

## **Feminist Led Town Planning**

### **Notice of Motion**

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 20 on 8 August 2023, proposed by Councillor Mary Donnelly, seconded by Councillor Elise Frame, as follows:-

“In order to create public spaces that are safe and inclusive for women, and are accessible to all members of the community, it is fundamental that women’s views are central to all aspects of planning, public realm design, policy development and budgets.

A gender neutral approach to Local Development, does not work. Women and people of marginalised genders, have diverse needs, not currently reflected in practice, and that an intersectional, inclusive and climate friendly approach, is needed.

The key features of healthy towns and villages are aligned with gender-equal cities, including walkability, proximity to spaces, mixed-use environments, and public realm and open green spaces. These factors aren’t only important for women, but are key considerations for creating healthy, liveable places for all, with positive impacts in terms of physical and mental wellbeing and with good air quality.

Public places that are better attuned to women’s security and practical needs would open up opportunities for women and could lead to an increased participation in political meetings and ultimately women’s elected representation. It would present job opportunities, and enhance the autonomy of disabled women, women in the black and minority ethnic communities (BME), unpaid carers and lone parents.

Data gathering, community consultations, policy development and planning processes need to engage and ask questions about the everyday embodied experience of women, so that public spaces and services are truly accessible. Council believes that intersectionality and actively addressing socio-economic inequalities must be at the heart of this approach. Council can learn from evidence of international initiatives, such as, ‘Gendered Lens’, currently used in Vienna’s planning frameworks and Barcelona’s policy on urban planning with a gender perspective to design spaces and services around women’s needs.

Therefore, we call on the Council to prepare reports that will consider how appropriate Committee(s) will consider how council policy and practice, where appropriate, needs to be adapted to :-

- Ensure equality impact assessments take account of gender equality as well as the other protected characteristics for strategy and decision-making by incorporating women’s lived experiences into public planning, social and economic policy.
- Take account of a feminist planning approach as well as the other protected characteristics within planning policy and SLC’s local development plan.

- Gather intersectional gender-disaggregated data, where possible while respecting the individual's right to privacy, in all council consultations, to ensure specific gender differences in behaviours and needs are fully understood, ensuring that there is a standardised, consistent approach across all consultations undertaken by council departments, committees, working groups, partnerships and ALEOs.
- Ensure recommendations from the Scottish Government's review into the Public Sector Equality Duty, when completed, are incorporated at the earliest opportunity.
- Continue to ensure that a high level of gender competence / awareness training is included in equality and diversity training provided by South Lanarkshire Council, for Heads of Service and key members of staff across all council services.
- Continue to have regard to all protected characteristics including gender in council budgets, to ensure all are taken account of at all stages of the budget process.
- As per the recommendations in NPF4 (policies 14 and 15), implement the adoption of a Liveable Neighbourhoods scheme, which explores the concept of a 20 minute neighbourhood, allowing people to meet most of their daily needs within a 20 minute return walk from home."