

Minute of Meeting Council

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 30 September 2021	09:30	Teams Meeting,

Present: Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor, Councillor Tom Begg, Councillor Derek Bibby, Councillor Bill Binks, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Jacqueline Cameron, Provost Lorraine Cameron, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Carolann Davidson, Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Karen Devine-Kennedy, Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Natalie Don, Councillor Edward Grady, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Scott Kerr, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Mags MacLaren, Councillor Eileen McCartin, Councillor Colin McCulloch, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor John McIntyre, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Kevin Montgomery, Councillor Will Mylet, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor Emma Rodden, Councillor Jim Sharkey, Councillor John Shaw, Councillor James Sheridan, Councillor Andy Steel, Councillor Jane Strang

Chair

Provost L Cameron presided.

In Attendance

S Black, Chief Executive; S Quinn, Director of Children's Services; M Crearie, Director of Communities & Housing Services; G McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure; A Russell, Director of Finance & Resources; L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning, L Mahon, Head of Marketing & Communications and A Morrison, Head of Economy & Development Services (all Chief Executive's); J Trainer, Head of Childcare & Criminal Justice (Children's Services); C Dalrymple, Communities & Regulatory Manager (Communities & Housing Services); K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, A MacArthur, Head of Finance, M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, L Belshaw and D Low, both Democratic Services Managers, E Currie and P Shiach, both Senior Committee Services Officers, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, D Pole, A Lowe, B Dalziel and B Kirkpatrick, all End User Technicians (all Finance & Resources); and C O'Byrne, Head of Health & Social Care (Paisley) (Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); and F Naylor, Head of Finance & Corporate Services (Renfrewshire Leisure Limited).

Apologies

Councillors Dowling, Mackay and K MacLaren.

Obituaries

Provost Cameron acknowledged the death of Bruce McFee, a former Renfrew District Councillor, Renfrewshire Councillor and MSP, making reference to his exemplary service to the local community.

Provost Cameron also acknowledged the death of Winnie Gallacher, a former employee of Renfrew District and Renfrewshire Council and wife of former Councillor Roy Glen.

The Provost and members of the Council extended sincere condolences to both families on behalf of Renfrewshire Council. A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect.

Sederunt

Councillor Don left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor McCartin declared an interest in item 3 of the agenda – Renfrewshire Libraries Update - and item 24 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 5 - as she was Depute Chair of the Board of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. Councillor McCartin indicated that as she had a general dispensation from the Standards Commission which allowed her to take part and to vote in relation to such matters it was her intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of these items.

Councillor McNaughtan declared an interest in item 21 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 15 - as he was a member of the 1820 Society and intimated that it was his intention to remain in the meeting, move the motion and take part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Hughes declared an interest in item 3 of the agenda - Renfrewshire Libraries Update – and item 24 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 5 - as she was Chair of the Board of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. Councillor Hughes indicated that as she had a general dispensation from the Standards Commission which allowed her to take part and to vote in relation to such matters it was her intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of these items.

Councillor Campbell declared an interest in item 8 of the agenda – Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group – Annual Report 2020/21 - and item 9 of the agenda – National Care Service Consultation - as she was an employee of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde but not in the Council's area and intimated that it was her intention to remain in the meeting and to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Strang declared an interest in item 13 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 4 - as her mother had a blue badge and intimated that she would not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Begg declared an interest in items 3 of the agenda - Renfrewshire Libraries Update - and item 24 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 5 - as he was a Director on the Board of Renfrewshire Leisure Limited. Councillor Begg indicated that as he had a general dispensation from the Standards Commission which allowed him to take part and to vote in relation to such matters it was his intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of these items.

Councillor Adam-McGregor declared an interest in item 13 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 4 - as she had a blue badge and intimated that it was her intention to remain in the meeting during consideration of this item and not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Adam-McGregor further declared a non-financial interest in item 21 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 12 – as she was a member of the 1820 Society and intimated that it was her intention to remain in the meeting and take part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Councillor Kerr declared an interest in item 13 of the agenda– Notice of Motion 5 - as he had a blue badge and intimated that it was his intention to leave the meeting during consideration of this item and not to take part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Webcasting of Meeting

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Provost intimated that this meeting of the Council would be webcast live on the Council's website.

1 Minutes of Meetings of Council, Boards and Panels (attached separately)

There were submitted the Minutes of the following meetings of the Council, Boards and Panels on the dates specified:

Council, 24 June 2021
Placing Requests & Exclusions Appeals Panel, 16 August 2021
Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board, 17 August 2021
Regulatory Functions Board, 18 August 2021
Education & Children's Services Policy Board, 19 August 2021
Placing Requests & Exclusions Appeals Panel, 20 August 2021
Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board, 23 August 2021
Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board, 25 August 2021
Petitions Board, 30 August 2021
Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board, 1 September 2021
Regulatory Functions Board, 2 September 2021
Appointment Board, 7 September 2021
Appointment Board, 8 September 2021
Regulatory Functions Board, 10 September 2021
Leadership Board, 15 September 2021
Appointment Board, 28 September 2021
Appointment Board, 29 September 2021

DECIDED: That the Minutes be approved.

2 **Water Safety in Renfrewshire**

Under reference to item 19 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 24 June 2021, there was submitted a report by the Director for Communities & Housing Services relative to the progress made to date to improve safety in and around the river Gryffe and to investigate contributing to community efforts for the provision and maintenance of safety measures.

The report intimated that a Renfrewshire Water Safety Working Group had been established including membership from various Council services and Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, Open Water Rescue, Civil Contingencies Service and Renfrewshire Leisure. In addition, Children's Services, the Glasgow Humane Society and Scottish Water had been contacted to facilitate discussion.

