

## **Enabling 'Warmbanks' Across South Lanarkshire**

### **Notice of Motion**

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 20 on 12 September 2022, proposed by Councillor Julia Marrs, seconded by Councillor Maureen Chalmers, as follows:-

"That South Lanarkshire Council approaches winter 2022 with apprehension for tenants and householders knowing energy costs for average homes have increased significantly over the last few months.

Notes concern that such a large increase in fuel costs for households will result in further fuel poverty and people will be unable to pay their fuel bills. That those most vulnerable, our elderly, those on benefits and on low incomes will face an even greater challenge than the previous abhorrent choice of whether to heat or eat, that people horrifically will be reduced to potentially not being able to afford to do either.

Notes the recent steps taken by UK Government to limit energy bills but with concern over a lack of detail and that many will still struggle to pay their bills.

Recognises that the actions by the Scottish Government and Councils can only mitigate the problem to some extent.

Notes the decisions taken by the SNP administration earlier this year to invest £425,000 in community led activities and community halls, continuing a community-led, partnership approach with our communities, and welcomes the carefully targeted use of the Scottish Government's Financial Wellbeing Support Fund to provide holistic support for people experiencing a material and detrimental impact on their financial position.

However, the cost-of-living crisis requires us to increase the pace, investment and intensity of support.

I therefore call upon this Council, with cognisance to the support I have outlined; noting other existing or potential individual support or grants available, to work alongside our community and voluntary organisations to make plans for 'warmbanks' across South Lanarkshire. This includes making available our public buildings including libraries, halls, and community centres through the winter, offering safe places for people to go, to heat up, get a hot drink or meal, and access advice and support."