

Mini Motions

Housing Session

Mini Motion Title – Tiny Villages

Submitted by Paul McGarry

Recognising the success of tiny house communities, including in Scotland, we propose the following actions:

Investigate changing the rules to make it easier to build tiny house communities in Scotland.

Look into providing financial help or rewards to make it cheaper and easier for people to live in tiny houses. Tiny houses are small, eco-friendly homes that can help solve the problem of expensive housing in Scotland.

We want to follow the good ideas we've seen in places like Portland, Oregon, by encouraging the development of tiny house communities in Scotland. Tiny house communities have several benefits. They are often more affordable than traditional homes and can be built with sustainable materials that are better for the environment. Additionally, tiny house communities can help foster a sense of community and promote social interaction among residents.

Scotland already has some tiny house communities, such as the NestHouse™ and NestPod™ by Tiny House Scotland. By implementing these proposed actions, we hope to make tiny house communities more accessible and widespread throughout Scotland. This will help more people have homes that are good for the environment and affordable.

Other countries have successfully implemented tiny house communities. For example, in the United States, Portland, Oregon has been successful in creating tiny house communities that provide affordable housing for low-income residents. By following their example, we can create similar opportunities for people in Scotland.

Mini Motion Title – Affordable Homes for Key Workers

Submitted by Michael Turvey

Conference notes

The viability of rural public services (schools, hospitals, surgeries, care facilities) often come under threat due to a chronic lack of staffing.

Conference believes

A common root cause for the lack of staffing is the lack of affordable homes available on the market in rural areas.

Conference calls for

1. The provision of low cost homes reserved for key workers in rural areas where staff shortages are most acute.

2. That lack of staff may not be considered a good reason to permanently close a facility unless such housing has been offered to staff or prospective staff within 20 min drive of their workplace for a period of at least 12 months.

Mini Motion Title - Housing Factories to Solve the Housing Crisis

Submitted by Fraser Graham

Policy Proposal

The creation of government backed housing factories, used for large scale production of new houses using advanced off-site modular manufacturing techniques, allowing for rapid deployment of high-quality new housing at a reduced overall cost.

Policy Benefits

Efficiency: Off-site manufacturing would allow for automation, reduction of design costs, lower wastage and improved construction safety.

Quality: Off-site manufacturing is recognised as allowing for greater quality control¹, and can create better thermal detailing to reduce heat loss and improve insulation performance

New Jobs: The housing factories could be sited in areas where unemployment is high, creating skilled roles and upskilling opportunities.

Speed of Deployment: The amount of time needed on site to erect new housing would be greatly reduced, speeding the deployment and therefore availability of new housing.

Environmental Benefits: Off-site construction uses less energy than traditional construction and can reduce emissions by as much as 30%²

1. <https://theconstructor.org/building/on-site-off-site-construction-pros-cons/38334/>

2. https://www.academia.edu/5741544/A_Comparative_Carbon_Footprint_Analysis_of_On-Site_Construction_and_an_Off-Site_Manufactured_House

Young People, Children and Families Session

Mini Motion Title – Free Childcare from Birth to Nursery

Submitted by Noah McGarry

I propose free childcare for all kids from birth to nursery age. This lets parents get back to jobs without huge childcare bills. No parent should have to pick between a job and high childcare costs. This helps families avoid money troubles and supports everyone in working.

Mini Motion Title - Bringing swimming back into the School Curriculum

Submitted by Cllr Aude Boubaker-Calder

Policy Suggestion

We recommend the Scottish Government take steps to return swimming into the primary school curriculum

Policy Benefits

Lifesaving skill - If everyone has a basic level of swimming ability this will save lives.

Physical wellbeing - Swimming can help with physical fitness and tackling obesity for people of all ages.

Mental wellbeing - Swimming is well known to help with issues such as stress and would be a positive outlet for children and young people who face many challenges.

Equality of opportunity - Many children from disadvantaged backgrounds have less opportunity to take up swimming and this will allow them the opportunity to learn this skill.

By bringing swimming back into the school curriculum, we would make sure everyone would have the opportunity to take on this lifesaving skill with significant health benefits.

Mini Motion Title - Child Bereavement

Submitted by Christine Jardine MP

We recommend the creation of a new protocol for supporting bereaved children.

Policy benefits

· Automatic recognition of an estimated 4,700 children in Scotland who lose a parent every year, with countless others who lose a friend, sibling or grandparent.

- Better guidance for schools to provide targeted advice for bereaved children, and better training for teachers.
- Easier access to charities such as Winston's Wish who provide specialist grief counselling, social support and practical advice for grieving children.
- Clarity for these organisations, who don't have clear data on the number of bereaved children, making it impossible to plan services properly.
- No regional disparity with national guidance for councils, schools, NHS boards and other public bodies on connecting children with the right services.
- Implementing this protocol would ensure every child gets access to the appropriate support for them at a sensitive time in their lives.