The report advised that the Working Group had met to identify short-term measures to assist the community at the location known locally as the 'Clay Pits'. It was noted that the community had approached the owners of the land, Elderslie Estates, who agreed to life-saving equipment being placed on their land. Temporary life belts, poles and throw ropes had been located on the riverbanks along the River Gryffe at the Clay Pits and these were being checked and replaced when necessary by the Glasgow Humane Society.

It was noted that the education of youths to the dangers of water and in particular 'cold water shock' was one of the key actions facing the Working Group and the report provided detail on the work around this. A Renfrewshire Water Safety Policy was currently being prepared and a draft would be submitted to the meeting of the Communities, Housing & Planning Board to be held on 26 October 2021.

DECIDED: That the content of the report and the work undertaken to ensure water safety across Renfrewshire, including assisting communities with life-saving equipment where appropriate, be noted.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors McCartin, Hughes and Begg, having previously declared interests in the following item of business, remained in the meeting.

3 **Renfrewshire Libraries Update**

Under reference to item 10 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 24 June 2021, there was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to progress on Renfrewshire Libraries' recovery programme, within the context of the breadth of activity provided by Renfrewshire's digital and library services.

The report intimated that throughout the pandemic, the library team had consistently reviewed and adapted services in line with Scottish Government restrictions and in response to the changing needs of communities. During the national lockdowns, when physical access to libraries was not possible, the service adapted its provision to

include increased digital lending and online service provision, as well as home delivery and befriending services. When the Scottish Government's Covid-19 guidelines allowed, Renfrewshire Leisure reopened all 12 libraries for in-person browsing, alongside the operation of click and collect services.

The report set out the next stages of the reopening programme in terms of public libraries, school libraries and the skoobmobile.

DECIDED: That the content of the report be noted.

4 **Update on Audited Annual Accounts 2020/21**

Under reference to item 2 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 24 June 2021, there was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to an update on the audited Annual Accounts 2020/21.

The report advised that the Council's unaudited Annual Accounts for 2020/21 had been presented to the meeting of the Council held on 24 June 2021 and submitted for audit by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2021. The June report to Council highlighted that flexibility in terms of the timescales for approval of the audited annual accounts had been provided under the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Scottish Ministers had indicated their expectation that the audited annual accounts be published by 30 November 2021 and Audit Scotland, the appointed auditors, anticipated that this would be achieved.

The report indicated that under the Council's scheme of delegation, the audited accounts were normally presented to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board prior to being presented to Council. To allow the Council to comply with the revised dates permissible, the report proposed that the meeting of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board scheduled to be held on 1 November 2021 be rescheduled to 15 November 2021 to allow sufficient time for completion of the audit process. Thereafter, the report proposed that a special meeting of the Council be called on an appropriate date, but no later than 30 November 2021, for the purpose of approving the audited accounts. In the event that the audit process was not completed within the timescales outlined, the report proposed that the audited accounts be presented for approval to the Council meeting scheduled to be held on 16 December 2021.

DECIDED:

(a) That the revised deadline for the Council's audited accounts be noted;

(b) That it be agreed that the meeting of the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Committee scheduled for 1 November 2021 be rescheduled to 15 November 2021; and

(c) That it be noted that a special meeting of the Council would be called on or before 30 November 2021 to approve the audited accounts; or in the event the audit of the accounts was not completed, it be noted that the audited accounts would be presented to the 16 December 2021 Council meeting.

5 **Financial Outlook 2022-2025**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the financial outlook for the Council for 2022/25.

The report advised that, as previously reported over the past 12 to 18 months, the Council had faced significant financial disruption due to the COVID19 pandemic and associated emergency response. The financial impact of COVID19 on the Council had been fluid and subject to change in line with decisions being taken by national governments in response to developing management of the emergency response across the UK. The Scottish Government had released additional financial support to local government over the final quarter of the financial year which provided financial stability to the Council as 2020/21 was financially closed and a greater level of confidence as to the scale of COVID19 specific resources to financially support the Council during 2021/22. In this context, and as outlined in more detail in the report, the Council's immediate financial stability remained secure, and this was anticipated to remain the case over the course of 2021/22.

The report intimated that, for the first time since the austerity agenda commenced, the Council would progress into 2022/23 with an unaddressed structural budget deficit of around £4 million to £5 million from 2021/22. The Council's medium-term financial outlook continued to be subject to considerable uncertainty, with future government grant prospects and the scale of pay pressures in future years continuing as the most significant areas of influence and uncertainty.

It was noted that the financial strategy moving forward would be progressed based on a relatively limited financial saving contribution emerging from the Right for Renfrewshire programme in 2022/21. Approved financial flexibilities put in place by the Council as an immediate response to developing financial risks and disruption from COVID19 in September 2020 would be deployed to support the Council's budget position moving into 2022/23. These measures would protect the immediate financial stability of the Council, maintain a focus on securing the Council's medium-term financial stability, as well as providing an extended window of opportunity for the Council to recover from COVID19 before more significant and unavoidable demands for savings were placed on the transformation programme.

The report noted that it was expected that greater financial planning certainty might emerge over coming months should the UK Government announce a multi-year Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in the autumn and the Scottish Government follow-through on existing commitments to produce multi-year spending plans. Key milestone announcements were expected to emerge over the remaining months of this calendar year and into the early part of 2022 and updates would be provided as appropriate.

The report provided information on the immediate financial position in terms of the General Fund Revenue Account; the economic and fiscal outlook; an overview of updated outlook; the financial strategy response measures; the capital investment programme; and the housing revenue account (HRA).

