

# Motions and Amendments

## City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am Thursday, 28th October, 2021

Virtual Meeting - via Microsoft Teams

### Motions and Amendments

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## All Party Amendment

### City of Edinburgh Council

28 October 2021

### Item 3.1 – Independent Inquiry Report Arising Out of Allegations Concerning the Conduct of the Late Sean Bell – Report by the Chief Executive

Replaces 1.2 with the following:

1.2 Council thanks the survivors for their courage, sincerity and perseverance, in sharing their horrific experiences to allow the Council to take forward recommendations to improve policies and practice to ensure the Council can identify and deal with matters of abuse swiftly and effectively and also progress a scheme to provide redress for survivors, where appropriate and in accordance with the recommendations from the independent inquiry.

1.3 Council additionally thanks the witnesses who contributed to the Inquiry, including current and former Council staff, for their candour in doing so.

1.4 Council further thanks the independent Chair Susanne Tanner QC and the investigation team at Pinsent Masons LLP. Their work has ensured the investigation, conclusions and recommendations were survivor-led and set out a clear way forward as a starting point to strengthen the Council's processes, policies and practice.

1.5 Council accepts with regret the conclusion at 4.2 of the Monitoring Officer report that maladministration and injustice has taken place due to the failure to act on disclosures regarding Sean Bell's conduct.

1.6 Council therefore apologises to the victims in light of their appalling experiences as highlighted by the independent inquiry.

1.7 Council agrees that the Chief Executive report back to Council within one cycle detailing how the recommendations of the Inquiry will be implemented in full.

In doing so the Chief Executive should meet with Group Leaders before the November Council to provide a sounding board for the detailed development of this work.

1.8 In addition, Council agrees:

- a) Without prejudice to any further specific recommendations from the Independent Inquiry on Council's wider culture that a full review of all Council policies relating to staff conduct is undertaken to determine how these could be consolidated and clarified to aid compliance and investigation in future. Notes discussions have already begun to improve effectiveness of staff conduct policies as a holistic suite to improve compliance and understanding of the policies as well as access for staff to use policies to be able to more effectively raise issues and get access to support.
- b) That in delivering the Inquiry Recommendations, the Chief Executive give consideration to expanding the scope of the special investigations unit detailed in paragraph 9.1.1 of the report to include any other serious issues of misconduct including, but not limited to, serious fraud or misappropriation of public funds.
- c) To request the Chief Executive requests details from inquiry team of those that some witnesses described as being part of an "old boy's network". In addition to the recommendations that Human Resources and Internal Audit conduct an assessment of disciplinary issues or complaints handled by any of those actors in order that any issues identified are acted upon and reported appropriately.
- d) To request a briefing by the Chief Executive to Councillors within one cycle on the circumstances of the departure of Alastair Gaw and Andy Jeffries from Council employment as well as information on the ability (or otherwise) of the Council to progress and conclude disciplinary processes after an employee has resigned.
- e) To request a briefing by the Chief Executive within one cycle on the processes followed by the internal and external investigations to establish whether there was any misuse of public funds by Sean Bell and the conclusions reached. In the meantime, the Council notes both the contents of Footnote 1 of the Inquiry Report and Paragraph 4.6 of the Chief Executive's report.

**Moved by: Councillor Adam McVey**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Cammy Day**

# Amendment by the Green Group

## City of Edinburgh Council

28 October 2021

### Item 8.2 – Edinburgh International Conference Centre Hotel and Hotel School – Final Business Case

Delete all recommendations and replace with:

- 1.1.1 Agrees not to proceed with the hotel project as outlined.
- 1.1.2 Recognises that the final business case rests on a scenario with even greater risks and uncertainty than that presented at the time of the outline business case, particularly with a 25 year financial commitment, without break clauses, based on norms about the scale and nature of tourism, and specifically business tourism, which have been highly disrupted since March 2020.
- 1.1.3 Recognises the poor strategic alignment between the council's 2030 Net Zero Carbon commitments and a business model which sees the council taking a lease in the city's largest hotel to underpin business which is based on thousands of people flying tens of thousands of miles to attend events.
- 1.1.4 Notes that hotels account for one tonne in every fifty of global greenhouse gas emissions and therefore expresses disappointment that a hotel which will be ready to operate in late 2024 will achieve an energy rating of only EPC C at a time when new buildings need to be achieving zero carbon standards; and when new hotels are being built in other countries at or near zero energy specification.
- 1.1.5 Welcomes the commitment to enhance the training offer in partnership with Edinburgh College via the hotel school but notes that Council is being asked to approve the lease and associated agreements before the hotel school arrangement has been completed; and therefore encourages the EICC to continue to develop the training and learning opportunity outside of the need for CEC to take a lease of a hotel.
- 1.1.6 In light of the points above, mandates officers to work with EICC to develop alternative ways of funding capital investment in the conference centre and

a learning environment with Edinburgh College, based on a business model which is consistent with the city's net zero carbon commitment.

