Price Guarantee at its current level until June which will save the average family a further £160. Council further welcomes that steps will be taken to ensure those on pre-payment meters do not pay a premium for their energy use by bringing it into line with direct debit prices from 1 July 2023. In addition, the UK Government has extended the freeze on fuel duty for a further year which will help families and businesses across Glasgow and will contribute to the Government's priority of reducing inflation.

Council notes with interest that the UK Government is expanding 30 hours of free childcare per week to children as young as 9 months old for working parents and that Universal Credit support for childcare will now be paid upfront at an increased amount. Council calls on the Scottish Government to use the funding it has received from this budget to match the childcare support that families in England will now receive following this budget.

Council notes that the Scottish Government will receive an extra £320 million over the next two years as a result of this budget and calls on the Scottish Government to commit every penny to support frontline public services. Council welcomes the pro-business approach of this budget which includes creating an investment zone in Scotland alongside 12 across the whole UK and that businesses will now receive full expensing with 100% tax relief on new investments in their businesses on plant and machinery which will help to boost productivity and support UK business investment.

Council agrees to write to the UK and Scottish Governments to set out its desire to see such an investment zone in Glasgow and to ask for early engagement on this matter to maximise the quality of bid that can be put forward."

Councillor Redmond, with the approval of his seconder, accepted the amendments by Councillor Aitken and Councillor Molyneux, resulting in the following adjusted motion:

"Council notes: the UK Government's Budget on 15th March; that the key feature of the Budget amounted to a "large giveaway to a small number of higher earners" at a cost of £1.2billion to public services; that cuts to Fuel Duty amount to £4.8billion from public services and which could instead have been invested in making public transport more affordable and accessible, or on supporting the growth of cheap, clean renewable energy sources to help lower household bills, while public sector workers are denied real-terms pay rises; and that the typical energy household bill is expected to be 17% higher in 2023/24 than in 2022/23.

Council contrasts this with a Scottish Budget which, despite the most challenging financial context since devolution, provided funds for: improved public sector pay deals including that recently agreed by teachers; £2.2 billion worth of climate investment, including funding programmes to tackle fuel poverty and energy use in buildings; Increased income tax for high earners and on the purchase of second homes; The removal of peak train fares across Scotland's railways later this year; Social security entitlements increasing by 10.1%; £80m to expand school catering capacity, which will then allow for the expansion of free school meals to all P6 and

7 pupils and an interim expansion to P6 and 7 pupils who receive the Scottish Child Payment; and record funding for walking, wheeling and cycling programmes, as well as extra funding for national parks, nature restoration and biodiversity. However, Council notes that this Budget did not include sufficient additional resource for Local Government and this Council and recalls its decision of 8th December that this is an unsustainable situation.

Council also notes the commitment to create an Investment Zone in Scotland; however, it recognises the failure of the UK Government to meaningfully deliver on the "Levelling Up" agenda; and condemns the last-minute changes to Levelling Up funding that denied the City of Glasgow vital investment. Council notes that the Leader of the Council has: met with both senior UK government officials and the Levelling Up Minister; expressed extreme disappointment and concern at the political manipulation of the process and Glasgow's exclusion as a consequence; sought reassurance that this will not be repeated in any future bidding phases for the Levelling Up Fund; and initiated discussions about how to build on the considerable investment involved in producing both the Levelling Up and Green Freeport bids to consider how elements of the plans could be taken forward outside of such inefficient competitive processes. Council notes that while the latter discussion is at an early stage, the example of the Innovation Accelerator process, for which the Glasgow City Region was pre-selected, provides an excellent example of how central government funding can be deployed swiftly and with impact through partnerships at local level.

Council further notes that officers are already at an advanced stage of engagement with both the UK and Scottish governments to establish the details of how Investment Zones will be delivered and are making the case that locations should be pre-selected on the basis of need and potential impact rather than chosen through artificial competition and that funding should be provided on a 'no strings' basis so that spend can be aligned to our strategic priorities, including fair work, net zero and tax justice. Council understands that Investment Zones will be awarded to Regional Partnerships rather than individual local authorities and believes that the Glasgow City Region provides the maturity and strength of governance arrangements, the proven record of delivery, and the opportunity to ensure transformational impact for citizens, communities and climate, that makes it the obvious first choice of location in Scotland for this £80m investment.

Council therefore instructs officers to continue these discussions and to report to the appropriate Committee when the relevant information is available about how an Investment Zone could support our aims."

On a vote being taken electronically and by roll call, 2 members voted for the amendment and 74 for the motion as adjusted which was accordingly declared to be carried.

Adjournment.

13 In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1505 hours until 1520 hours.

Resumption of meeting.

14 The meeting resumed at 1520 hours and the sederunt was taken as follows:-

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

SAQIB AHMED	LAURA DOHERTY	NORMAN MacLEOD
SUSAN AITKEN	STEPHEN DORNAN	ELAINE McSPORRAN
IMRAM ALAM	PATRICIA FERGUSON	ANNE McTAGGART
BLAIR ANDERSON	SEAN FERGUSON	HANZALA MALIK
KEN ANDREW	ELAINE GALLAGHER	LEÒDHAS MASSIE
ALEXANDER BELIC	ZEN GHANI	CHRISTY MEARNS
RICHARD BELL	ALLAN GOW	ANGUS MILLAR
DECLAN BLENCH	WILLIAM GRAHAM	MALCOLM MITCHELL
EVA BOLANDER	SHARON GREER	JON MOLYNEUX
ABDUL BOSTANI	GREG HEPBURN	ROBERT MOONEY
PHILIP BRAAT	FIONA HIGGINS	MARGARET MORGAN
JILL BROWN	RASHID HUSSAIN	EVA MURRAY
HOLLY BRUCE	DAN HUTCHISON	CECILIA O'LONE
MAUREEN BURKE	FYEZA IKHLAQ	JILL PIDGEON
BILL BUTLER	EUNIS JASSEMI	LINDA PIKE
GRAHAM CAMPBELL	ANN JENKINS	HANIF RAJA
CHRISTINA CANNON	LILITH JOHNSTONE	THOMAS RANNACHAN
JOHN CARSON	JIM KAVANAGH	GEORGE REDMOND
ANTHONY CARROLL	RUAIRI KELLY	LANA REID-MCCONNELL
PAUL CAREY	ALEX KERR	ROZA SALIH
ALLAN CASEY	MATT KERR	FRANNY SCALLY
ANNETTE CHRISTIE	THOMAS KERR	JAMES SCANLON
CHRIS CUNNINGHAM	KEVIN LALLEY	SORYIA SIDDIQUE
STEPHEN CURRAN	PAUL LEINSTER	KIERAN TURNER
FEARGAL DALTON	FRANK McAVEETY	CATHERINE VALLIS
JOHN DALY	PAUL MCCABE	MARTHA WARDROP
AUDREY DEMPSEY	ELAINE McDOUGALL	ALEX WILSON
STEPHEN DOCHERTY	KENNY McLEAN	

LORD DEAN OF GUILD

Apology: Keiran O’Neill.

Attending: E Galletly, Director of Legal and Administration; A O’Donnell, Chief Executive; M Booth, Executive Director of Finance; G Gillespie, Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability; D Hutchison, Executive Director of Education Services; S Millar, Chief Officer, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; I Robertson, Director of City Development; K Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth; and C Edgar, Head of Communication and Strategic Partnerships.