DECIDED:

(a) That the update regarding the Council's current general fund financial position, the assessment of the projected net impact of COVID19 over the course of this financial year and the anticipated deployment of COVID19 resources provided by the Scottish Government be noted;

(b) That the updated general fund financial outlook over the medium term and the ongoing expectation of the Council being required to continue to plan for addressing significant structural budget deficits in the period through to 2025 be noted, albeit the

scale of this remained subject to ongoing uncertainty at this stage;

(c) That it be noted that the remobilisation of the Council's transformation programme continued to be constrained by organisational capacity being deployed to support the response to COVID19 and the developing recovery agenda. Further, that it be noted that a limited level of transformation activity and associated financial savings were anticipated as part of the 2022/23 budget planning arrangements and details in this regard would be subject to normal transformation reporting arrangements as the programme was progressed in the coming months;

(d) That it be noted that as part of the budget planning for 2022/23, the intention to deploy financial flexibility arrangements approved by Council in September 2020 was an early response to the financial disruption caused by COVID19. Further, that it be noted that this would assist securing ongoing short-term financial stability, assist in partly addressing the forecast medium-term structural budget deficit moving forward and would also provide the Council with an extended window of opportunity to recover from COVID19 before being required to fully remobilise the transformation programme;

(e) That the update provided in respect to the General Fund capital investment programme and the potential impact from growing price and supply pressures within the construction market be noted. Further, that it be noted that in response, a level of provision had been made against COVID19 resources to protect the deliverability of the current capital programme; and

(f) That the update in respect of the HRA and the relatively more secure long-term financial outlook afforded by the greater long-term confidence provided by rental income and the underpinning robustness of the 30-year business planning arrangements, which would continue to be updated over the course of this year ahead of 2022/23, be noted.

6 Governance Arrangements

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to arrangements for the next cycle of Board meetings starting in mid-October 2021 up to and including the full Council meeting on 16 December 2021.

The report outlined arrangements for meetings going forward taking into account a number of key developments since the last Council meeting, including the successful use of the hybrid model of conducting Board meetings and the Scottish Government's decision to move to "Beyond Level 0" with effect from 9 November 2021 which removed most of the restrictions to control the transmission of Covid-19.

The arrangements set out in the report aimed to allow the maximum flexibility to enable meetings to take place in the most appropriate and safe way, depending on the guidance that was in force at the time the meetings were due to take place.

The report also covered the arrangements for the appointment of a new Chief Executive, some Board appointments by the Labour Group and provided an update on the appeal by Paul Mack against the sanction of disqualification imposed by the Standards Commission of Scotland.

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved that Councillor Andy Steel replace Councillor Kenny MacLaren as a member of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board. This was agreed unanimously.

Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Sharkey, moved that Councillor Edward Grady and not Councillor Jim Sharkey as intimated in the report, replace Councillor Sheridan as a member of the Leadership Board. This was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED:

(a) That the successful completion of the first cycle of Board meetings using the Public-i system to facilitate the conduct of hybrid meetings that were broadcast live be noted;

(b) That the terms of the Protocol for the Conduct of Hybrid meetings that had been agreed for use for those meetings, a copy of which was attached as an appendix to the report, be noted;

(c) That the arrangements for the next cycle of Council and Board meetings, set out in section 4 of the report, which would continue to include the option to use hybrid meetings involving elected members attending meetings in person in Renfrewshire House, should Scottish Government Guidance allow it, be approved;

(d) That it be noted that Sandra Black had intimated her intention to retire from her post as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service of Renfrewshire Council with effect from 15 December 2021 and that a recruitment process had begun to find her successor;

(e) That it be agreed, that in the event that there was a period of time between the current Chief Executive retiring and the new chief executive starting in post, the Chief Executive's Appointments Panel would approve arrangements for the appointment of an acting chief executive;

(f) That it be noted that the appeal by Paul Mack against the sanction of disqualification imposed on him by the Standards Commission for Scotland was heard by the Sheriff Principal on 31 August 2021 although the decision was still awaited;

(g) That the following Board appointments by the Labour Group be approved:

- Councillor Karen Devine-Kennedy to replace Councillor Jim Sheridan as a member of the Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board.

- Councillor John Hood to replace Councillor Jim Sheridan as a member of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board.

- Councillor Edward Grady to replace Councillor Jim Sheridan as a member of the Leadership Board;

(h) That Councillor Andy Steel replace Councillor Kenny MacLaren as a member of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board; and

(i) That it be noted that a further report on the arrangements for future meetings of Council and Boards would be brought to the next Council meeting on 16 December 2021.

7 **Annual Report of Chief Social Work Officer**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Social Work Officer relative to the 2020/21 annual report by the Chief Social Work Officer (CSWO). In Renfrewshire this role was held by the Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice.

The report provided an overview of the role of the CSWO, outlined local arrangements for the discharge of the functions of the post, highlighted key areas of activity of the CSWO locally, provided an overview of activities within social work services and detailed the key priorities for the year ahead.

A copy of the annual report by the CSWO was appended to the report. The report intimated that the scope of the CSWO role covered all social work and social care services, whether provided directly by the local authority, or in partnership with others. Where these services were purchased or commissioned from external providers, the CSWO had responsibility to advise on the specification, quality and standards of services commissioned.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the key activities outlined in the CSWO annual report be noted;
- (b) That it be noted that the CSWO annual report would be submitted to the Office of the Chief Social Work Advisor at the Scottish Government; and
- (c) That it be agreed that the next update to Council would be presented in Autumn 2022.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Campbell, having previously declared an interest in items 8 and 9, remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion thereon.

8 **Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group – Annual Report 2020/21**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Renfrewshire Community Protection Chief Officers Group annual report 2020/21, a copy of which was appended to the report, providing an overview of the key areas of work in relation to public protection during 2020/21 with a particular focus on the partnership working that had taken place during the pandemic to support local people and communities.

The report advised that an independent review of the Chief Officers Group had been completed during 2020 providing formal reassurance that oversight and scrutiny arrangements in Renfrewshire were robust and facilitated effective joint working at a strategic level.

