

# Motions and Amendments

## Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00 am Friday, 17th January, 2025

Dean of Guild Court Room - City Chambers

### Motions and Amendments

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#### Nick Smith

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## Amendment by the SNP Group

### Policy and Sustainability Committee

17 January 2025

### Item 4.1 – A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh – Final Scheme

Amends 1.1.2

Agrees to adopt the final Visitor Levy for Edinburgh scheme, as set out in Appendices with the following changes:

To agree to set the levy rate at 7%, payable for a maximum of seven consecutive nights.

To agree to spend £20m per annum on mitigation of tourism on housing. To retain £5M to be used as annual capital debt repayment and a further £15M to be allocated as grant funding with further details and approvals to be discussed at Housing, Homelessness, and Fair Work Committee.

To agree to set participatory budgeting at £125,000 per electorate ward. To not agree to spend £300,000 on citywide, top-down implementation. Instead, to agree to allocate an additional £375,000 to wards with higher levels of SIMD 1-4 to encourage local engagement and delivery in areas that need additional community planning capacity.

Adds:

1.1.6 Agrees to defer following items in Appendix 6 items as individual reports to each relevant executive committee for discussion / approval.

2. Mitigation of Tourism on Housing
5. City Operations and Infrastructure
6. Culture, Heritage and Events
7. Destination and Visitor Management

**Moved by:** Councillor Simita Kumar

**Seconded by:** Councillor Kate Campbell

# Addendum by the Liberal Democrat Group

## Policy and Sustainability Committee

17 January 2025

### Item 4.1 – A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh – Final Scheme

Committee adds

1.1.6 notes that, should Council approve the scheme, each investment theme will be presented to the relevant executive committee for approval, and agrees to reaffirm previously agreed principles, namely that spending should:

- a) prioritise additionality in terms of investment in services and improvement projects, and,
- b) wherever possible and in a way that is consistent with the statutory requirements, be used to benefit communities across Edinburgh and not just the core city centre.

**Moved by:** Cllr Kevin Lang  
**Seconded by:** Cllr Sanne Dijkstra-Downie

# Amendment by the Green Group

## Policy and Sustainability Committee

17 January 2025

### Item 4.1 – A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh – Final Scheme

#### Replaces 1.1.2 with:

1.1.2 Agrees to adopt the final Visitor Levy for Edinburgh scheme, as set out in Appendix 1; with the following changes:

- i. Replaces the 5% levy with a recommended 8% levy in line with other European cities to raise an additional c.£70m of income in the first 3 years of the scheme.
- ii. Increases the housing allocation to £7.7m to be committed to capital borrowing repayments, meaning £128m of investment which could unlock a further £97m of borrowing, equating a total of £225m of funding to be spent on housing, whilst remaining within Section 95 officer guidance.
- iii. Sets the fixed amount to be allocated to Participatory Budgeting at £400,000 per electoral ward + £600,000 running cost over the first three-year cycle. This would total £7.4m over three years, which equates to c.4% of the total income raised over this period of time at an 8% Visitor Levy rate.
- iv. Makes any additional adjustments to figures in line with the 8% figure as required.

#### Adds after 1.1.4:

1.1.5 Agrees that the development of projects under the TVL themes for investment should also demonstrate their adherence to existing Council strategies and targets to support climate mitigation, adaptation and nature recovery, and that this will be a further criteria for any proposed spending.

1.1.6 Agrees that the Visitor Levy Forum should contain an equal number of representatives from community and business organisation and that at least 40% of the representatives must be women.

1.1.7 Agrees that all members of the Visitor Levy Forum receive an induction including information on the Council Business Plan as well as training on existing Council strategies around tackling the climate and nature emergencies, and reducing inequality.

1.1.8 Notes that an initial decision on how housing funds will be spent will come to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work committee in May 2025 and requests that this report focuses on proposals for social rents, not mid-market rents.

And renumbers the previous 1.1.5 accordingly

**Moved by: Councillor Alex Staniforth**  
**Seconded by:**

# Amendment by the Conservative Group

## Policy and Sustainability Committee

17 January 2025

### Item 4.1 – A Visitor Levy for Edinburgh – Final Scheme

Adds at end of 1.1.1:

but is concerned that the views of the Tourism industry as voiced by the STA, FSB, ASSC and SDMA about the timing of the introduction of the scheme have not been highlighted or addressed particularly as voiced in the STA submission which states:

“The STA would strongly advise the City of Edinburgh Council to introduce its visitor levy scheme during the off-peak visitor period rather than at the end of July ... we remain concerned that introducing the levy scheme at this time would be disastrous for Edinburgh accommodation businesses navigating collecting the levy for the first time, putting unnecessary additional pressure on them and negatively impacting on the overall visitor experience.”

Amends 1.1.2 to read

1.1.2 Therefore agrees NOT to adopt the final Visitor Levy for Edinburgh scheme at this stage and to further consult the industry on the practical implications of the implementation of any Scheme within one month. Prior to that specific and time limited consultation further amends the proposed scheme, as set out in Appendix 1, with the following changes:

- At 3. The levy rate, should say “The levy rate will be 4%, payable for a maximum of five consecutive nights and will apply at the same level, year-round, across the entire City of Edinburgh Council boundary area.”
- At 7. Use of net proceeds, the line “Housing and tourism mitigation (£5m p.a.)” should be deleted. And

- At 7. Participatory budgeting (£2m over 3 years). The following wording is added “with appropriate audit checks in place to ensure that these funds are spent on facilitating the achievement of the scheme’s objectives.”

Deletes recommendations 1.1.3 to 1.1.5 pending the consultation process described above.

**Moved by: Councillor Iain Whyte**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Joanna Mowat**