Glasgow needs a fair deal – Motion dealt with, after division.

9 Councillor Redmond, seconded by Councillor Siddique, moved

"Council notes that for too long, Glasgow has been let down by two failing governments, both at Holyrood and Westminster. The people of Glasgow deserve a competent and functioning Scottish Government, who act in the best interests of all the citizens of our city.

Council notes the recent proposals by the Scottish Government to increase Council Tax for the poorest people in society. This increase will affect thousands of hard-working families across the city, who are already struggling to make ends meet during a cost-of-living crisis. These increases are a direct result of years of SNP cuts to local government, leaving the people of Glasgow being asked to pay more for less.

Council welcomes the public transport initiative in Manchester led by Labour Mayor Andy Burnham, and notes that the Scottish Government has still not brought forward the secondary legislation to enable progress to be made. It was in 2019 that the Scottish Government first pledged to bring such legislation forward. Council agrees that Glasgow needs a fully integrated, not-for-profit public transport system which is publicly controlled and accountable.

Glasgow was promised a fair financial deal in 2017 but continued budget reductions have resulted in continued pressure on public services and the city facing a series of problems with industrial action being considered in our schools, in our culture sector and in our cleansing services.

Council further agrees that Glasgow needs a fair financial deal from the Scottish Government and resolves to write to the First Minister and all Glasgow MSPs to seek their support for a fair deal for Glasgow."

Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Alex Kerr, moved as an amendment to delete all and replace with the following:-

“Council draws attention to the recent Verity House Agreement which was signed, following approval by COSLA Leaders, by the First Minister, the COSLA President and Vice President, the Deputy First Minister, the Local Government Empowerment Minister and the COSLA Political Group Leaders, including the Scottish Labour Leader at COSLA.

Council welcomes this new deal for local government. Council notes that The Verity House Agreement sets out principles for working together to empower local communities, tackle poverty, transform the economy and provide high-quality public services.

Council notes that it includes commitments to:

- agree a new Fiscal Framework governing how local authorities' funding is allocated, reducing ring-fencing and giving them greater control over their budgets to meet local needs
- regularly review councils' powers and funding, with the expectation that services will be delivered at a local level unless agreed otherwise
- incorporate the European Charter of Local Self-Government into Scots Law
- reform public services, building on the partnership working established during the pandemic recovery
- develop a framework for collecting and sharing evidence to ensure progress is maintained

Council understands the constrained fiscal position that the Scottish Government continues to operate under, with ongoing austerity measures from the UK Government, a cost-of-living crisis that is coupled with rampant inflation and the continuing negative impacts of a hard-Brexit which is making the country poorer. Council agrees that within this context flexibility around funding is key. Council restates its position that more revenue-raising powers should be devolved to the city and instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Scottish Government outlining this position.

Council believes that paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn't be, and that tax, including Income Tax and Council Tax, enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence and roads. Council agrees it also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies. Council does not agree with recent remarks from the Scottish Labour Leader that income tax is hammering families and choking opportunity. Council agrees for the need for a progressive tax system where people pay their fair share, and notes the calls led by the Poverty Alliance for income tax to be raised to tackle poverty and inequality.

Council recalls the Vision of its comprehensive Glasgow Transport Strategy (GTS), which is to pursue "a sustainable transport system for people and for goods, which is affordable and inclusive, accessible and easy to use, clean and safe, integrated and reliable." Council notes the extensive work ongoing to deliver on this vision, and welcomes the recent publication of and ongoing consultation on the GTS part 2.

Council notes that decisions taken by past Conservative Governments and Labour local and regional authorities have resulted in the deregulation and subsequent privatisation of public transport provision in the Greater Glasgow area. Council reiterates its commitment (as detailed in the Bus Governance Routemap) to explore models of greater public control of the city's bus network such as franchising; notes that ongoing dialogue is taking place with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport regarding options appraisal and business case development for the bus governance models provided for in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019; and calls on the Scottish Government to complete the enactment of that legislation to allow for exploration of these options to progress.

Council welcomes the recent announcement in the Scottish Government Programme for Government about exploring Metropolitan status for Glasgow, as

called for by the Council Leader. Council believes this will be a game-changer for the city and city region and congratulates those who have been working tirelessly to secure this status for Glasgow. Council instructs the Council Leader to write to the Scottish Government welcoming this announcement and outlining our support for additional powers to come to Glasgow."

Councillor Molyneux, seconded by Bailie Gallagher, moved as an amendment to delete all and replace with the following:-

"Council recognises the current impact of inflation on public spending is unprecedented in recent times and recalls that this has been fuelled by disastrous decisions of the current UK government. In this context, Council recognises that raising taxes is one way we can secure more money to invest in public services on which our citizens depend, as well as redistributing wealth and tackling inequality.

Council believes that the Council Tax is imperfect for many reasons and agrees that it should be replaced with a fairer, up-to-date system of land and property taxation. Council understands that work is underway through the "Joint Working Group on Sources of Local Government Funding and Council Tax Reform" to explore alternatives to Council Tax as well as immediate changes which can achieve improvements in the shorter term. Nevertheless, Council believes that all possible opportunities should be taken to redistribute wealth within the city and that the joint consultation from the Scottish Government and CoSLA on Fairer Council Tax represents one such opportunity to tackle inequality and redistribute wealth for the good of everyone in Glasgow by proposing increases in Council Tax payable by those in the most valuable properties.

Council recalls that there are options available to people to challenge and mitigate Council Tax increases where there is good reason, including revaluation requests, reductions and exemptions, and notes that further opportunities to mitigate any changes can be considered as part of the Council's budget process.