It was noted that the pandemic and associated restrictions had continued to impact those most vulnerable across Renfrewshire's communities and there was an ongoing need for partners to work together flexibly to ensure local people living across communities received the support they needed. Chief Officers had met more frequently to scrutinise activity and consider the local response in relation to protection issues as they arose.

DECIDED: That the content of the report be noted.

9 National Care Service Consultation

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to the Council's response to the Scottish Government consultation on the establishment of a National Care Service in Scotland, launched in August 2021, a copy of which was appended to the report.

The report advised that in March 2021, the Council considered the initial findings of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care, the recommendations of which were recognised at that time as having potentially significant implications for the delivery of adult social care, particularly in relation to the proposed development of a National Care Service whereby accountability for these services would transfer from local authorities to a national body accountable to Scottish Ministers.

The report intimated that whilst the consultation sought views on a number of other aspects of improvement to the delivery of social care services, it focused specifically on the role and scope of the proposed National Care Service which exceeded that recommended initially within the independent review. It now proposed that services such as children and families and criminal justice social work be included, with adult social care services included as a minimum.

The report highlighted that the structural changes being proposed to manage the delivery of social care were significant for the Council and many of the proposals would need to be implemented or enabled through new or significant changes to existing legislation with governance, financial and workforce implications for the Council.

It was noted that the Council's response to the consultation would be submitted to the Scottish Government by the deadline of 2 November 2021 and that further updates on the consultation and any agreed next steps would be provided as soon as available.

DECIDED: That the response to the National Care Service consultation for submission by 2 November 2021 be approved.

Order of Business

At this point in the meeting, Provost Cameron intimated that in terms of standing order 16 she intended to combine item 16 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 7 – and item 19 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 10; that item 22 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 13 - had been withdrawn; and that she ruled that item 24 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 15 - was not competent in terms of Standing Order 19(c).

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11.20 am and reconvened at 11.40 am.

Valedictories

Provost Cameron intimated that this would be the last Council meeting that Sandra Black, Chief Executive would attend as Sandra would be retiring from the Council in December. Provost Cameron also intimated that Gordon McKinlay, Head of Schools would also be retiring from the Council in December. Provost Cameron and Councillors paid tribute to both Sandra and Gordon for their service to the Council and wished them both a long and happy retirement.

10 **Notice of Motion 1 by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin in the following terms:

"Banning Glyphosates in Renfrewshire Council

Council notes the risk to small children and pets from the continual use of the pesticide, Glyphosate, who may inadvertently come in contact with sprayed areas. Council notes the increasing number of local authorities across the UK which have banned Glyphosate in favour of other safer alternatives for weed control, and is concerned at independent academic research highlighting how glyphosate harms humans, animals, and the wider environment.

Council therefore calls for a ban on the use of Glyphosate within Renfrewshire Council in favour of safer alternatives."

Councillors Andy Doig, seconded by Councillor McCartin, then moved the motion.

Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor Brown, moved as an amendment that "RLL' be added after Renfrewshire Council in the last line."

Councillor McEwan, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved as a second amendment, that the motion be amended to read:

"Banning Glyphosates in Renfrewshire Council

Council notes the potential risk to small children and pets from the continual use of the pesticide, Glyphosate, who may inadvertently come in contact with sprayed areas.

Council notes the increasing number of local authorities across the UK which have banned Glyphosate in favour of other safer alternatives for weed control, and is concerned at independent academic research highlighting how glyphosate harms humans, animals, and the wider environment.

Council therefore agrees;

to cease the use of Glyphosate in areas of recreation ie parks and within our school estate.

Approve a trial of alternative weed control methods such as foam and steam weed control.

Agrees to the reduction and phasing out of Glyphosate over a 2-3 year period and approves the development of an integrated herbicide management policy to detail our approach to being a herbicide free local authority as soon as practicable.”

Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved as a third amendment that:

The second paragraph be replaced with:

“Council therefore asks for a report back to the Infrastructure Land And Environment Policy Board on safer alternatives to Glyphosates with a view of phasing out its future use within Renfrewshire Council.”

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin, being the mover and seconder of the motion agreed to accept all amendments as additions to the motion, and the motion, as amended, was approved unanimously.

DECIDED: Banning Glyphosates in Renfrewshire Council

Council notes the potential risk to small children and pets from the continual use of the pesticide, Glyphosate, who may inadvertently come in contact with sprayed areas.

Council notes the increasing number of local authorities across the UK which have banned Glyphosate in favour of other safer alternatives for weed control, and is concerned at independent academic research highlighting how glyphosate harms humans, animals, and the wider environment.

Council therefore agrees;

to cease the use of Glyphosate in areas of recreation ie parks and within our school estate.

Approve a trial of alternative weed control methods such as foam and steam weed control.

Agrees to the reduction and phasing out of Glyphosate over a 2-3 year period and approves the development of an integrated herbicide management policy to detail our approach to being a herbicide free local authority as soon as practicable.

Council therefore asks for a report back to the Infrastructure Land & Environment Policy Board on safer alternatives to Glyphosates with a view of phasing out its future use within Renfrewshire Council and RLL.

11 **Notice of Motion 2 by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin in the following terms:

"Review of waste services for town centres and rural areas

Council notes with increasing concern the unresolved problems with the current waste management strategy of Renfrewshire Council, particularly with regard to its inability to professionally service our town centres and rural communities alike.

This has led to Councillors receiving repeated long standing complaints on the vexed problem of non collection, or partial collection, on a constant basis in rural areas, and the additional problem of bins being almost permanently present outwith town centre businesses which struggle to adhere to the current regime.

