Asylum Seekers Right to Work – Motion, as adjusted, approved.

15 Bailie Salih, seconded by Cllr Casey, moved that:-

"Council recognises that Lift the Ban is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim. Council further recognises that in December 2019 it agreed on calling the UK Government to amend legislation and has raised this and other matters consistently with UK Ministers.

Council believes that all people seeking protection in the UK should be able to work, make the most of their potential and provide for themselves and their families, similar to Ukrainians who have the Right to Work. Council further believes restrictions on right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy and wider society, enabling them to integrate in their local community. Council agrees allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in and for the local and national economy.

Council welcomes that in 2022 the Shortage Occupational List was expanded to include positions like social care, nursing, opening the possibility of employment for people seeking asylum who would not otherwise be able to carry out jobs previously. Council also welcomes the UK Migration Advisory Council report in March 2023 into labour shortages in the construction and hospitality sectors and the potential use of the immigration system as a response.

Council notes that the UK Migration Advisory Council is currently conducting a Call for Evidence 2023 and that this provides an opportunity to promote the right to work and also ensure that Glasgow and Scotland's economy could benefit from this. Council further notes that Scotland's Urban AGE 2022 report, supported by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce amongst others called for immigration policy to be devolved to ensure cities and regions have access to the workforce they need to prosper and requisite skills and labour force to deliver on our climate pledges.

Council resolves to continue supporting the Lift the Ban campaign, calls on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work, and instructs the Chief Executive to respond to the current MAC Call for Evidence2023, noting the AGE 2 report and other evidence of how migrants could benefit Glasgow's economy, and, that the right to work is a fundamental human right."

Councillor O'Lone, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, moved as an amendment to delete the final paragraph and insert the following:-

"Council resolves to pay tribute to the Lift the Ban coalition organisations; continue to support the campaign; consider joining Birmingham and Coventry City Councils in formally joining the Lift the Ban coalition; call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work. Council instructs the Chief Executive to respond to the current MAC Call for Evidence 2023, noting the AGE2 report and other evidence of how migrants could benefit Glasgow's economy and that the right

to work is a fundamental human right; and to bring a copy of the Council's response to the appropriate Committee."

Bailie Carroll, seconded by Bailie Mearns, moved as an amendment that after the fourth paragraph ending "… deliver on our climate pledges." the following 2 additional paragraphs be added:-

"Council recognises and applauds the work of Refugee Survival Trust in their pilot of free bus travel for those seeking asylum, and acknowledges the social, economic, and environmental benefits that free public transport can offer. Council notes that barriers to transport have a significant impact on people seeking asylum in participating in community work, getting to appointments, and supporting their children's activities.

Council acknowledges the immense benefits which could be gained from free bus travel for people seeking asylum if the right to work was given, and therefore resolves to support the extension of free bus travel to those seeking asylum. Council asks the Convenor for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport, and City Centre Recovery to write to the Scottish Transport Secretary expressing its support for the current pilot and ask for it to be expanded to all those seeking asylum."

Bailie Salih, with the approval of her seconder, accepted the amendments by Councillor O'Lone and Bailie Carroll resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

"Council recognises that Lift the Ban is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim. Council further recognises that in December 2019 it agreed on calling the UK Government to amend legislation and has raised this and other matters consistently with UK Ministers.

Council believes that all people seeking protection in the UK should be able to work, make the most of their potential and provide for themselves and their families, similar to Ukrainians who have the Right to Work. Council further believes restrictions on right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy and wider society, enabling them to integrate in their local community. Council agrees allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in and for the local and national economy.

Council welcomes that in 2022 the Shortage Occupational List was expanded to include positions like social care, nursing, opening the possibility of employment for people seeking asylum who would not otherwise be able to carry out jobs previously. Council also welcomes the UK Migration Advisory Council report in March 2023 into labour shortages in the construction and hospitality sectors and the potential use of the immigration system as a response.

Council notes that the UK Migration Advisory Council is currently conducting a Call for Evidence 2023 and that this provides an opportunity to promote the right to work and also ensure that Glasgow and Scotland's economy could benefit from this. Council further notes that Scotland's Urban AGE 2022 report, supported by the

Glasgow Chamber of Commerce amongst others called for immigration policy to be devolved to ensure cities and regions have access to the workforce they need to prosper and requisite skills and labour force to deliver on our climate pledges.

Council records it support for the Scottish Government commitment to “Work with third sector partners and local authorities to consider how best to provide free bus travel to asylum seekers and refugees including displaced people from Ukraine.”

Council recognises and applauds the work of Refugee Survival Trust in their pilot of free bus travel for those seeking asylum, and acknowledges the social, economic and environmental benefits that free public transport can offer. Council notes that barriers to transport have a significant impact on people seeking asylum, in participating in community work, getting to appointments and supporting their children’s activities.

Council acknowledges the immense benefits which could be gained from free bus travel for people seeking asylum if the right to work was given, and therefore resolves to support the extension of free bus travel to those seeking asylum. Council will ask the City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery to write to the Scottish Transport Secretary expressing its support for the current pilot and ask for it to be expanded to all those seeking asylum.

Council also asks the City Convener to write to the UK government and ask them how they can work together with the Scottish government to remedy the barriers for asylum seekers in accessing travel and ensure that asylum support provision recognises and includes this.

Council resolves to continue supporting the Lift the Ban campaign and pays tribute to the coalitions organisations; considers joining other local authorities in formally joining the Lift the Ban coalition; call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work and Council instructs the Chief Executive to respond to the current MAC Call for Evidence 2023, noting the AGE2 report and other evidence of how migrants could benefit Glasgow’s economy and that the right to work is a fundamental human right; and to bring a copy of the Council’s response to the appropriate Committee.”

The motion as adjusted was approved unanimously.