

Motions and Amendments

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00 am Tuesday, 3rd October, 2023

Dean of Guild Court Room - City Chambers

Motions and Amendments

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Addendum by the Green Group

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 3 October 2023

Item 7.1 – Whole House Retrofit

Adds:

1.2 Welcomes the ongoing work of the whole house retrofit programme to improve estates, including the realising of wider nature / biodiversity / sustainability co-benefits as part of this.

1.3 Recognises that some of this work will include changing practices from the norm and that this will be a learning process for workers across all aspects of the housing service, and for tenants who experience changes on the ground.

1.4 Requests a briefing note outlining what training around biodiversity / nature has already been in place for workers in the housing service, and what regular training programme is planned for workers on this going forward to ensure that future works successfully deliver co-benefits for nature / biodiversity.

1.5 Also requests that this briefing note includes information about how tenants are kept informed about estate changes relating to biodiversity / nature, and how they are encouraged to participate in this – for example, through citizen science projects and community growing spaces.

Moved by: Councillor Ben Parker

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Green Group

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 3 October 2023

Item 7.2 – Retrofitting strategy – response to motion by Councillor Watt

Adds:

1.1.4 Recognises that a People Strategy and Strategic Workforce Plan is being developed to support recruitment, retention and development of staff and requests that - once this Plan has been completed - a note on how this interacts with the specific challenges outlined in this report is circulated to members of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee.

Moved by: Councillor Ben Parker

Seconded by:

Addendum by the Green Group

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 3 October 2023 Item 7.3 – Housing Revenue Account Budget Strategy 2024/25

Adds:

1.1.3 Requests that officers immediately and proactively engage with groups in the run up to the budget setting process to seriously explore how the HRA could be supplemented from the general fund for particular investments – for example, retrofitting and wider environmental estate improvements – so that progress on delivering these is not limited by the ability of Council tenants to pay a rent increase, given the context of the climate and nature emergencies, and in line with a climate justice approach.

1.1.4 Requests that officers send written guidance to all groups about 1.1.3.

1.1.5 Finally, requests that officers expand the criteria in Q2 of the consultation to ask about differential rents for older homes which have been retrofitted and are now cheaper to run, rather than exclusively focusing on new builds.

Moved by: Councillor Ben Parker
Seconded by:

Amendment by the SNP Group

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 3 October 2023

Item 7.5 – Door entry systems in minority owned tenements

Deletes 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 and replaces with:

- Agree that antisocial behaviour is a serious issue with detrimental impacts to wellbeing, mental and physical health and safety of residents affected.
- Agree that all council tenants deserve to have a home that is safe and secure, regardless of whether they live in a mixed tenure stair or not.
- Notes there is no information about
 - What blocks and what areas will not have secure door entry systems.
 - Any information about the number and type of homes which the council would gain.
- Agree to continue this decision to allow for a more detailed report including:
 - How many blocks will be affected if the secure entry systems are not installed.
 - How many council tenants will be affected if the secure entry systems are not installed.
 - Where these blocks are
 - Information about incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour in those areas
 - How many blocks remain across the city with no secure door entry but at least one council home.
- The report should also set out:
 - How many homes approximately the funding could secure.

- Assurances on the type and quality of the home, for example will they meet EESSH2 standards.

Moved by: Councillor Euan Hyslop
Seconded by:

Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 3 October 2023

Item 7.5 – Door entry systems in minority owned tenements

Committee

Deletes recommendations and replaces with:

- 1.1 Housing Homelessness and Fair Work committee;
 - 1.1.1 Believes it is not appropriate to compromise on the security and physical safety of existing Council tenants in minority blocks and therefore retains the programme.
 - 1.1.2 Recognises that minority blocks have suffered severe cuts to maintenance in the past.
 - 1.1.3 Regrets the £176.8m Scottish Government cut to Scotland's 'More Homes' capital housing programme including the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) and real terms cut of Transfer Management Development Funding (TMDF) for Edinburgh and Glasgow. Regrets that funding re-instatement was not listed as a priority in the 2023/24 Programme for Government.
 - 1.1.4 Requests the Convenor write to the Minister for Tenants Rights and the Minister for Housing outlining opposition to such compromises to fund statutory obligations, and requests that the AHSP & TMDF cuts in the 23/24 Scottish Budget are reviewed in the 24/25 budget.

