Independence – Motion, as adjusted approved, after division.

12 Councillor Alex Kerr, seconded by Councillor Ghani, moved that:-

"Council welcomes the announcement by the First Minister of the Scottish Government's intention to hold a referendum on Scottish independence on 19th October 2023 and further notes that a judgement by the UK Supreme Court on the Scottish Parliament's ability to stage such a referendum is imminent.

Council recognises that the Scottish Government has a clear and unequivocal democratic mandate to hold a referendum on Scottish independence, expressed by the Scottish people at the last two Holyrood elections.

Council reiterates its alarm that hundreds of thousands of people in Glasgow and across Scotland face severe hardship as a result of a cost-of-living crisis created by the policy decisions of the Westminster government and exacerbated by the impact of a Brexit overwhelmingly rejected by Scots. Council notes with deep concern the wholly inadequate responses to this escalating crisis by the UK Government which has placed significant constraints on the Scottish and Local Government's ability to implement our own responses.

Council believes that in the face of a decline in living standards such as not experienced in generations, with the severe impact on health, equity and social cohesion that will result, the ability of the Scottish people to choose an alternative to Westminster governance is now not just a clear democratic right but also an urgent necessity.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward a paper outlining the impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on Glaswegians to a future committee."

Councillor Braat, seconded by Councillor Brown, moved as an amendment that:-

"Council notes that the current cost-of-living crisis that threatens to plunge hundreds of thousands of households across the country into poverty; and notes the recent strike action taken by Local Authority staff and groups of workers across the country.

Council believes that the highest drug deaths in Europe continues to shame Scotland; and that the pressure faced by Scotland's NHS due to a chronic lack of investment and forward planning on the part of the Scottish Government continues to threaten lives.

Council notes that Scottish Local Authorities continue to be unable to bring local bus services under public control, due to the Scottish Government's continued delays and over-reliance on secondary legislation; and notes that Cities in England such as Manchester now caps bus fares across the Greater Manchester region.

Finally, Council notes that every serious economic analysis shows that Scotland would be made poorer by severing ties with its largest trading partner; notes this Council's continued opposition to the UK's withdrawal from the European Union on

that very basis; and notes that constitutional uncertainty continues to rank 10th on the Council's Corporate Risk Register, alongside Fiscal Uncertainty – an obvious consequence of Independence – at Number 1.

Council believes that Independence will make Scotland and Glaswegians poorer, and is a woefully insufficient response to the cost-of-living crisis.

Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to bring forward a paper outlining the impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on Glaswegians to a future committee."

Councillor Anderson, seconded by Bailie Carroll, moved as a further amendment that:-

(1) at the end of paragraph 2, after "last two Holyrood elections" the following be added:

", and condemns those who would deny this fundamental feature of parliamentary democracy."

(2) between paragraph 4 ending "an urgent necessity.", and paragraph 5 beginning "Council instructs", insert the following 2 additional paragraphs:

"Council looks forward to the day when an independent Scotland can use the full range of economic, financial, legal and political levers of a normal country to fundamentally change the balance of power in our society away from capital and towards people and our planet.

Council also believes that the self-empowering our nation should not end at the Scottish Parliament and that powers should be devolved to the most local level possible and therefore welcomes commitments in the recent Programme for Government to support the reintroduction of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill and to introduce a Bill to establish a Local Visitor Levy, and calls on continuing action to devolve more powers to councils and local communities."

Councillor Daly, seconded by Bailie Thomas Kerr, moved as a further amendment that:-

"Council believes that the First Minister's announcement to hold another independence referendum in October next year is the worst possible priority at this time.

Council believes that our full focus should be on supporting people, communities and businesses through the cost-of-living crisis and crucial time and resources should not be diverted towards another referendum.

Council calls on the SNP-Green Government to ditch their plans to spend £20 million in the coming year on a referendum bill and instead ensure that these significant resources are spent on tackling the cost-of-living crisis.

Council accepts that another constitutional debate is not what we should be spending our time on and that our focus should be on the issues we can directly support Glaswegians on.

