

## **Death of Winnie Ewing.**

**10** The Lord Provost referred to the recent death of politician Winnie Ewing and extended the House's condolences to her family. The House stood in silence as a mark of respect.

## **Child poverty and Children's Holiday Food and Activity programme – Motion as adjusted approved, after division – Declarations of interest.**

**11** Bailie Greer, seconded by Bailie Jenkins, moved that:-

"Council notes the statistics published by the End Child Poverty Coalition which showed that, after housing costs, Child Poverty in 2021/22 in Glasgow stood at 32%; that continued inflation and the continuing cost of living crisis is likely to continue to exacerbate child poverty; and notes the reaction of organisations like the Trussell Trust to the Scottish Government's plan to end Foodbank use in Scotland, saying that the Government "has missed an opportunity to address record levels of food bank use with the requisite leadership and urgency".

Council believes the new statistics serve as a wake-up call that further action is required and is therefore deeply disappointed that the Scottish Government has - to date - failed to provide promised funding for the Council's Holiday Food Programme in 2023; and that this comes amidst suggestions from the Scottish Government that the Summer programme would be targeted rather than universal.

Council re-commits itself to the principle of removing any stigma from potential food provision; believes that food provision for our young people within and outwith School should be delivered on a universal basis; and commits to engage with Scottish Government on these terms.

Council therefore resolves to write to the Scottish Government: expressing its preference for a universal approach to food provision; expressing its deep disappointment that the Children's Holiday Food programme in 2023/24 is being put at risk by a failure to provide the necessary funding; and to reiterate the Council's expectation that Ministers will provide an urgent response."

Councillor Bell, seconded by Bailie MacLeod, moved as an amendment to delete all and replace with:-

"Council notes the statistics published by the End Child Poverty Coalition which showed that, after housing costs, Child Poverty in 2021/22 in Glasgow stood at 32%; that continued inflation and the continuing cost of living crisis is likely to continue to exacerbate child poverty.

Council condemns the UK Westminster Government who have inflicted a decade of austerity on the people of Glasgow. Council believes that these policies are both deliberate and vindictive against our citizens. Council agrees that Brexit continues to have a negative impact on our citizens and is a direct cause of the cost-of-living crisis being worse in the UK than it is elsewhere in Europe.

Council believes that ending Child Poverty, indeed all poverty in the city requires significant leadership and urgency from all levels of government and the use of a myriad of different approaches to resolve ingrained poverty and deliver bold long-term action must be taken to increase people's income and ensure everyone can afford the essentials.

Council further believes that Glasgow is now in the worrying business of helping put food onto tables and heat homes, which is seeing financial and physical capacity diverted from the long-term work of improving life chances and outcomes towards the day-to-day support of the increasing numbers of citizens in financial crisis.

Council further notes that poverty is a complex and multi-layered and multi-generational problem which has no simple solutions.

Council notes that the combined impact of national and local interventions such as the Scottish Child Payment and Glasgow's schools-based Financial Inclusion Officers mean that Glasgow has the lowest child poverty rate of the UK's 10 biggest cities, and understands that without these investments, many more Glaswegian households would be pushed into poverty by the impact of Westminster policies.

Council welcomes the very constructive discussion the Leader & Depute Leader have had with the First Minister regarding funding for the Holiday Food & Activity programme and welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to deliver universal free school meals for all primary school-aged children, and looks forward to a report setting out next steps in free school meal expansion coming to a future Education, Skills & Early Years City Policy Committee.

Council re-commits itself to removing any stigma from potential food provision and commits to engage with the Scottish Government on these terms. Council agrees to write to the Scottish Government to update it on the work that we are doing locally to support their efforts to reduce child poverty and reiterate the importance of the universality of food provision."

Bailie Carroll, seconded by Councillor Reid-McConnell, moved as an amendment that:-

In paragraph 1, delete all from "Government "has missed" onwards, and replace with:-

"plan "has the right vision but it needs to go further faster if Scotland is to end the need for charitable food aid"; however notes that recent analysis by the Scottish Government to accompany the first annual report on its Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan which estimated that 90,000 fewer children will live in relative and absolute poverty this year as a result of Scottish Government policies, such as the Scottish Child Payment, the Adult Disability Payment and the uprating of Scottish benefits in line with inflation, mitigating the increases in food bank use in Scotland, and that the Trussell Trust wishes that "the UK Government follow the lead of the Scottish Government and commit to delivering a UK wide action plan to end the need for food banks".

In paragraph 2:-

between “is required” and “and is”, add “from all levels of government”

between “promised funding” and “for the”, add “and guidance”

between “Holiday Food” and “Programme”, add “& Activity”

remove end of sentence after semi-colon beginning “and that this comes”, and replace with: “and believes that a universal rather than targeted approach to delivering such programmes is preferable given negative effects of stigmatisation and onerous reporting duties for community organisations and council staff.”

