

## **Welcoming the New UK Labour Government - Motion dealt with, after division.**

**13** Councillor Redmond, seconded by Bailie Siddique, moved that:-

"Council welcomes the election of a new UK Labour Government, committed to delivering transformative change to the people of the United Kingdom. However, Council acknowledges the significant challenges inherited from 14 years of Conservative rule, such as economic instability, housing shortages, a climate emergency, and growing inequality. Nonetheless, Council recognises the overwhelming support for Labour across Glasgow and the UK at the 2024 General Election, congratulates the new Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers on their appointments, and expresses confidence in their commitment to building a fairer, more equal society.

Council expresses its optimism for a fresh, positive working relationship between the UK and Scottish Governments and hopes that representatives from both governments will meet soon to discuss areas of collaboration. Council believes that collaboration and partnership between both governments will be crucial in addressing the challenges facing our communities, from economic recovery to tackling climate change. Council agrees that by working together, we can ensure the needs and aspirations of all citizens across the United Kingdom are met.

Council applauds the new UK Labour Government for abolishing the abhorrent Rwanda policy, demonstrating a renewed commitment to human rights and ethical governance. In addition, council commends the Government's pledge to uphold the triple lock on pensions, ensuring that pensions rise in line with inflation. Furthermore, Council welcomes the resolution of disputes with rail workers, showing the UK Government's commitment to improving working conditions and enhancing the quality of public transport.

Council supports the New Deal for Working People, which aims to strengthen workers' rights, enhance job security, and ensure fair wages across all sectors. Moreover, Council supports plans to repeal the draconian Trade Union Act, empowering trade unions to better represent and protect workers' rights.

Council welcomes plans for increased funding in schools, which aims to reduce class sizes, improve school facilities, increase salaries, expand access to early years and supporting disadvantaged students. Council hopes that the Scottish Government will follow the lead of the UK Government and invest in Scotland's schools.

Council resolves to:

- Support the new UK Labour Government in its efforts to deliver its manifesto commitments.
- To work closely with local communities, trade unions and other key stakeholders to ensure that the Government's plans for economic recovery, social justice and environmental recovery are implemented effectively for the benefit of all.

- Actively engage with the UK Government to ensure that Glasgow's specific needs and priorities are heard and addressed in the national agenda.
- Celebrate this historic achievement, ushering in a new era of effective government, and transforming Britain for the better."

Councillor Aitken, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved as an amendment to delete all after "Council welcomes" in paragraph 1 and replace with the following:-

"the removal of the most right-wing, corrupt and economically damaging Conservative UK government in living memory. Council deeply regrets the legacy of economic and social devastation left by 14 years of austerity and understands that the impacts of this will take time to rectify. Council is alarmed therefore that the early actions of the new UK Labour government have pointed to a continuation of fiscal austerity and reduced public spending and agrees that this approach will almost certainly deepen inequalities and worsen an already unprecedentedly challenging environment, both for public service funding and for the cost and quality of living for people and communities.

Council notes the stated willingness to pursue a positive working relationship between the UK and Scottish Governments and notes that representatives from both governments have already met to discuss areas of collaboration. Council believes that collaboration and partnership between both governments will be crucial in addressing the challenges facing our communities, from economic recovery to tackling climate change. Council further notes that the Leader of the Council has had a cordial early meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland and has written to the Prime Minister to outline key asks for Glasgow, including support for our Child Poverty Pathfinder work to eradicate child and family poverty. Council expresses regret however that there are no constitutional protections in place for devolved governments when faced with intransigent UK administrations, and notes that a proper written constitution which respects the dignity of the Scottish nation and recognises the UK's multinational status is a prerequisite for ensuring harmonious working arrangements between government at all levels across our islands.

Council approves the new UK Labour Government's abolition of the abhorrent Rwanda policy, but expresses concern that it continues to adopt the hardline rhetoric about migrants and asylum seekers used by the previous Conservative government and has made no commitment to delivering vital reform of the asylum system to remove private profiteering, permit asylum seekers to work, and embed human rights, welfare and dignity as core principles.