Therefore, Council agrees to support the proposed changes in the Fairer Tax Consultation.

Council further instructs the Leader to write to CoSLA and the Scottish Government communicating the Council's support for an alternative system to Council Tax which ensures fair redistribution of wealth and maximises the revenue raising powers of local government, and to write to the UK and Scottish Governments calling on them to provide fair funding for Glasgow.

Council also believes we should continue to explore other opportunities for raising revenue locally. Council recalls the Local Taxes Working Group in the last Council term started work on the business case for a visitor levy. Council agrees that the group should be reformed to urgently progress a firm proposal for a visitor levy in Glasgow, alongside the passage of the legislation through the Scottish Parliament. Council also asks that this group considers the option of introducing workplace licensing within the current Council term, the reform of vacant property reliefs for non-domestic rates, the potential further reform of Council Tax, and other

opportunities for local fiscal empowerment which may come through the implementation of the Verity House Agreement.

Finally, Council recalls its previous support for greater public control of the city's bus network and operations, including franchising and public ownership, and calls on the Scottish Government to deliver the powers legislated for in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 which will enable the Council and partners to progress this opportunity."

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

"Council draws attention to the recent Verity House Agreement which was signed, following approval by COSLA Leaders, by the First Minister, the COSLA President and Vice President, the Deputy First Minister, the Local Government Empowerment Minister and the COSLA Political Group Leaders, including the Scottish Labour Leader at COSLA.

Council welcomes this new deal for local government. Council notes that The Verity House Agreement sets out principles for working together to empower local communities, tackle poverty, transform the economy and provide high-quality public services.

Council notes that it includes commitments to:

- agree a new Fiscal Framework governing how local authorities' funding is allocated, reducing ring-fencing and giving them greater control over their budgets to meet local needs
- regularly review councils' powers and funding, with the expectation that services will be delivered at a local level unless agreed otherwise
- incorporate the European Charter of Local Self-Government into Scots Law
- reform public services, building on the partnership working established during the pandemic recovery
- develop a framework for collecting and sharing evidence to ensure progress is maintained

Council understands the constrained fiscal position that the Scottish Government continues to operate under, with ongoing austerity measures from the UK Government, a cost-of-living crisis that is coupled with rampant inflation and the continuing negative impacts of a hard-Brexit which is making the country poorer. Council agrees that within this context flexibility around funding is key.

Council further recognises that raising taxes is one way we can secure more money to invest in public services on which our citizens depend, as well as redistributing wealth and tackling inequality.

Council recognises that the Council Tax is imperfect for many reasons, including because of the uneven geographic benefit from upper bands and agrees that it should be replaced with a fairer, up-to-date system of land and property taxation. Council understands that work is underway through the "Joint Working Group on

Sources of Local Government Funding and Council Tax Reform" to explore alternatives to Council Tax as well as immediate changes which can achieve improvements in the shorter term. Nevertheless, Council believes that all possible opportunities should be taken to redistribute wealth within the city and that the joint consultation from the Scottish Government and CoSLA on Fairer Council Tax represents one such opportunity to tackle inequality and redistribute wealth for the good of everyone in Glasgow by proposing increases in Council Tax payable by those in the most valuable properties.

Council recalls that there are options available to people to challenge and mitigate Council Tax increases where there is good reason, including revaluation requests, reductions and exemptions, and notes that further opportunities to mitigate increases for those who cannot afford them can be considered as part of the Council's budget process.

Therefore, Council agrees to support the proposed changes in the Fairer Tax Consultation.

Council further instructs the Leader to write to CoSLA and the Scottish Government communicating the Council's support for an alternative system to Council Tax which ensures fair redistribution of wealth and maximises the revenue raising powers of local government, and to write to the UK and Scottish Governments calling on them to provide fair funding for Glasgow.

Council welcomes the recent announcement in the Scottish Government's Programme for Government about exploring Metropolitan status for Glasgow, as called for by the Council Leader. Council believes this will be a game-changer for the city and city region and congratulates those who have been working tirelessly to secure this status for Glasgow. Council instructs the Council Leader to write to the Scottish Government welcoming this announcement and outlining our support for additional powers to come to Glasgow.

Council also believes we should continue to explore other opportunities for raising revenue locally. Council agrees that the group should be reformed to urgently progress a firm proposal for a visitor levy in Glasgow, alongside the passage of the legislation through the Scottish Parliament, so that can be implemented as soon as the legislation allows. Council also asks that this group considers the option of introducing a workplace licensing scheme within the current Council term, the reform of vacant property reliefs for non-domestic rates which is being consulted on, powers relating to Council Tax, and other opportunities for local fiscal empowerment which may come through the implementation of the Verity House Agreement and metropolitan status for the city region.

Council recalls the Vision of its comprehensive Glasgow Transport Strategy (GTS), which is to pursue "a sustainable transport system for people and for goods, which is affordable and inclusive, accessible and easy to use, clean and safe, integrated and reliable." Council notes the extensive work ongoing to deliver on this vision, and welcomes the recent publication of and ongoing consultation on the GTS part two.

Council reaffirms its previous support for greater public control of the city's bus network and operations, including franchising and public ownership, and calls on the Scottish Government to deliver the powers legislated for in the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 to enable the Council and partners to progress this opportunity."

On a vote being taken electronically and by roll call, 45 members voted for the combined amendment by Councillors Bell and Molyneux and 33 for the motion with 2 abstentions.

The combined amendment by Councillors Bell and Molyneux was accordingly declared to be carried.