Council calls for an urgent review of the waste management strategy with regard to town centres and rural communities, and recommends examination of the merits of fixed waste crews rather than rotational crews."

Councillor Andy Doig, seconded by Councillor McCartin, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Review of waste services for town centres and rural areas

Council notes with increasing concern the unresolved problems with the current waste management strategy of Renfrewshire Council, particularly with regard to its inability to professionally service our town centres and rural communities alike.

This has led to Councillors receiving repeated long standing complaints on the vexed problem of non collection, or partial collection, on a constant basis in rural areas, and the additional problem of bins being almost permanently present outwith town centre businesses which struggle to adhere to the current regime.

Council calls for an urgent review of the waste management strategy with regard to town centres and rural communities, and recommends examination of the merits of fixed waste crews rather than rotational crews.

12 **Notice of Motion 3 by Councillors McCartin and Andy Doig**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors McCartin and Andy Doig in the following terms:

"20mph streets

Council has previously written to the Scottish Government regarding the potential to allow councils to bring in 20 mph areas where and when it sees fit, rather than have to wait for permission from the Traffic Commissioner. These letters have resulted in nothing being done by the Government.

With the recent "non-coalition" between the SNP and the Green party establishing a policy of 20mph as standard, can the council once again write to the Scottish Government asking them to focus on this policy as a priority, to give local councils the responsibility of assessing where and when to bring this legislation into force, and in so doing give councils the right to make local judgements on local matters."

Councillor McCartin, seconded by Councillor Andy Doig, then moved the motion.

Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor Devine, moved as an amendment that 'and to each Green Party MSP' be added after 'Scottish Government' in the last paragraph. This was then amended to 'and to Green MSPs' after 'Scottish Government' in the last paragraph.

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin, being the mover and seconder of the motion agreed to accept the amended amendment as an addition to the motion, and the motion, as amended, was approved unanimously.

DECIDED: 20mph streets

Council has previously written to the Scottish Government regarding the potential to allow councils to bring in 20 mph areas where and when it sees fit, rather than have to wait for permission from the Traffic Commissioner. These letters have resulted in nothing being done by the Government.

With the recent “non-coalition” between the SNP and the Green party establishing a policy of 20mph as standard, can the council once again write to the Scottish Government and to Green MSPs asking them to focus on this policy as a priority, to give local councils the responsibility of assessing where and when to bring this legislation into force, and in so doing give councils the right to make local judgements on local matters.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Strang, Adam-McGregor and Kerr having previously declared interests in the following item of business, remained in the meeting and took no part in the discussion thereon.

13 Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors McCartin and Andy Doig

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors McCartin and Andy Doig in the following terms:

"Blue Badge qualifications

Council recognises that Blue Badge permits have in recent years become much more restrictive than before, ensuring that there is no abuse of this system. However the restrictions seem to focus only on whether or not someone can physically walk any distance.

Some residents have what is often referred to as “unseen” illness or affliction so that, while they have the appearance of being able bodied, they in fact have illnesses which demand an ability to park as close as possible to, for example, toilet facilities if they are to have any quality of life. Our on-line application automatically refuses any such application.

Council requires to re-examine its eligibility criteria and ensure that those sufferers who require a Blue Badge can have access to a simple system of application, and have to go through a very unwieldy and sometimes unsuccessful application process with staff who then have to make individual judgements on these applications."

Councillor McCartin, being the mover of the motion intimated that the motion should be amended with the addition of the word ‘not’ being inserted prior to ‘have to go through’ in the last paragraph of the motion.

Councillor McCartin, seconded by Councillor Andy Doig, then moved the motion as amended.

Councillor Nicolson, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved as an amendment that the word 'its eligibility' be replaced with 'the eligibility' in the last paragraph of the motion.

Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor Devine moved as a second amendment that a review be submitted to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Committee.

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors McCartin and Andy Doig, being the mover and seconder of the motion, as amended, agreed to accept all amendments as additions to the motion, and the motion, as amended, was approved unanimously.

DECIDED: Blue Badge qualifications

Council recognises that Blue Badge permits have in recent years become much more restrictive than before, ensuring that there is no abuse of this system. However the restrictions seem to focus only on whether or not someone can physically walk any distance.

Some residents have what is often referred to as "unseen" illness or affliction so that, while they have the appearance of being able bodied, they in fact have illnesses which demand an ability to park as close as possible to, for example, toilet facilities if they are to have any quality of life. Our on-line application automatically refuses any such application.

Council requires to re-examine the eligibility criteria and ensure that those sufferers who require a Blue Badge can have access to a simple system of application, and not have to go through a very unwieldy and sometimes unsuccessful application process with staff who then have to make individual judgements on these applications.

That a review be submitted to the Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Committee.

14 Notice of Motion 5 by Councillors Hood and Devine

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Hood and Devine in the following terms:

"Tree Specialist Officer

Council notes the appointment of an officer who can specialise in trees and looks forward to an imminent policy discussion on tree and woodland management. Council agrees that Scotland, and the UK, need to vastly increase the number of trees across the country. However, in the urban setting tree felling in appropriate places will always be necessary where the trees have an adverse effect on quality-of-life issues, such as access to light or where they are at risk of causing harm to our residents. Council instructs officers to include in any future tree felling policy an authority to take action where the effect on quality-of-life issues warrants it and also to allow the elected members the opportunity to hold officers to account when action is not taken."

Councillor Hood, seconded by Councillor Brown, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Tree Specialist Officer

Council notes the appointment of an officer who can specialise in trees and looks forward to an imminent policy discussion on tree and woodland management. Council agrees that Scotland, and the UK, need to vastly increase the number of trees across the country. However, in the urban setting tree felling in appropriate places will always be necessary where the trees have an adverse effect on quality-of-life issues, such as access to light or where they are at risk of causing harm to our residents. Council instructs officers to include in any future tree felling policy an authority to take action where the effect on quality-of-life issues warrants it and also to allow the elected members the opportunity to hold officers to account when action is not taken.

