







### **S95 officer assessment of financial implications:**

It is anticipated that development of a Customer Service Improvement Plan and new customer charter would be done by using existing Council staffing resource. Whilst this would not require the commitment of additional financial resources there may be an opportunity cost associated with this as staff have to place other tasks in abeyance to deliver the actions required by this motion.

Once developed, an assessment can be made of whether the implementation of those items will require additional resource.

- (v) “It is Council policy to achieve more efficient business practices, and to work towards reaching net zero carbon pollution across its operations by 2025.

“Previous Council practice of providing printed paper copies of all committee papers and associated documents to all members was halted a few years ago. Up until then some half a million sheets of paper were printed out for members each year at a significant cost to council tax payers.

“To reduce consumption in this current climate emergency, save staff time, and save money, this Council therefore reaffirms the policy that officers will not print out papers for members where the material is available online.

“Recognising that some members will be less computer literate than others, this Council agrees that ICT runs a workshop, or series of workshops, on navigating, annotating and working with PDFs, the sharepoint facility and other Council software and Council smartphones to help members transition from paper’.

Signed: Chris Ballance      Bill Lobban

### **S95 officer assessment of financial implications:**

It is anticipated that the proposed workshops would be run by using existing Council staffing resource. Whilst this would not require the commitment of additional financial resources there may be an opportunity cost associated with this as staff have to place other tasks in abeyance to deliver the actions required by this motion.

It is not possible to quantify what level of printing of Council papers is still taking place however any reduction in print volumes that arises as a result of the proposed workshops will deliver a saving.

- (vi) “Council recently gave the President of Ukraine the Freedom of the City of Inverness as a mark of solidarity with the struggle of the Ukrainian people.

This Council now wishes to offer further, more practical, support for Ukrainian people in Inverness.

This Council therefore instructs E & I committee to investigate a study into the feasibility and cost of offering a free one year bus pass to all refugees and asylum seekers who have arrived in Highland Region since March 2022, and to report on this to the next full Council meeting for a decision then on whether to implement the scheme.

Signed: Ryan MacKintosh      Chris Balance

**S95 officer assessment of financial implications:**

It is anticipated that the proposed study would be done by using existing Council staffing resource. Whilst this would not require the commitment of additional financial resources there may be an opportunity cost associated with this as staff have to place other tasks in abeyance to deliver the actions required by this motion.

That study and subsequent report to council should include an assessment of the cost of delivering the proposed policy.

- (vii) “This Council restates its acceptance of a climate and ecological emergency, as agreed in May 2019. The success of the Archimedes screw on the River Ness has demonstrated the potential to produce renewable energy using Council-owned assets and funding streams such as Salix.

In July National Grid announced a £7bn upgrade in transmission systems in the north of Scotland to deal with the expected growth in renewable electricity. (National Grid ESO ‘Pathway to 2030’ July 2022). It is vital that the Council maximises its involvement in the growth of renewables to ensure that the benefits of increased renewable generation support the council tax-payer, rather than the shareholders of multinational developers. It is time for the Council to develop an ambitious, bold and courageous strategy, to match Tom Johnston’s visionary Power from the Glens project of the 1940’s, by using Council land and resources to maximise income to the Council.

In recognition of the need to move to Net Zero as quickly as possible, Council agrees that, working with the ongoing outsourced review into income possibilities from renewables, senior service leaders formulate a strategy, Power to the People, to maximise the use of Council-owned buildings, car-parks and land for the production of renewable energy, by solar, wind, water, and ground and water-source heating, a strategy which identifies all potential appropriate locations for power production, and outlines potential funding opportunities, for presentation to the Climate Change Committee for consideration at its first meeting in 2023”.

Signed: Chris Ballance     Kate Willis

**S95 officer assessment of financial implications:**

It is unclear whether the Council has sufficient internal resource to develop the proposed strategy, Power to the People. If it does not additional resource will be required. There may be an opportunity cost associated with any time spent by existing staff on the development of this strategy as they may have to place other tasks in abeyance to develop the strategy.

As part of the strategy development it is essential that it includes an assessment of the resources required to implement it as well as the benefits it would deliver.