Moved by: Councillor Jack Caldwell
Seconded by: Councillor Pauline Flannery

Amendment by the Conservative Group

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 3 October 2023

Item 7.5 – Door entry systems in minority owned tenements

Deletes all and replaces with:

1.1 Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee are asked to:

1.1.1 Note that 832 blocks have had secure door entry systems completed, but there are still 200 blocks in the west of the city that require completion.

1.1.2. Agree that tenants waiting for the secure door entry systems have the same requirement for safety as those who have already had their door entry systems upgraded;

1.1.3 Agrees that there should be fair treatment across the City and;

1.1.4 Agree to continue with the rollout of Door entry systems in the remaining 200 blocks.

Moved by: Councillor Graeme Bruce

Seconded by: Councillor Joanna Mowat

Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

3 October 2023

Item 7.6 – Damp, mould and condensation in Council homes update

Committee

Adds;

1.1.3 Thanks officers for the significant progress outlined and requests that after the 6-month update to the initial improvement plan, that a report, including Appendix 2 (performance), 3 (heatmap) and 5 (complaints) data, recurs annually on the committee work programme.

1.1.4 Notes the ambition to reduce delays by employing more specialist contractors, and that the UK Housing Ombudsman's 2021 report recommendation of less reliance on tenants reporting and chasing up delayed repairs as well as the Edinburgh Poverty Commission's emphasis on proactive support. Therefore, requests the recurring annual report requested above in 1.1.3 also outlines how proactive steps are taken to monitor missed or delayed repairs and complex cases, due to the feeling of helplessness and further health issues this can create for tenants.

1.1.5 Requests the Convenor write to the UK Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, as well as the Scottish Government's Local Government and Housing Directorate, to express committee's support for a national programme for home insulation, which may assist with sustainability of the improvement plan and EESSH(2) targets going forward.

Moved by: Councillor Jack Caldwell

Seconded by: Councillor Pauline Flannery

Addendum by the Green Group

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 3rd October 2023 Item 8.1 – Capital City Partnership: Progress Update

Adds:

1.3 Requests that the updated SLA includes an increased and renewed focus on green skills and the green economy so that the work of CCP complements the Council's climate strategy and helps to answer the workforce needs / skill gaps identified in that strategy.

1.4 Additionally requests that consideration is given for how CCP could include a workstream / programme focused on retraining workers in carbon intensive industries to transition into green jobs, in line with a just transition approach, and as a preventative action against unemployment.

1.5 Requests that these points are captured in the new SLA objectives and that officers engage with groups in the development of these ahead of the report to committee in January 2024.

Moved by: Councillor Ben Parker
Seconded by:

Addendum by the Green Group

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 3 October 2023 Item 8.3 – Housing Service Improvement Plan – Six-monthly Update

Adds:

1.2 Notes the work ongoing relating to voids and repairs and requests information about how circular economy principles are embedded in this work, either through future, routine updates / reporting in the HSIP (and the performance dashboard) or initially via a separate briefing / discussion

Moved by: **Councillor Ben Parker**
Seconded by:

Amendment by the Liberal Democrat Group

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee 3 October 2023

Item 9.2 – By Councillor Parker – Temporary accommodation for asylum seekers and 'hotel maximisation' policy change

Committee

Deletes

The section of Paragraph 1 after “accommodation” and inserts full stop.

Inserts in place

‘Two hotels in Edinburgh are hosting asylum seekers as part of the UK Government’s refugee strategy.’

Inserts

‘5 b) ‘Reaffirms that Edinburgh is a welcoming city for refugees, and is willing to work with the UK government, Scottish government, and other partner agencies to promote and develop support based on liberty, dignity and safety for individuals fleeing war and persecution, and notes the recent positive examples of Ukrainian and Syrian refugees making Edinburgh their home through these support mechanisms.’

Inserts

‘7 b) Requests the Convenor takes appropriate steps to liaise with both the two hotels and relevant Council departments and seek assurance on how safeguarding and health standards are being met in asylum accommodation in light of the June 2023 UK Government policy update. Requests any assurances are reported via a business bulletin update no later than 3 cycles.

Moved by: Councillor Jack Caldwell
Seconded by: Councillor Pauline Flannery

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