

Perth & Kinross Support for Ukraine

Request under Standing Order 8.4 (c) to hold a special meeting of Perth & Kinross Council to discuss the situation in Ukraine and a proposed response from Perth & Kinross Council.

Given the decision by the Russian Federation to launch an unprovoked attack on its neighbour Ukraine, our government and governments around the world have rightly denounced these actions and called for severe economic and political sanctions against Russia and for military and humanitarian aid to the government and people of Ukraine. In addition, there has been moves to suspend Russia from sporting and cultural competitions around the world.

Perth City has been twinned with the Russian city of Pskov since 1991. Twinning offers an opportunity to build positive civic relations between two local governments in different countries with an aspiration of creating cultural links between their respective communities.

It is important to demonstrate to the Ukrainian citizens living in Perth & Kinross that we do not support the invasion of their homeland or Russia's attack on a free and democratic European nation. For sanctions to be effective they must isolate the aggressor economically and culturally to have the maximum impact and cause the Russian Government to change course. It would therefore be inappropriate to maintain civic ties with Russia whilst they are occupying a sovereign country and threatening European security.

The Council appreciates that many Russian citizens including many living in Perth & Kinross do not support the invasion and some brave Russians have risked their personal safety to protest the Russian Government's actions. We stand in solidarity with them. However, to support them in applying pressure to the Russian government we must apply all the economic and cultural sanctions available to encourage a change of direction.

Perth & Kinross Council has limited opportunities to support the Ukrainian people, but we are determined to do all within our power to assist them and as such the Council agrees the following:

- Council to suspend the twinning of Perth City with Pskov Russia until such time as Russia ends its unwarranted attack and withdraws from the Ukraine. The Provost is instructed to write to the Pskov administration and express the Councils position.
- No formal invites to be issued to the Russian Ambassador or Consul General until such time as Russia ends its unwarranted attack and withdraws from the Ukraine. Instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Ambassador and Consul General to inform them of the Councils decision and express our condemnation of the Russian Federations illegal actions.
- To "adopt" a Ukrainian city to direct our local support efforts towards with a long-term aspiration to twin with them after the conflict is over.

- Express that Perth & Kinross will welcome Ukrainian refugees and will work with the Scottish & UK Governments to make arrangements to support their arrival.
- Following an end of hostilities to seek to deepen relations and cultural links with all our twin towns and cities, promoting the values of free speech, democracy, peace and cooperation.
- To fly the Ukrainian flag from the Council Chambers as a visible demonstration of our solidarity.

Supported by:

1. Councillor Xander McDade, Independent, Highland Ward (Proposer)
2. Councillor Grant Laing, SNP, Strathay Ward (Seconder)
3. Councillor Peter Barrett, Lib Dem, Perth City Centre Ward
4. Councillor Fiona Sarwar, SNP, Strathmore Ward
5. Councillor Liz Barrett, Lib Dem, Perth City South Ward
6. Councillor Andrew Parrott, SNP, Perth City Centre Ward
7. Councillor John Rebbeck, SNP, Perth City North Ward
8. Councillor Willie Robertson, Lib Dem, Kinross-shire Ward
9. Councillor Stewart Donaldson, SNP, Strathearn Ward
10. Councillor Ian Massie, SNP, Perth City North Ward
11. Councillor Richard Watters, SNP, Kinross-shire Ward
12. Councillor Eric Drysdale, SNP, Perth City Centre Ward
13. Councillor Michael Williamson, SNP, Highland Ward
14. Councillor Rhona Brock, Independent, Strathearn Ward
15. Councillor Alasdair Bailey, Scottish Labour, Carse of Gowrie Ward
16. Councillor Tom McEwan, SNP, Blairgowrie & Glens
17. Councillor Beth Pover, SNP, Carse of Gowrie Ward
18. Councillor Tom Gray, SNP, Strathallan Ward
19. Councillor Sheila McCole, SNP, Perth City South Ward