**Moved by: Councillor Claire Miller**

**Seconded by:**

# Amendment by the Conservative Group

## City of Edinburgh Council

28 October 2021

### Item 11.1 – By Councillor Mary Campbell – Supporting Teach the Future

#### Council agrees the following

“Council notes the positive work being undertaken by ‘Teach the Future’, a campaign group led by young people in schools and higher education, trying to ensure that all students are substantively taught about the climate emergency and ecological crisis.

#### Council amends motion as follows

Council resolves to support Teach the Future but notes

- Education Scotland has a range of resources around climate change available for teachers to access and <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/exploring-climate-change/> and w climate change and renewable energy are embedded within the learning experiences of children and young people within the broad general education of Curriculum for Excellence.
- Climate change is addressed through combining experiences and outcomes across curriculum areas in a variety of contexts as part of the theme of Learning for Sustainability (LfS) Scotland’s “Vision 2030+ Report” provides a strategic plan and 14 recommendations on how to support Learning for Sustainability up to 2030 including:
  - all learners should have an entitlement to Learning for Sustainability;
  - every practitioner, school and education leader should demonstrate Learning for Sustainability in their practice;
  - every school should have a “whole school approach” to Learning for Sustainability that is robust, demonstrable, evaluated and supported by leadership at all levels;
  - school buildings, grounds and policies should support Learning for Sustainability;

- a strategic national approach to supporting Learning for Sustainability should be established
- Learning for Sustainability is embedded throughout the General Teaching Council for Scotland's professional standards for teachers. It is also cited in the policy context for community learning and development.
- With regard to sustainability in the built environment, it has been agreed that improvements to the school estate should meet the highest standards of sustainable and environmental design as set out in Building Better Schools and Principle Six of the School Estate Strategy

**Council therefore agrees (per the motion)**

A report to the Education, Children and Families Committee meeting in March detailing the work Edinburgh Council is doing to embed learning about the climate emergency and the ecological crisis. This should include planned curriculum work, the Climate Literacy training programme, the application of Building Better Schools and Principle Six of the School Estate Strategy, and how children and young people are being empowered to participate in these changes.”

**Moved by: Councillor Callum Laidlaw**

**Seconded by: Councillor Jason Rust**

# Amendment by the Scottish Liberal Democrat Group

**City of Edinburgh Council**

**28 October 2021**

## **Item 11.1 – By Councillor Mary Campbell – Supporting Teach the Future**

To ensure the positive work already being done by pupils and schools is recognised and used to motivate further action, to change the start of the final sentence, replacing “This should include” with the following so that it reads:

“The report should include details of what positive action is already being done in schools and supported by the Council, as well as planned curriculum work...”

**Moved by Councillor Louise Young**

**Seconded by Councillor Neil Ross**

# Amendment by the Coalition

**City of Edinburgh Council**

**28 October 2021**

**Item 11.2 – By Councillor Neil Ross – Amplification of  
Sound in Public Spaces**

Refers the motion to Regulatory Committee for consideration.

**Moved by: Councillor Catherine Fullerton**

**Seconded by: Councillor Cammy Day**

# Amendment by the Coalition

**City of Edinburgh Council**

**28 October 2021**

**Item 11.3 – By Councillor Neil Ross – Raising HMO Standards**

Refers the motion to Regulatory Committee for consideration.

**Moved by: Councillor Catherine Fullerton**

**Seconded by: Councillor Cammy Day**

# Amendment by the Green Group

## City of Edinburgh Council

28 October 2021

### Item 11.3 – By Councillor Neil Ross – Raising HMO standards

Retain opening sentence up to “encouraged” and replace remainder as follows:

“And:

1. Notes that the HMO licensing conditions displayed on the council website date from 2012, reflecting the last issue of statutory guidance from the Scottish Government, and that there has been significant change in legislation since then.
2. Recognises the breach of HMO conditions may give rise to criminal offence so conditions are framed in that light.
3. Recognises that raising standards among landlords and letting agents should have, as its primary purpose, the improvement of conditions for tenants; as well as better information for neighbours on matters such as notification of licence applications; regular communication of landlord and agent details; and mis-use of domestic waste by landlords, agents and contractors.
4. Therefore agrees a report be submitted to Regulatory Committee in two cycles outlining how HMO conditions, standards and guidance might be updated to reflect legislative and good practice change; improvements for tenants; and greater clarity for neighbours.”

