Investment zones – Motion dealt with, after division.

11 Bailie Thomas Kerr, seconded by Councillor Daly, moved

"Council welcomes the decision by the UK Government to designate the Glasgow City Region as one of two of Scotland's Investment Zones alongside North East Scotland. Council notes that the UK and Scottish Governments worked closely together on this decision and welcomes proactive and positive engagement between both of our Governments.

Council recognises and thanks all of those officers from this Council and the wider Glasgow City Region who played their part in making the case for Glasgow and the wider region to benefit from an investment zone.

Council welcomes the up to £80 million that will be invested over the next 5 years as part of this zone and that it will be focused on creating jobs and prosperity. Council notes that Glasgow's Investment Zone will be focused on research institutions such as our universities helping the city to drive growth in cutting-edge high-tech industries. Council further notes that the funding will be invested in supporting the economy and providing targeted tax reliefs and incentives to support growth. Council recognises that the Investment Zone's priorities will also be tailored alongside our city's and the UK's wider net-zero targets.

Council expresses its firm desire to create a truly business friendly city and recognises the key role that the Council plays in delivering this through planning and economic development policies, delivering efficient Council services for residents and businesses and ensuring that our city's infrastructure is fit for purpose.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to prepare a paper for discussion at the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee which sets out in what ways Glasgow can work to become a truly business friendly city - identifying current issues expressed by businesses and investors, exploring what scope the Council has to address such issues and what steps can be taken to address such issues and ensure that processes and policies are as efficient as possible to encourage and welcome those who seek to invest in Glasgow.

Council agrees that this paper should be brought within 6 months of this motion."

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

“Council further welcomes the transfer by the Scottish Government of control of the £40m Clyde Mission to the City Region and agrees that, along with the Investment Zone, these are important steps towards further empowerment of the collaborative leadership of the City Region to deliver locally-determined strategic economic priorities.

Council notes that the Glasgow City Region is currently in the process of working with both the Scottish and UK governments and with key academic and business partners to co-create the parameters, criteria and objectives for allocation of Investment Zone funding, using detailed analysis and data from the City Region Intelligence Hub, and guided by the Grand Challenges set out in the City Region Economic Strategy: Productivity, Inclusion and the Climate Emergency.

Council understands that the Investment Zone and Clyde Mission are building on a strong existing economic partnership ecosystem and record of delivery in the Glasgow City Region; that the Glasgow City Region City Deal is the most advanced in the UK; and that the collaborative leadership of the City Region Cabinet continues to expand its role, for example to oversee delivery of £33m Innovation Accelerator funding in close partnership with local innovation business leaders. Council notes that Glasgow was ranked as the top UK city for small businesses in 2022; thirteenth most sustainable city in the world and second greenest UK city to invest in; fourth biggest place for FDI in the UK; and second best city in the UK for innovation.

Council understands that officers and senior politicians engage regularly and closely with businesses in the city, from SMEs to very large investors, and that businesses report that the major challenges they face in the current climate include: skills shortages due to Brexit; rising bills; crippling interest rates; and, in the case of consumer businesses, falling disposable income in the population due to the cost-of-living crisis. Council notes that much of the Council's economic development activity is geared towards trying to support businesses during this unprecedented period as well as delivering longer term strategic priorities.

Council further understands that the Glasgow City Region faces significant generational challenges in many communities, including deeply embedded social, economic and health inequalities. Council agrees therefore that spending decisions on major investments such as those accompanying the Investment Zone and the Clyde Mission should seek to support growth in industry sectors that will make clear and measurable contributions to the objective of building the most innovative, inclusive and resilient economy in the UK by 2030; uphold Fair Work principles; support the improved health and wellbeing of residents; and contribute to a just transition to a sustainable, net zero carbon economy.

Council notes that ongoing activity by Glasgow City Council's Economic Development and City Development is regularly reported to Committee, with the most recent agenda of the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration Policy Committee containing the Invest Glasgow Annual Report, the Investment Strategy and the plan for the Golden Z. Council instructs the Chief Executive to bring update paper to a future Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration Policy Committee on the work of the Glasgow City Region PMO and Intelligence Hub and to offer briefings to all elected members on implementation plans for the Investment Zone and Clyde Mission as these are developed."

Councillor Butler, seconded by Bailie Greer, moved as an amendment that the following be inserted after the fourth paragraph:-

"Council notes the one-year anniversary of Liz Truss becoming Prime Minister and the subsequent long-term damage done to the UK economy caused by her reckless policies and actions. Glasgow needs more than just investment zones; it requires a UK Government focused on economic growth and transforming life opportunities in our city. Council agrees a change of UK Government is essential and Council would welcome the opportunity to work with a government dedicated to ensuring that Glasgow can flourish."

Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Wardrop, moved as an amendment that at the third paragraph, after the sentence ending "creating jobs and prosperity" replace with the following:-

"Council believes that capitalism and unlimited economic growth is fundamentally incompatible with the ongoing existence of life on Earth.

Council does not believe that tax cuts for private corporations is a good use of public money.

In light of the rapidly accelerating climate crisis, Council believes that radical climate action must be at the heart of all the Council's work, including its contribution to the development of the Investment Zone.