Council supports the original plans for a New Deal for Working People, which aimed to strengthen workers' rights, enhance job security, and ensure fair wages across all sectors, but notes the remarks of Unite the Union that current plans are *'totally unrecognisable from the original proposals produced with the unions'*, further noting that *'Workers will see through this and mark this retreat after retreat as a betrayal'*. Council supports plans to repeal the draconian Trade Union Act, empowering trade unions to better represent and protect workers' rights, but urges the UK Labour Government to show more ambition than simply rolling back bad Tory policy.

Council understands that, under the current devolution settlement, spending decisions by UK governments have direct and unavoidable consequences for the Scottish Government's budget and Scottish public services. Council recalls that while promises were made during the UK general election campaign of additional funding flowing to Scotland from, for example, public sector pay deals and increased funding for schools in England, the reality is that because of spending cuts in other areas, the consequential for Scotland are likely to be only a fraction of the funding required for similar investments in Scotland. Council understands that if the Chancellor continues down the path of public spending cuts, this could even result in negative consequential and further reductions to the Scottish budget.

Council therefore agrees to:

- Continue to actively engage with the UK Government to ensure that Glasgow's specific needs and priorities are heard and addressed in the national agenda.
- Work closely with local communities, trade unions and other key stakeholders to oppose austerity measures such as the two child cap and the cut to winter fuel allowances.
- Request that the Leader of the Council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging her to abandon her insistence on cleaving to the ideologically right-wing and economically and socially damaging "fiscal rules" established by former Chancellor George Osborne, and instead use the opportunity of her October budget to use the many fiscal levers at her disposal to set out a programme of investment in public services and sustainable infrastructure, in order to stimulate inclusive economic growth, create jobs, tackle the climate emergency, and start to undo the damage to the physical and social fabric of our communities caused by the last 14 years of austerity."

Councillor Molyneux, seconded by Councillor Anderson, moved as an amendment:-

(1) to delete paragraph 1 and replace with the following:

"Council notes the outcome of the UK General Election on 4 July 2024; congratulates the Labour Party on forming a Government; in particular congratulates all new MPs elected to represent Glasgow constituencies; thanks all those who they have replaced for their service to the city; and hopes that all progressive parties elected to the new Parliament will work constructively to advance fairness and deliver economic, social and climate justice, following 14 years of Conservative misrule."

(2) at paragraph 2 delete "hopes that representatives from both governments will meet soon to discuss areas of collaboration" and replace with the following:

"notes that meetings have already taken place at various levels to this end."

(3) at the end of paragraph 2 add the following:

“Council believes that this should begin with reform of the Internal Market Act to undo that Act’s undermining of the devolution settlement, and that, where requested by the Scottish Parliament, the UK Government should consider the devolution of more powers to the Scottish Parliament, such as employment rights, migration and tax policy.”

(4) to delete all from the start of paragraph 3 and replace with the following:

“Council welcomes some early actions of the new Government, including scrapping the abhorrent Rwanda asylum policy, overturning the block on onshore windfarms, making progress on public sector pay deals, re-establishing positive working relationships with trade unions and committing to improving workers’ rights, and suspending some arms sales to Israel. However, Council is gravely concerned by the impact of planned public spending cuts, the decision to remove Winter Fuel Payments from millions of pensioners, the failure to end the two-child benefit cap, and vastly reduced plans for low carbon investment. Council believes that the new Government has different choices it can make, by taxing the wealthiest more, rejecting austerity, and prioritising urgent climate action.

Council welcomes the decision to remove VAT relief from private schools, with more money to be invested in state schools. Council notes, however, that for Scotland’s schools to truly benefit from this, the UK Government’s block grant to the Scottish Government must increase in line with inflation, reflect public sector pay deals, and account for the impact of 14 years of austerity.

Council further believes that an immediate priority must be for the UK Government to support the Council in meeting the costs arising from Home Office batch decision-making on historic asylum cases, which is the most significant factor in the extraordinary pressures currently facing Glasgow’s homelessness services.

Council therefore resolves to write to the Prime Minister in these terms and invite him to visit Glasgow to discuss the impact of Home Office pressures.”

