Decriminalisation of drugs – Motion approved, after division.

6 Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Blench, moved that

"Council notes the recent annual publication of the drug related death statistics in Scotland and the 37% reduction in drugs-related deaths in Glasgow this year.

Council further notes the range of interventions that are being made with partners across the city to tackle this crisis. These interventions include - The Crisis Outreach Service; Mobile Harm Reduction Initiative; Injecting Equipment Provision and, The Enhanced Drug Treatment Service. Council notes continuing discussions about creating a supervised drug consumption facility within Glasgow and restates its support for this facility.

Council places on record its thanks to Health and Social Care Partnership staff, as well as colleagues in partner organisations, and our inspirational recovery communities for their tireless work to make inroads into this ongoing health crisis in the city.

Council is encouraged that the interventions that have been made are beginning to make a difference, but Council is resolute in its belief that these figures remain too high and that more needs to be done locally and nationally to end this crisis.

Council welcomes the Scottish Government's recent publication of 'A Caring, Compassionate and Human Rights Informed Drug Policy for Scotland'. Council believes that this prospectus is one which is ambitious, progressive, and radical. It is grounded in evidence from around the world and aligned to our values that this is a public health emergency rather than a criminal justice one.

Council notes that some of the evidence-based interventions which have a track record of success outlined in that paper include changes which could allow wider access to naloxone, allow for supervised drug consumption facilities, create a network of drug checking facilities, and increase access to harm reduction approaches such as provision of drug paraphernalia. Council notes that naloxone training has been offered to all elected members and agrees that a further training session should be arranged and that the more people who are trained and carry a naloxone kit, the more lives might be saved.

Council notes that the publication of this policy paper was launched at the Global Commission on Drug Policy's annual general meeting in Scotland in July. Council further notes that Glasgow City Council have been invited by the Global Commission to work with them to establish a cities initiative to bring together cities across the world who have a particular interest in drug-related issues. Council welcomes this opportunity which has the potential to draw together insights from leading academics and civil society organisations across the globe, build a coalition for change with other urban networks like Eurocities, galvanise collaboration between the public sector and third sector organisations and showcase Glasgow's issues and solutions.

Council further notes the recent report by the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee found that the UK Government's response could "go further by adopting a broader range of public health-based harm reduction methods" and recommends that the "UK Government support a pilot facility in Glasgow and create a legislative pathway to enable more".

It is disappointing that the Home Office has immediately ruled this considered position out and Council remains frustrated that the UK Government continue to view drugs policy solely as a justice issue rather than a public health matter. Council therefore agrees with the call for the Decriminalisation of all drugs for personal supply and seeks approval for the Council to adopt a formal position in favour of decriminalisation.

Council agrees that the "war on drugs" has failed and that decriminalisation would allow people found in possession of drugs to be treated and supported rather than criminalised and excluded. Council notes that decriminalisation is the common position of the UN Chief Executives Board.

Council asks the Convener to write to the Scottish Government and UK Government outlining the Council's support for decriminalisation; note the Home Affairs Committee the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 require reform; highlight the recommendation that Glasgow should pilot the use of drug consumption rooms; restate our longstanding commitment to be a place where new ideas to tackle this ongoing public health crisis are progressed."

Councillor McDougall, seconded by Councillor Dempsey, moved as an amendment to delete all and replace with the following:-

“Council regrets that, since the Scottish Government declared the drugs crisis a public health emergency in 2019, almost 800 drug-related deaths have been recorded in Glasgow, with a further 68 suspected drug deaths to date in this year alone.

Council notes that Scotland’s drug deaths remain almost three times higher than in the rest of the United Kingdom, with the latest data showing that people living in the most deprived areas of Scotland were almost 16 times as likely to die from drug misuse than in the least deprived areas.

Council notes the range of interventions that are being made with partners and across the city to tackle this crisis. These interventions include - Crisis Outreach Service; Mobile Harm Reduction Initiative; Injecting Equipment Provision and, Enhanced Drug Treatment Service. Council notes continuing discussions about creating a supervised drug consumption facility within Glasgow and restates its support for this facility.