Recognising the need to transition our economy and communities away from fossil fuels at an unprecedented scale and pace, and given the Scottish Government's ambitious Zero Carbon Buildings agenda, Council recognises that there is an urgent need to develop and create green skills and green jobs in the city, particularly in skilled technical roles like heat pump installation.

Noting the challenges and opportunities highlighted in the recently published report of the Just Transition Working Group, Council believes that, to the greatest extent possible, the Investment Zone should prioritise working with public, private, and education partners to develop a green skills strategy and green jobs programme for Glasgow, including through the provision of high-quality and well-paid apprenticeships and training courses to help drive the Zero Carbon Buildings agenda. Council also supports the delivery of workforce retraining programmes to retain the local skilled workforce for the rollout of net-zero projects such as local heat networks and the renewables supply chain.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to prepare a paper for discussion at the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee detailing how the Investment Zone can support the just transition and climate-resilient economic development."

During the debate Councillors Aitken and Anderson, with the approval of their seconders, agreed to combine their amendments as follows:-

"Council welcomes the decision by the UK Government to designate the Glasgow City Region as one of two of Scotland's Investment Zones alongside North East Scotland. Council notes that the UK and Scottish Governments worked closely

together on this decision and welcomes proactive and positive engagement between both of our Governments.

Council recognises and thanks all of those officers from this Council and the wider Glasgow City Region who played their part in making the case for Glasgow and the wider region to benefit from an investment zone.

Council welcomes the up to £80 million that will be invested over the next 5 years as part of this zone and that it will be focused on creating jobs and prosperity.

Council further welcomes the transfer by the Scottish Government of control of the £40m Clyde Mission to the City Region and agrees that, along with the Investment Zone, these are important steps towards further empowerment of the collaborative leadership of the City Region to deliver locally-determined strategic economic priorities.

Council notes that the Glasgow City Region is currently in the process of working with both the Scottish and UK governments and with key academic and business partners to co-create the parameters, criteria and objectives for allocation of Investment Zone funding, using detailed analysis and data from the City Region Intelligence Hub, and guided by the Grand Challenges set out in the City Region Economic Strategy: Productivity, Inclusion and the Climate Emergency.

Council understands that the Investment Zone and Clyde Mission are building on a strong existing economic partnership ecosystem and record of delivery in the Glasgow City Region; that the Glasgow City Region City Deal is the most advanced in the UK; and that the collaborative leadership of the City Region Cabinet continues to expand its role, for example to oversee delivery of £33m Innovation Accelerator funding in close partnership with local innovation business leaders. Council notes that Glasgow was ranked as the top UK city for small businesses in 2022; thirteenth most sustainable city in the world and second greenest UK city to invest in; fourth biggest place for FDI in the UK; and second best city in the UK for innovation.

Council understands that officers and senior politicians engage regularly and closely with businesses in the city, from SMEs to very large investors, and that businesses report that the major challenges they face in the current climate include: skills shortages due to Brexit; rising bills; crippling interest rates; and, in the case of consumer businesses, falling disposable income in the population due to the cost-of-living crisis. Council notes that much of the Council's economic development activity is geared towards trying to support businesses during this unprecedented period as well as delivering longer term strategic priorities.

Council further understands that the Glasgow City Region faces significant generational challenges in many communities, including deeply embedded social, economic and health inequalities. In light of the rapidly accelerating climate crisis, Council further believes that radical climate action must be at the heart of all the Council's work, including its contribution to the development of the Investment Zone. Council agrees therefore that spending decisions on major investments such as those accompanying the Investment Zone and the Clyde Mission should seek to

support growth in industry sectors that will make clear and measurable contributions to the objective of building the most innovative, inclusive and resilient economy in UK by 2030; uphold Fair Work principles; support the improved health and wellbeing of residents; and contribute to a just transition to a sustainable, net zero carbon economy.

Noting the challenges and opportunities highlighted in the recently published report of the Just Transition Working Group and forthcoming Just Transition Skills Action Plan, Council believes that, to the greatest extent possible, the Investment Zone should prioritise working with public, private, and education partners to develop a green skills strategy and green jobs programme for Glasgow, including through the provision of high-quality and well-paid apprenticeships and training courses to help drive the Zero Carbon Buildings agenda. Council also supports the delivery of workforce retraining programmes to retain the local skilled workforce for the rollout of net-zero projects such as local heat networks and the renewables supply chain.

Council notes that ongoing activity by Glasgow City Council's Economic Development and City Development is regularly reported to Committee, with the most recent agenda of the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration Policy Committee containing the Invest Glasgow Annual Report, the Investment Strategy and the plan for the Golden Z. Council instructs the Chief Executive to: prepare a paper for discussion at the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee detailing how the Investment Zone can support the just transition and climate-resilient economic development; bring an update paper to a future Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration Policy Committee on the work of the Glasgow City Region PMO and Intelligence Hub; and to offer briefings to all elected members on implementation plans for the Investment Zone and Clyde Mission as these are developed."

On a vote being taken electronically and by roll call, 43 members voted for the combined amendment by Councillors Aitken and Anderson, 33 members voted for the amendment by Councillor Butler and 2 for the motion.

The combined amendment by Councillors Aitken and Anderson was accordingly declared to be carried.