15 **Notice of Motion 6 by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin in the following terms:

"Public Entertainment Licenses and Community Halls

Council commends the organisers of the Lochwinnoch Arts Festival, the largest community arts festival in Renfrewshire, which over years have brought international acts of the calibre of folk musicians, Karen Mathieson and Dougie McLean, to the village for the benefit of all Renfrewshire residents.

Council further approves of the strong stance of the Scottish Government in promoting arts and culture in the community, and to facilitate and continue this trend calls on Renfrewshire Council to underwrite the cost of public entertainment licences for events in community halls across Renfrewshire."

Councillor Andy Doig, seconded by Councillor McCartin, then moved the motion.

Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved as an amendment "to delete last paragraph" which was subsequently withdrawn in terms of Standing Order 27.

The motion was then agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Public Entertainment Licenses and Community Halls

Council commends the organisers of the Lochwinnoch Arts Festival, the largest community arts festival in Renfrewshire, which over years have brought international acts of the calibre of folk musicians, Karen Mathieson and Dougie McLean, to the village for the benefit of all Renfrewshire residents.

Council further approves of the strong stance of the Scottish Government in promoting arts and culture in the community, and to facilitate and continue this trend calls on Renfrewshire Council to underwrite the cost of public entertainment licences for events in community halls across Renfrewshire.

16 **Notice of Motion 7 by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin**

There was submitted a notice of motion by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin in the following terms:

"Investment in rail and terms and conditions for Rail Workers

Renfrewshire Council believes that public ownership of Scotland's rail network will deliver significant benefits for Scotland's rail workers, passengers and taxpayers and help enable the creation of an affordable, accessible and sustainable rail network that contributes to Scotland's decarbonisation targets, and be able to better deliver crucial investment in aging rail infrastructure.

Council further supports comprehensive discussion and dialogue between the RMT and the Scottish Government to ensure that all ScotRail workers' jobs, pay and conditions, are protected throughout the transitional period and once they transfer to the new operator."

Councillor Andy Doig, seconded by Councillor McCartin, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Investment in rail and terms and conditions for Rail Workers

Renfrewshire Council believes that public ownership of Scotland's rail network will deliver significant benefits for Scotland's rail workers, passengers and taxpayers and help enable the creation of an affordable, accessible and sustainable rail network that contributes to Scotland's decarbonisation targets, and be able to better deliver crucial investment in aging rail infrastructure.

Council further supports comprehensive discussion and dialogue between the RMT and the Scottish Government to ensure that all ScotRail workers' jobs, pay and conditions, are protected throughout the transitional period and once they transfer to the new operator.

17 **Notice of Motion 10 by Councillor Sharkey and Devine**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Sharkey and Devine in the following terms:

"Rail Network – State Ownership

Council welcomes proposals to move the rail network into state ownership from March 2022. Council believes that an effective and efficient transport system relies on democratic control and a responsive administration that allows both employees and passengers to have a meaningful contribution to the planning of services."

Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor Devine, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Rail Network – State Ownership

Council welcomes proposals to move the rail network into state ownership from March 2022. Council believes that an effective and efficient transport system relies on democratic control and a responsive administration that allows both employees and passengers to have a meaningful contribution to the planning of services.

18 **Notice of Motion 8 by Councillors Sharkey and Devine**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Sharkey and Devine in the following terms:

"Universal Credit Payment Cut

Council condemns the cut £20 per week from Universal Credit (UC) payments and demands the Tory Government retain the £20 uplift payments on a permanent basis. Failure to do so will show that this government has, in the memorable phrase of Theresa May, gone "back to being the nasty party".

Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor Devine, then moved the motion.

Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved as an amendment:

"Replace whole text with:

The Conservative Government introduced the temporary £20 per week Universal Credit uplift to help claimants during the covid pandemic. These funds provided a safety net to nearly half a million vulnerable people in Scotland at an unprecedented, uncertain time.

The uplift was then extended for a further six months but with restrictions largely gone and our recovery under way, it is right that these measures are reviewed as the focus shifts to helping people get back into work."

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Begg, Binks, Graham, Kerr, James MacLaren, McIntyre, and Strang.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Bibby, Brown, Burns, J Cameron, Provost Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Davidson, Devine, Devine-Kennedy, Andy Doig, Audrey Doig, Grady, Harte, Hood, Hughes, Mags MacLaren, McCartin, McCulloch, McEwan, McGurk, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Sharkey, Shaw, Sheridan, and Steel.

7 members having voted for the amendment and 31 members having voted for the motion, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: Universal Credit Payment Cut

Council condemns the cut £20 per week from Universal Credit (UC) payments and demands the Tory Government retain the £20 uplift payments on a permanent basis. Failure to do so will show that this government has, in the memorable phrase of Theresa May, gone "back to being the nasty party".

19 **Notice of Motion 9 by Councillors Sharkey and Hood**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Sharkey and Hood in the following terms:

"Police Scotland – Protection of Workers

That the council writes to the Police as follows:

Dear Police Divisional Commander,

As you may be aware the Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Act 2021 came into force on 24 August 2021.

Council is sure that you and your officers share our concern that nobody should face violence, threats and abuse at their place of work.

Retail workers in the Scotland have raised concerns about the way they are treated and the fact that they are regularly subject to abuse, threats of violence and even violence at their place of work. Often this is when they are enforcing the law on age-related goods.

We are writing to you to ask for a briefing on how the local police will be using these new powers and to find out Police Scotland will be working to protect retail workers many of whom worked through the pandemic and ensured that the country was supplied.