Council places on record its thanks to Health and Social Care Partnership staff, as well as colleagues in partner organisations, and our inspirational recovery communities for their tireless work to make inroads into this ongoing health crisis in the city.

Council supports the Scottish Government's National Mission on Drugs and its public health approach to tackling this emergency, but also recognises that much of the recent investment has simply unpicked the damage of years of national cuts to drug and alcohol treatment.

Council calls for the Scottish Government to work with Glasgow City Council and local partners to roll out naloxone kits more widely, to establish drug-testing sites without further delay, to improve pathways into recovery, and to fully implement the MAT standards, including same day prescribing, as a matter of priority.

Council notes that there needs to be better integration between mental health and substance misuse services so that treatment in one is not contingent on recovery in the other.

Council is committed to the creation of a pilot safe consumption rooms in the city, as part of a wider holistic drugs strategy, and asks the Scottish Government to use its existing powers to make this happen. Council also agrees to engage in full consultation with communities across the city which may have consumption rooms located within to build trust.

Council believes that both the Scottish Government and UK Government need to redouble their efforts in cracking down on drug smugglers and dealers who are cynically exploiting this public health crisis in Scotland's communities for their own profit."

On a vote being taken electronically and by roll call, 33 members voted for the amendment by Councillor McDougall and 47 for the motion.

The motion was accordingly declared to be carried.

Adjournment.

7 In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1250 hours until 1400 hours.

Resumption of meeting.

8 The meeting resumed at 1400 hours and the sederunt was taken as follows:-

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

SAQIB AHMED	LAURA DOHERTY	ELAINE McSPORRAN
SUSAN AITKEN	PATRICIA FERGUSON	ANNE McTAGGART
IMRAM ALAM	SEAN FERGUSON	HANZALA MALIK
BLAIR ANDERSON	ELAINE GALLAGHER	LEÒDHAS MASSIE
KEN ANDREW	ZEN GHANI	CHRISTY MEARNS
ALEXANDER BELIC	ALLAN GOW	ANGUS MILLAR

RICHARD BELL
DECLAN BLENCH
EVA BOLANDER
ABDUL BOSTANI
PHILIP BRAAT
JILL BROWN
HOLLY BRUCE
MAUREEN BURKE
BILL BUTLER
GRAHAM CAMPBELL
CHRISTINA CANNON
PAUL CAREY
JOHN CARSON
ANTHONY CARROLL
ALLAN CASEY
ANNETTE CHRISTIE
CHRIS CUNNINGHAM
STEPHEN CURRAN
FEARGAL DALTON
JOHN DALY
AUDREY DEMPSEY
STEPHEN DOCHERTY
WILLIAM GRAHAM
SHARON GREER
GREG HEPBURN
FIONA HIGGINS
DAN HUTCHISON
FYEZA IKHLAQ
EUNIS JASSEMI
ANN JENKINS
LILITH JOHNSTONE
JIM KAVANAGH
RUAIRI KELLY
ALEX KERR
MATT KERR
THOMAS KERR
KEVIN LALLEY
PAUL LEINSTER
FRANK McAVEETY
PAUL MCCABE
ELAINE McDOUGALL
KENNY McLEAN
NORMAN MacLEOD
MALCOLM MITCHELL
JON MOLYNEUX
ROBERT MOONEY
MARGARET MORGAN
EVA MURRAY
CECILIA O'LONE
KEIRAN O'NEILL
JILL PIDGEON
LINDA PIKE
HANIF RAJA
THOMAS RANNACHAN
GEORGE REDMOND
LANA REID-MCCONNELL
ROZA SALIH
FRANNY SCALLY
JAMES SCANLON
SORYIA SIDDIQUE
KIERAN TURNER
MARTHA WARDROP
CATHERINE VALLIS
ALEX WILSON

Apologies: Stephen Dornan, Rashid Hussain, Deacon Convener and Lord Dean of Guild.

Attending: M Millar, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; 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.