**Moved by: Councillor Alex Staniforth**

**Seconded by:**

# Amendment by the Conservative Group

## City of Edinburgh Council

28 October 2021

### Item 11.6 – By Councillor McVey – Universal Credit Cut and Child Poverty

Deletes all and replaces with:

1. Notes that the Conservative UK Government is increasing the national living wage to £9.50 an hour, boosting low-paid full-time workers by an estimated £1,000 a year.
2. Recognises the decision to extend the temporary £20 per week uplift for six months during the height of the pandemic and that UK Government spending during the pandemic delivered an additional £14.5 billion for the Scottish Government.
3. Council also notes the key observation from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission (EPC) that, "There is no pathway to ending poverty in Edinburgh without resolving the city's housing crisis".
4. Further notes the EPC's call for the Scottish Government "as an urgent priority, to ensure the city has the right funding and support to meet its social housing expansion needs."
5. Is therefore concerned that the City Plan 2030 recognises a need for 42,900 affordable homes in the period 2021 - 2032, but sets the affordable housing supply target at 17,350 in the same period.
6. Notes with further concern that the City Plan 2030 housing technical note states, "It is not realistic to set a target which provides in full for the need for affordable housing identified."
7. Therefore, regrets that over the next ten years the authority and the Scottish Government will be unable to meet even half the identified need for

affordable housing and that this represents a failure to address a core cause of poverty in Edinburgh.

8. Council therefore instructs the council leader and the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Convener to work with the Scottish Government and to produce a plan which addresses this shortfall, to be brought forward in a report to be presented to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work in three cycles.

**Moved by: Councillor John McLellan**

**Seconded by: Councillor Jim Campbell**

# Addendum by the Conservative Group

**City of Edinburgh Council**

**28 October 2021**

**Item 11.7 – By Councillor Day – Community Wealth**

Council adds:

“for Edinburgh and non-Edinburgh Communities alike, including any detrimental impacts on either or both.”

**Moved by: Councillor Jim Campbell**

**Seconded by: Councillor Joanna Mowat**

## City of Edinburgh Council

28 October 2021

### Item 11.8 – By Councillor Munn – Responsible and Sustainable Pension Fund Investments

Adds at end of motion;

1. Believes that the current policy of Lothian Pension Fund (LPF) to continue investments in fossil fuel companies is not compatible with the decision of this Council to declare a Climate Emergency and to seek to reduce the City's contribution to climate-changing pollution to net zero by 2030;
2. Recognises the 'fiduciary duty' of the LPF to make returns for its members, however notes that there are financial and reputational risks to the pension fund by continuing with investments in fossil fuels, including the possibility of stranded assets and reduced returns on investments;
3. Further recognises that this Council and the LPF should also have a wider duty of care towards its members and that the impacts of climate change are likely to affect the well-being of these members, including financially as a result of disruption to the economy;
4. Believes that a great number of members of the LPF would not wish to see their investments continuing to contribute to the global Climate Emergency;
5. Notes that across the world hundreds of institutions have already committed to divest from fossil fuels, including this week Dutch pensions provider ABP reported as divesting of €15bn in oil, coal and gas shares, their CEO stating: *'We part with our investments in fossil fuel producers because we see insufficient opportunity for us as a shareholder to push for the necessary, significant acceleration of the energy transition at these companies'* ;
6. Notes the growing market in renewable energy and energy efficiency services and the opportunity for pension funds such as LPF to make secure

and profitable investments in these clean energy companies instead from fossil fuels;

7. Welcomes the recognition in the motion that divestment has a role to play in de-carbonising investments however believes paragraph 7 could be strengthened to read:

*Council requests the council leader writes to the pension fund to seek an assurance that divestment will proceed for investments that are not aligned with a 1.5 degree Paris aligned scenario according to the TPI's 'carbon performance' metric by 2025;*

8. However, notwithstanding this, Council believes that the Lothian Pension Fund should divest from all companies whose business is the extraction and trading in fossil fuels as a matter of urgency and therefore requests that LPF should produce a report by the first quarter of 2023 as to how this will be achieved.

**Moved by Councillor Steve Burgess**

**Seconded by**

# Amendment by the Scottish Liberal Democrat Group

**City of Edinburgh Council**

**28 October 2021**

## **Item 11.8 – By Councillor Munn – Responsible and Sustainable Pension Fund investments**

To agree to make the following amendment to replace the penultimate paragraph with the following:

'Council requests the Council Leader writes to the pension fund to seek assurance on the robustness of the Fund's response to climate change and the need for action and assurance that divestment of the shares of companies that are not TPI level 4 compliant by 2025 is the pension fund's clear intention. Council further requests that the pension fund make a net zero commitment, incorporating detail on how to achieve this into the next iteration of the fund's Statement of Responsible Investment Principles, due June 2022.'

**Moved by Councillor Neil Ross**

**Seconded by Councillor Louise Young**

# Amendment by the Coalition

**City of Edinburgh Council**

**28 October 2021**

## **Item 11.11 – By Councillor Webber – Early Days Prevention of Adverse Childhood Experiences**

Deletes Para 5 and replaces with:

“Acknowledges that there is an early years strategy in place and agrees to review it, ensuring that all parents are supported to give children the best possible start in life.”

**Moved by: Councillor Ian Perry**

**Seconded by: Councillor Alison Dickie**

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