We also want to thank you and your officers for all the work you do locally. Keeping the community safe throughout the pandemic has been appreciated by us all.”

Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor Hood, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Police Scotland – Protection of Workers

That the council writes to the Police as follows:

Dear Police Divisional Commander,

As you may be aware the Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Act 2021 came into force on 24 August 2021.

Council is sure that you and your officers share our concern that nobody should face violence, threats and abuse at their place of work.

Retail workers in the Scotland have raised concerns about the way they are treated and the fact that they are regularly subject to abuse, threats of violence and even violence at their place of work. Often this is when they are enforcing the law on age-related goods.

We are writing to you to ask for a briefing on how the local police will be using these new powers and to find out Police Scotland will be working to protect retail workers many of whom worked through the pandemic and ensured that the country was supplied.

We also want to thank you and your officers for all the work you do locally. Keeping the community safe throughout the pandemic has been appreciated by us all.

20 **Notice of Motion 11 by Councillors Brown and Sharkey**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Brown and Sharkey in the following terms:

"Flooding Events Across Renfrewshire

Council notes the recent flooding events across Renfrewshire and restates its decision about the climate emergency, taken on 27 June 2019. Council calls on the next Infrastructure and Environmental Board to detail the work undertaken and the plans drawn up since the council's decision."

Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Sharkey, then moved the motion, which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: Flooding Events Across Renfrewshire

Council notes the recent flooding events across Renfrewshire and restates its decision about the climate emergency, taken on 27 June 2019. Council calls on the next Infrastructure and Environmental Board to detail the work undertaken and the plans drawn up since the Council's decision.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor McNaughtan, having previously declared an interest in the following the meeting, remained in the meeting, moved the motion and took part in the discussion thereon.

Councillor Adam-McGregor, having previously declared an interest in the following item of business, remained in the meeting but took no part in the discussion thereon.

21 **Notice of Motion 12 by Councillors McNaughtan and K MacLaren**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors McNaughtan and K MacLaren in the following terms:

"1820 Radical Rising Martyrs Memorial

Council agrees to request Historic Environment Scotland to review the designation of the category C listed 1820 Radical Martyrs Memorial, Woodside Cemetery, Paisley. With the bicentenary of the 1820 radical rising, much research has been undertaken on this important period of Renfrewshire's history. Several new books have been published on the subject which highlight Renfrewshire's key role in organising the uprising which sought the vote and regular elections against a backdrop of severe poverty and exploitation. Led largely by weavers, Paisley, Johnstone, Kilbarchan and wider Renfrewshire played a central role in organising an armed uprising to fight for those rights. Given the new research on the significance of this period in Renfrewshire's development, the Martyrs Memorial represents historical events of national importance which should be reflected in the listing by Historic Environment Scotland."

Councillor McNaughtan, seconded by Councillor Sharkey, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: 1820 Radical Rising Martyrs Memorial

Council agrees to request Historic Environment Scotland to review the designation of the category C listed 1820 Radical Martyrs Memorial, Woodside Cemetery, Paisley.

With the bicentenary of the 1820 radical rising, much research has been undertaken on this important period of Renfrewshire's history. Several new books have been published on the subject which highlight Renfrewshire's key role in organising the uprising which sought the vote and regular elections against a backdrop of severe poverty and exploitation. Led largely by weavers, Paisley, Johnstone, Kilbarchan and wider Renfrewshire played a central role in organising an armed uprising to fight for those rights. Given the new research on the significance of this period in Renfrewshire's development, the Martyrs Memorial represents historical events of national importance which should be reflected in the listing by Historic Environment Scotland.

22 Notice of Motion 13 by Councillors K MacLaren and M MacLaren

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors K MacLaren and M MacLaren which was withdrawn in terms of Standing Order 27.

DECIDED: That it be noted that the notice of motion had been withdrawn.

23 Notice of Motion 14 by Councillors McCartin and Andy Doig

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors McCartin and Andy Doig in the following terms:

"Dumped cars

Council recognises that it's not presently its direct responsibility to remove abandoned cars from our streets. At present it is the DVLA which has sole responsibility for this, unless the car is in such a state as to be a danger to the public.

However, Council recognises that this allows abandoned cars to be left on our streets for many months while the DVLA "processes" this, and this can lead to the cars being wrecked, set on fire or otherwise so damaged which can bring them into the category of "dangerous" and can then be removed.

Council will write to both the Scottish Government and the DVLA asking that this process be examined and upgraded to give a finite time for a car to be removed, and to identify whose responsibility it will be to remove."

Councillor McCartin, seconded by Councillor Andy Doig, then moved the motion.

Councillor Steel, seconded by Councillor Paterson, moved as an amendment that:

"After end of second paragraph insert:

Council further notes the practice of permanently parked advertising vehicles. At present, enforcement legislation is enacted only when a vehicle is adjudged to be parked illegally or dangerously.

Amend final paragraph to read:

Council will write to both the Scottish Government and the DVLA asking that both these processes be examined and upgraded to give a finite time for a car to be removed, to identify whose responsibility it will be to remove, and to provide enforceable powers for authorities to deal with parked advertising vehicles."

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors McCartin and Andy Doig, being the mover and seconder of the motion agreed to accept the amendment as an addition to the motion, and the motion, as amended, was approved unanimously.

DECIDED: Dumped cars

Council recognises that it's not presently its direct responsibility to remove abandoned cars from our streets. At present it is the DVLA which has sole responsibility for this, unless the car is in such a state as to be a danger to the public.

However, Council recognises that this allows abandoned cars to be left on our streets for many months while the DVLA "processes" this, and this can lead to the cars being wrecked, set on fire or otherwise so damaged which can bring them into the category of "dangerous" and can then be removed. Council further notes the practice of permanently parked advertising vehicles. At present, enforcement legislation is enacted only when a vehicle is adjudged to be parked illegally or dangerously.