During the debate Councillor Aitken and Councillor Molyneux, with the agreement of their seconders, agreed to combine their amendments resulting in the following adjusted amendment:

“Council notes the outcome of the UK General Election on 4th July 2024; congratulates the Labour Party on forming a Government; in particular congratulates all new MPs elected to represent Glasgow constituencies; thanks all those who they have replaced for their service to the city; and hopes that all progressive parties elected to the new Parliament will work constructively to advance fairness and deliver economic, social and climate justice, following 14 years of Conservative misrule.

Council deeply regrets the legacy of economic and social devastation left by 14 years of austerity and understands that the impacts of this will take time to rectify. Council is alarmed therefore that the early actions of the new UK Labour

government have pointed to a continuation of fiscal austerity and reduced public spending and agrees that this approach will almost certainly deepen inequalities and worsen an already unprecedentedly challenging environment, both for public service funding and for the cost and quality of living for people and communities.

Council notes the stated willingness to pursue a positive working relationship between the UK and Scottish Governments and notes that representatives from both governments have already met to discuss areas of collaboration. Council believes that collaboration and partnership between both governments will be crucial in addressing the challenges facing our communities, from economic recovery to tackling climate change. Council believes that this should begin with reform of the Internal Market Act to undo that Act's undermining of the devolution settlement, and that, where requested by the Scottish Parliament, the UK Government should consider the devolution of more powers to the Scottish Parliament, such as employment rights, migration and tax policy. Council further notes that the Leader of the Council has had a cordial early meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland and has written to the Prime Minister to outline key asks for Glasgow, including support for our Child Poverty Pathfinder work to eradicate child and family poverty.

Council welcomes some early actions of the new Government, including scrapping the abhorrent Rwanda asylum policy, overturning the block on onshore windfarms, making progress on public sector pay deals, re-establishing positive working relationships with trade unions and committing to improving workers' rights, and suspending some arms sales to Israel. However, Council is gravely concerned by the impact of planned public spending cuts, the decision to remove Winter Fuel Payments from millions of pensioners, the failure to end the two-child benefit cap, and vastly reduced plans for low carbon investment. Council believes that the new Government has different choices it can make, by taxing the wealthiest more, rejecting austerity, and prioritising urgent climate action. Council is further concerned that the Government continues to adopt the hardline rhetoric about migrants and asylum seekers used by the previous Conservative government and has made no commitment to delivering vital reform of the asylum system to remove private profiteering, permit asylum seekers to work, and embed human rights, welfare and dignity as core principles, and notes the remarks of Unite the Union that current plans are '*totally unrecognisable from the original proposals produced with the unions*', further noting that '*Workers will see through this and mark this retreat after retreat as a betrayal*'. Council supports plans to repeal the draconian Trade Union Act, empowering trade unions to better represent and protect workers' rights, but urges the UK Labour Government to show more ambition than simply rolling back bad Tory policy.

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promises were made during the UK general election campaign of additional funding flowing to Scotland from, for example, public sector pay deals and increased funding for schools in England, the reality is that because of spending cuts in other areas, the consequential for Scotland are likely to be only a fraction of the funding required for similar investments in Scotland. Council understands that if the Chancellor continues down the path of public spending cuts, this could even result in negative consequential and further reductions to the Scottish budget.

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- Work closely with local communities, trade unions and other key stakeholders to oppose austerity measures such as the two child cap and the cut to winter fuel allowances.
- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging her to abandon her insistence on cleaving to the ideologically right-wing and economically and socially damaging "fiscal rules" established by former Chancellor George Osborne, and instead use the opportunity of her October budget to use the many fiscal levers at her disposal to set out a programme of investment in public services and sustainable infrastructure, in order to stimulate inclusive economic growth, create jobs, tackle the climate emergency, and start to undo the damage to the physical and social fabric of our communities caused by the last 14 years of austerity.
- Write to the Prime Minister to ask him to make it an immediate priority to support the Council in meeting the costs arising from Home Office batch decision-making on historic asylum cases, which is the most significant factor in the extraordinary pressures currently facing Glasgow's homelessness services. and invite him to visit Glasgow to discuss the impact of Home Office pressures."

On a vote being taken electronically and by roll call, 42 members voted for the combined amendment by Councillor Aitken and Councillor Molyneux and 29 for the motion with 3 abstentions.

The combined amendment was accordingly declared to be carried.