Local Government Finance – Motion, as adjusted, approved.

16 Councillor Braat, seconded by Councillor Pidgeon, moved that:-

"Council notes that currently the forecast Budget gap for 2023/24 is £119.4million; that this is the highest single year gap faced by this Council; that since 2013/14 this Council has delivered savings of over £300million; and that the Scottish Government Resource Spending Review published earlier this year indicated real terms cuts to Local Government budgets prior to the challenges caused by the chaos of the current Conservative Government.

Council believes that this situation is unsustainable; it is to the direct detriment of the services that our citizens rely on; and continues to place extraordinary pressure on all staff across the Council who continue to strive to deliver for the citizens they serve.

Council further notes that the only locally set Tax, Council Tax, accounts for just 18% of the Council's budget. Therefore, Council believes that the onus for meeting the larger part of the 2023/24, and subsequent years, deficit falls to the Scottish and UK Governments working together. Council notes that neither Government operates a fixed budget, and that each has - to varying degrees - the flexibility to increase the resources available to them through taxation.

Council believes that this Council must speak with one voice in demanding a fairer funding settlement from our two Governments and in advocating for the further redistribution of wealth to support and protect vital front-line services. Council additionally believes that investments in Local Government reduce reactive spending elsewhere in the public sector, and that this must be recognised in the Scottish Government's budget.

Council therefore reiterates its support for the principle that Local Authorities should have the ability to implement 'ad hoc' revenue raising measures that fit their local circumstances, and commits to developing a Team Glasgow approach to build the case for Glasgow in the face of these extraordinary challenges, noting the commitment in the Council's strategic plan to "work with a broad range of partners, including the Trade Unions, the Third Sector and others, to build the case for greater funding for Glasgow from both Scottish and UK Governments."

Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the First Minister of Scotland, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance in these terms."

Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Gow, moved as an amendment that:

“Council notes that currently the forecast Budget gap for 2023/24 is £119.4million; that this is the highest single year gap faced by this Council, driven in large part by huge inflationary pressures; that since 2013/14 this Council has delivered savings of over £300million; and even before the fiscal and economic disaster triggered by September’s mini-budget, forecasts predicted unprecedented pressure on both Scottish Government and local government budgets as a result of the combined

impacts of inflation, Brexit and more than a decade of austerity from the Conservative UK government.

Council believes that: this situation is unsustainable; it is to the direct detriment of the services that our citizens rely on; and continues to place extraordinary pressure on all staff across the Council who continue to strive to deliver for the citizens they serve.

Council further notes that the only locally set Tax, Council Tax, accounts for just 17% of the Council's budget. Therefore, Council believes that the onus for meeting the larger part of the 2023/24, and subsequent years, deficit falls to the Scottish and UK Governments working together. Council notes that neither Government operates a fixed budget, and that each has – to varying degrees – the flexibility to increase the resources available to them through taxation, recognising however that the Scottish Government faces significant restraints and limitations on the fiscal options available to it.

Council believes that this Council must speak with one voice in demanding a fairer funding settlement from our two Governments and in advocating for the further redistribution of wealth to support and protect vital front-line services. Council additionally believes that investments in Local Government reduce reactive spending elsewhere in the public sector, and that this must be recognised in the Scottish Government's budget.

Council therefore reiterates its support for the principle that Local Authorities should have the ability to implement tailored and targeted revenue raising measures that fit their local circumstances and can also be used to address existing social, environmental and economic challenges. Council calls on the Scottish Government to urgently accelerate work to enable local authorities to raise and spend local revenue using a range of fiscal tools such as land value capture, vacant land and building tax, and congestion charging. Council commits to developing a Team Glasgow approach to build the case for Glasgow in the face of these extraordinary challenges, noting the commitment in the Council's strategic plan to "work with a broad range of partners, including the Trade Unions, the Third Sector and others, to build the case for greater funding for Glasgow from both Scottish and UK Governments."

Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the First Minister of Scotland, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance in these terms."

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

(1) at the first paragraph:

(a) after "£300 million;", delete "and";

(b) at the end after "Conservative Government", add the following:

"in Westminster, and that this situation has been fuelled by the austerity agenda pursued by that same body since 2008.";

(2) at the third paragraph add the following at the end of the paragraph:

"Council further notes that changes to local revenue generation powers lie solely within the gift of these bodies.";

(3) at the fourth paragraph:

(a) between "of wealth" and "to support", add "by local taxes; and

(b) in the final sentence, after "in the Scottish", replace existing wording with "and UK Governments' budgets";

(4) at the fifth paragraph between "to implement" and "'ad hoc'", add "wide-ranging local tax and other"; and

(5) insert the following new paragraph between the existing fifth and sixth paragraphs:

"Council recalls its meeting of 23rd June at which it resolved to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy to 'demand action to increase the resources available to councils to spend on local priorities over the course of this parliament', and to 'invite the Cabinet Secretary to meet directly with a cross-party delegation of Elected Members and frontline workers of this Council to discuss the (resource spending review) proposals. Council notes with regret that no response has yet been received."

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

"Council notes that the current forecast Budget gap for 2023/24 is £119.4million; that this is the highest single year gap faced by this Council; that since 2013/14 this Council has delivered savings of over £300million; that the combined impacts of inflation, Brexit and more than a decade of austerity from the Conservative UK Government, and the Scottish Government Resource Spending Review published earlier this year, forecast unprecedented pressure on both Scottish Government and Local Government budgets.

Council believes that this situation is unsustainable, is to the direct detriment of the services that our citizens rely on and continues to place extraordinary pressure on all staff across the Council who continue to strive to deliver for the citizens they serve.

Council further notes that the only locally set Tax, Council Tax, accounts for just 18% of the Council's budget. Therefore, Council believes that the onus for meeting the larger part of the 2023/24, and subsequent years, deficit falls to the Scottish and UK Governments working together. Council notes that neither Government operates a fixed budget, and that each has – to varying degrees – the flexibility to

increase the resources available to them through taxation, recognising however that the Scottish Government faces significant restraints and limitations on the fiscal options available to it. Council further notes that changes to local revenue generation powers lie solely within the gift of these bodies.

Council believes that this Council must speak with one voice in demanding a fairer funding settlement from our two Governments and in advocating for the further redistribution of wealth to support and protect vital front-line services. Council additionally believes that investments in Local Government reduce reactive spending elsewhere in the public sector, and that this must be recognised in the Scottish and UK Government's budget.

Council therefore reiterates its support for the principle that Local Authorities should have the ability to implement wide-ranging local tax and other 'ad hoc' revenue raising measures that fit their local circumstances and can also be used to address existing social, environmental and economic challenges. Council calls on the Scottish Government to urgently accelerate work to enable local authorities to raise and spend local revenue using a range of fiscal tools including, but not limited to, land value capture, vacant land and building tax, and congestion charging. Council commits to developing a Team Glasgow approach to build the case for Glasgow in the face of these extraordinary challenges, noting the commitment in the Council's strategic plan to "work with a broad range of partners, including the Trade Unions, the Third Sector and others, to build the case for greater funding for Glasgow from both Scottish and UK Governments.

Council recalls its meeting of 23rd June 2022 at which it resolved to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy to 'demand action to increase the resources available to councils to spend on local priorities over the course of this parliament', and to "invite the Cabinet Secretary to meet directly with a cross-party delegation of Elected Members and frontline workers of this Council to discuss the (resource spending review) proposals". Council notes with regret that no response has yet been received.

Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the First Minister of Scotland, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance in these terms."

The motion as adjusted was approved.