In paragraph 3, at the end of the paragraph, add additional sentence:-

“Council welcomes the Scottish Government’s commitment to deliver universal free school meals for all primary school-aged children, and looks forward to a report setting out next steps in free school meal expansion coming to Education, Skills & Early Years City Policy Committee at the earliest opportunity.”

In paragraph 4:-

Replace “resolves to write to the Scottish Government” with “requests that the City Treasurer write to the Minister for Children, Young People, & Keeping the Promise”

Between “food provision” and “expressing its deep”, add “including its expansion of free school meals”

Between “Holiday Food” and “Programme”, add “& Activity”

Replace “is being put at risk by a failure to provide the necessary funding” with “has not had clear funding or guidance structures, which has hampered planning for community groups and Council in providing an open process”

Add additional sentence at the end of the paragraph:

“Council will also request that the City Treasurer writes to the UK Government, suggesting it follows the Scottish Government’s lead in committing to deliver a UK wide action plan to end the need for food banks.”

Add new paragraph 5 after existing paragraph 4:-

“Council additionally believes that the best way to prevent poverty is through the introduction of a Universal Basic Income. Council recalls the decision taken in the last term to begin work towards a UBI pilot in Glasgow and, given the need for any pilot to include input from HMRC and DWP, regrets that the current UK Government has refused to support the scheme. Council therefore asks the Leader of the Council and City Treasurer to jointly write to the Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Treasurer at Westminster to ask whether they would provide the necessary support to a UBI pilot in Glasgow should they be successful in forming a

future UK Government, reiterating the Council's expectation that they will provide an urgent response."

During the debate Bailie Greer and Bailie Carroll, with the approval of their seconders, agreed to combine their motion and amendment, as follows:-

"Council notes: the statistics published by the End Child Poverty Coalition which showed that, after housing costs, Child Poverty in 2021/22 in Glasgow stood at 32%; that continued inflation and the continuing cost of living crisis is likely to continue to exacerbate child poverty; and notes the reaction of organisations like the Trussell Trust to the Scottish Government's plan to end Foodbank use in Scotland, saying that the "has the right vision but it needs to go further faster if Scotland is to end the need for charitable food aid"; however notes that recent analysis by the Scottish Government to accompany the first annual report on its Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan which estimated that 90,000 fewer children will live in relative and absolute poverty this year as a result of Scottish Government policies, such as the Scottish Child Payment, the Adult Disability Payment and the uprating of Scottish benefits in line with inflation, mitigating the increases in food bank use in Scotland, and that the Trussell Trust wishes that "the UK Government follow the lead of the Scottish Government and commit to delivering a UK wide action plan to end the need for food banks.

Council believes the new statistics serve as a wake-up call that further action is required from all levels of government and is therefore deeply disappointed that the Scottish Government has - to date - failed to provide promised funding and guidance for the Council's Holiday Food & Activity Programme in 2023; and believes that a universal rather than targeted approach to delivering such programmes is preferable given negative effects of stigmatisation and onerous reporting duties for community organisations and council staff.

Council recommits itself to the principle of removing any stigma from potential food provision; believes that food provision for our young people within and outwith school should be delivered on a universal basis; and commits to engage with Scottish Government on these terms. Council welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to deliver universal free school meals for all primary school-aged children and looks forward to a report setting out next steps in free school meal expansion coming to Education, Skills and Early Years City Policy Committee at the earliest opportunity.

Council therefore resolves to write to the Scottish Government: expressing its preference for a universal approach to food provision including its expansion of free school meals; expressing its deep disappointment that the Children's Holiday Food & Activity programme in 2023/24 was put at risk by a failure to provide adequate funding or guidance in a timely manner and that this has hampered planning for community groups and Council in providing an open process; and to reiterate the Council's expectation that Ministers will provide an urgent response. Council will also request that the City Treasurer writes to the UK Government, suggesting it follows the Scottish Government's lead in committing to deliver a UK wide action plan to end the need for food banks.

Council additionally believes that one of the best ways to prevent poverty is through the introduction of a Universal Basic Income. Council recalls the decisions taken previously by this Council in February 2017 and October 2020 to begin work towards a UBI pilot in Glasgow and, given the need for any pilot to include input from HMRC and DWP, regrets that the current UK Government has refused to support the scheme. Council therefore asks the Leader of the Council and City Treasurer to jointly write to the Prime Minister & Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask that they provide the necessary support to a UBI pilot in Glasgow, reiterating the Council's expectation that they will provide an urgent response."

Bailie Thomas Kerr, seconded by Councillor Daly, moved as an amendment that Council approve the original motion by Bailie Greer.

On a vote being taken electronically and by roll call, 2 members voted for the amendment by Bailie Thomas Kerr, 36 for the amendment by Councillor Bell and 41 for the combined motion and amendment by Bailie Greer and Bailie Carroll which was accordingly declared to be carried.

Councillors Molyneux, O'Lone and Wardrop declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion and decision thereon.