Council agrees that an urgent paper on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis should be brought forward to a future committee and to outline what further support can be given to Glaswegians."

Councillor Alex Kerr, with the approval of his seconder, accepted the amendment by Councillor Anderson resulting in the following adjusted motion:-

"Council welcomes the announcement by the First Minister of the Scottish Government's intention to hold a referendum on Scottish independence on 19th October 2023 and further notes that a judgement by the UK Supreme Court on the Scottish Parliament's ability to stage such a referendum is imminent.

Council recognises that the Scottish Government has a clear and unequivocal democratic mandate to hold a referendum on Scottish independence, expressed by the Scottish people at the last two Holyrood elections and condemns those who would deny this fundamental feature of parliamentary democracy.

Council reiterates its alarm that hundreds of thousands of people in Glasgow and across Scotland face severe hardship as a result of a cost-of-living crisis created by the policy decisions of the Westminster government and exacerbated by the impact of a Brexit overwhelmingly rejected by Scots. Council notes with deep concern the wholly inadequate responses to this escalating crisis by the UK Government which has placed significant constraints on the Scottish and Local Government's ability to implement our own responses.

Council believes that in the face of a decline in living standards such as not experienced in generations, with the severe impact on health, equity and social cohesion that will result, the ability of the Scottish people to choose an alternative to Westminster governance is now not just a clear democratic right but also an urgent necessity.

Council looks forward to the day when an independent Scotland can use the full range of economic, financial, legal and political levers of a normal country to fundamentally change the balance of power in our society away from capital and towards people and our planet.

Council also believes that the self-empowering our nation should not end at the Scottish Parliament and that powers should be devolved to the most local level possible and therefore welcomes commitments in the recent Programme for Government to support the reintroduction of the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill and to introduce a Bill to establish a Local Visitor Levy, and calls on continuing action to devolve more powers to councils and local communities

Council instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward a paper outlining the impact the cost-of-living crisis is having on Glaswegians to a future committee."

On a vote being taken by calling the roll 35 members voted for the amendment by Councillor Braat, 2 for the amendment by Councillor Daly and 47 for the motion as adjusted which was accordingly declared to be carried.

Adjournment.

13 In terms of Standing Order No 17, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1325 hours until 1415 hours.

Resumption of meeting.

14 The meeting resumed at 1415 hours and the sederunt was taken as follows:-

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

SAQIB AHMED
SUSAN AITKEN
IMRAM ALAM
BLAIR ANDERSON
KEN ANDREW
ALEXANDER BELIC
RICHARD BELL
DECLAN BLENCH
EVA BOLANDER
ABDUL BOSTANI
PHILIP BRAAT
JILL BROWN
HOLLY BRUCE
MAUREEN BURKE
BILL BUTLER
GRAHAM CAMPBELL
CHRISTINA CANNON
PAUL CAREY
ANTHONY CARROLL
ALLAN CASEY
ANNETTE CHRISTIE
CHRIS CUNNINGHAM
STEPHEN CURRAN
FEARGAL DALTON
JOHN DALY
AUDREY DEMPSEY
STEPHEN DOCHERTY
LAURA DOHERTY
STEPHEN DORNAN
PATRICIA FERGUSON
SEAN FERGUSON
ELAINE GALLAGHER
ZEN GHANI
ALLAN GOW
WILLIAM GRAHAM
SHARON GREER
GREG HEPBURN
FIONA HIGGINS
RASHID HUSSAIN
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
ELAINE McSPORRAN
ANNE McTAGGART
HANZALA MALIK
LEÒDHAS MASSIE
CHRISTY MEARNS
ANGUS MILLAR
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
CATHERINE VALLIS
MARTHA WARDROP
ALEX WILSON

VICE DEAN OF GUILD

Attending: E Galletly, Director of Legal and Administration; A O'Donnell, Chief Executive; M Booth, Executive Director of Finance; 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; B Monaghan, Director of Community Empowerment and Equalities; K Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth; and C Edgar, Head of Communication and Strategic Partnerships.