Council will write to both the Scottish Government and the DVLA asking that both these processes be examined and upgraded to give a finite time for a car to be removed, to identify whose responsibility it will be to remove, and to provide enforceable powers for authorities to deal with parked advertising vehicles.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors McCartin, Hughes and Begg, having previously declared interests in the following item of business remained in the meeting.

24 Notice of Motion 15 by Councillors Graham and McIntyre

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Graham and McIntyre which Provost Cameron ruled was not competent in terms of Standing Order 19(c).

Declaration of Interest

During consideration of the following item of business, Councillor Campbell declared an interest as she was an employee of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde but not in the Council's area and took part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Sederunt

Councillor M MacLaren left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item of business.

25 Notice of Motion 16 by Councillors K MacLaren and Mylet

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors K MacLaren and Mylet in the following terms:

"Council condemns the recent decision by the Conservative Government in Westminster to increase National Insurance – yet again breaking another manifesto promise. This move will see NI increasing by over 10%, impacting on those on lower wages while protecting the most well-off in society.

Council also notes that the Prime Minister has 'directed' how any income from this increase is to be spent in Scotland, clearly breaching the key principles of devolution. It is not for any Prime Minister or politician in Westminster to determine how the Scottish Government and Parliament decides to spend its block grant. By doing so the Conservative Government has put the future of devolution in doubt.

Council will contact both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that they scrap this increase in the National Insurance, and if it continues to go ahead, remove any conditions attached to this funding so that the Scottish Government and Parliament are free to use the funds as they see fit."

Councillor Mylet, seconded by Councillor Paterson, then moved the motion.

Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved as an amendment that:

"Replace whole text with:

National Insurance (NI) contributions will rise by 1.25% from next April to tackle the NHS backlog and from 2023 fund our social care system via the Health and Social Care Levy

Council recognises the strain that the NHS and our social care system has been placed under fighting the covid 19 pandemic over and above the existing challenges of an ageing population.

With the cancellations and delays to existing treatments and surgeries the Council welcomes the additional funding to clear the backlog.

Council also welcomes the additional £2.2billion that Health services in the devolved nations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland per year."

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Begg, Binks, Graham, Kerr, James MacLaren, McIntyre, and Strang.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Bibby, Brown, Burns, J Cameron, Provost Cameron, Councillors Campbell, Davidson, Devine, Devine-Kennedy, Andy Doig, Audrey Doig, Grady, Harte, Hood, Hughes, McCartin, McCulloch, McEwan, McGurk, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Mylet, Nicolson, Paterson, Rodden, Sharkey, Shaw, Sheridan, and Steel.

7 members having voted for the amendment and 30 members having voted for the motion, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

DECIDED: Council condemns the recent decision by the Conservative Government in Westminster to increase National Insurance – yet again breaking another manifesto promise. This move will see NI increasing by over 10%, impacting on those on lower wages while protecting the most well-off in society.

Council also notes that the Prime Minister has 'directed' how any income from this increase is to be spent in Scotland, clearly breaching the key principles of devolution. It is not for any Prime Minister or politician in Westminster to determine how the Scottish Government and Parliament decides to spend its block grant. By doing so the Conservative Government has put the future of devolution in doubt.

Council will contact both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that they scrap this increase in the National Insurance, and if it continues to go ahead, remove any conditions attached to this funding so that the Scottish Government and Parliament are free to use the funds as they see fit.

26 **Notice of Motion 17 by Councillors Graham and McIntyre**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Graham and McIntyre in the following terms:

"A737 in Renfrewshire

Council agrees to write to the Minister for Transport, Graeme Day MSP, to prepare a feasibility study for upgrading and dualling the remaining single carriageway sections of the A737 in Renfrewshire.

Council also agrees to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Kate Forbes MSP, to allocate funding for the project in the upcoming budget."

Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: A737 in Renfrewshire

Council agrees to write to the Minister for Transport, Graeme Day MSP, to prepare a feasibility study for upgrading and dualling the remaining single carriageway sections of the A737 in Renfrewshire.

Council also agrees to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Kate Forbes MSP, to allocate funding for the project in the upcoming budget.

27 **Notice of Motion 18 by Councillors Devine-Kennedy and Grady**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Devine-Kennedy and Grady in the following terms:

"STUC Women's Committee – Universal Free School Meals for All

Council supports the STUC Women's Committee campaign to expand Universal Free School Meals for all.

Council instructs officers, to bring to the next council meeting a program of diligent planning to ensure everything is in place to deliver a healthy and nutritious free meal to every child whose family wants them to have one. It is important to improve the current capabilities of existing school kitchens and dining settings and identify where these need to be upgraded that they may accommodate the anticipated increase in uptake. The program must also take account of the training and staffing implications of the expansion.

Council is concerned that without such a program the quality both, of the food and the experience, will suffer if the only priority is headlining total numbers. The subsequent malnutrition will only thwart the very real advantages of the STUC campaign."

Councillor Devine-Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Grady, then moved the motion which was agreed unanimously.

DECIDED: STUC Women's Committee – Universal Free School Meals for All

Council supports the STUC Women's Committee campaign to expand Universal Free School Meals for all.

Council instructs officers, to bring to the next council meeting a program of diligent planning to ensure everything is in place to deliver a healthy and nutritious free meal to every child whose family wants them to have one. It is important to improve the current capabilities of existing school kitchens and dining settings and identify where these need to be upgraded that they may accommodate the anticipated increase in uptake. The program must also take account of the training and staffing implications of the expansion.

Council is concerned that without such a program the quality both, of the food and the experience, will suffer if the only priority is headlining total numbers. The subsequent malnutrition will only thwart the very real advantages of the STUC campaign.