

	communities. This includes older and younger adults. To ensure any impact is positive, it would be important for any campaign to be in plain English to ensure widest possible understanding and that it is available in other languages.
Poverty	Potential positive <i>Summary of assessment if required:</i> The proposal has the potential to have a positive impact on tenants, with many Council estates being found in low income/deprived communities.
Human Rights	No impact
Children's Rights	No impact
Data Rights	No impact
Rural/Island	No impact
Climate Change	Potential positive impact <i>Summary of assessment if required:</i> The proposal has the potential to increase the correct disposal of lithium batteries which would have a positive environmental impact.

2. The first duty of the government is the Defence of the Realm, keeping its subjects safe and secure.

The reliance on the United States of America to underwrite European continental security has reached an untenable juncture, where the people of Ukraine's fate will be arbitrated by those in the Oval Office and the Kremlin. America cannot be relied upon to be a pragmatic and predictable ally and fellow North Atlantic nations must step up to provide security on our own doorstep.

In the post-Cold War period, successive UK Governments have failed to invest in our country's strategic defence capabilities, hollowing out the armed forces and significantly reducing our comparative standing against belligerent adversaries. The British Isles are not immune to attack or territorial incursion. Chemical nerve agents were used in the Salisbury Poisonings, cyber warfare from foreign actors has been carried out against public and private institutions across the UK and incursions into 'area of interest' airspace and waters by bombers, warships and submarines have occurred as recently as March this year.

This Council therefore welcomes the Prime Minister's commitment to increase defence spending and encourages a robust discussion across the political spectrum about the reality of our defence capability.

The Highlands has a long and proud tradition of hosting our armed forces and the local authority is home to establishments for both the Army at Fort George and Cameron Barracks and the Royal Navy's NRTE Vulcan facility in near Dounreay. Underpinning the defensive capability of these bases at home and abroad is the aerospace/defence industry and its associated supply chain.

Highland defence and aerospace contractors provide highly skilled employment and play a crucial role in supporting a national mission that keeps our fellow countrymen and women safe. In light of ongoing global insecurity and the pressing requirement to invest in defence, this Council believes it is appropriate to ask the Government to reassess its capability in Highland and invest against future threats.

This year, NRTE Vulcan in West Caithness celebrates its 60th anniversary as the UK's test bed for prototypical propulsion and submarine systems. An integral part of the Royal Navy's Submarine Delivery Programme, its principal contractor Rolls Royce is a prominent employer and investor in the local community.

This Council recognises the vital work at Vulcan in supporting the Navy's submarine programme and asks that the Government consider the unique skillset and capability hosted on the site. As future decisions, both financial and strategic, are made across the United Kingdom, this Council affirms that the existence of an authorised site with a motivated, loyal and skilled workforce is in the interests of national security to maintain.

NRTE Vulcan should therefore be considered for future missions as part of the Government's ongoing Strategic Defence Review and asks the Leader to make representations to the Secretary of State to that effect.

Signed: Mr S Mackie Mr A Jarvie Mrs A MacLean Mr M Baird
 Mr M Reiss Dr M Gregson Mr A Graham Mr R Gale
 Mrs T Robertson

Section 95 Officer assessment of financial implications:

This motion is **not** anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Area for Assessment	Assessment Summary
Equality	No impact
Poverty	No impact
Human Rights	No impact
Children's Rights	No impact
Data Rights	No impact
Rural/Island	No impact
Climate Change	No impact

AMENDMENT

Signed: Mr C Ballance Mr R Mackintosh

Delete all after “on our own doorstep” (end of first para) and replace with:

This Council therefore believes that it is time to stop leasing nuclear warheads from an unpredictable and possibly unstable nation, and that it is time to ban nuclear weapons from Scotland.

Furthermore this Council urges the immediate reversal of cuts to foreign aid in order to restore it to 0.7% of GDP. Foreign aid is highly important for ensuring the stability of countries across the globe, increasing our safety and reducing the flow of refugees.

This Council also condemns the UK Prime Minister’s decision to make life harder for disabled and sick people by raiding their support, in order to pay for to pay for extra defence spending.

Council therefore agrees to ask the Leader to make representations to the Secretary of State to that effect.

Section 95 Officer assessment of financial implications:

This amendment is **not** anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Amendment Summary

Amendment:

The first duty of the government is the Defence of the Realm, keeping its subjects safe and secure.

The reliance on the United States of America to underwrite European continental security has reached an untenable juncture, where the people of Ukraine’s fate will be arbitrated by those in the Oval Office and the Kremlin. America cannot be relied upon to be a pragmatic and predictable ally and fellow North Atlantic nations must step up to provide security on our own doorstep.

This Council therefore believes that it is time to stop leasing nuclear warheads from an unpredictable and possibly unstable nation, and that it is time to ban nuclear weapons from Scotland.

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This Council also condemns the UK Prime Minister’s decision to make life harder for disabled and sick people by raiding their support, in order to pay for to pay for extra defence spending.

Council therefore agrees to ask the Leader to make representations to the Secretary of State to that effect.

Area for Assessment	Assessment Summary
Equality	No impact
Poverty	No impact
Human Rights	No impact
Children's Rights	No impact
Data Rights	No impact
Rural/Island	No impact
Climate Change	No impact

Amendment summary:

The amendment proposes representations are made to the Secretary of State. There is therefore no anticipated direct impact.

3. EQUAL RIGHTS OF APPEAL IN PLANNING

Planning Democracy, along with RSPB Scotland, Environmental Rights Centre Scotland, and Friends of the Earth Scotland, lodged a case in September 2022 with the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (ACCC), a United Nations body tasked with upholding environmental rights, regarding the lack of community appeal rights in planning for members of the public in Scotland.

This follows a ruling by the ACCC that Northern Ireland is in breach of international law for its lack of community appeal rights.

Council notes that the case centres on the fact that members of the public in Scotland, who are not applicants for planning permission, and who seek to challenge a planning decision, do not have the same statutory appeal rights as applicants; that applicants for planning permission in Scotland enjoy statutory appeal rights which enable them to have the full merits of planning decisions reviewed at no or low financial cost,

The Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee have launched a review into the workings of NPF4. Council therefore agrees to write to the Chair of that Committee, copying in the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, to support Planning Democracy's call for the government to initiate a review of equal rights of appeal.

Signed: Mr C Ballance Mr R MacKintosh

Section 95 Officer assessment of financial implications:

This motion is **not** anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council.

Although if the appeal rights arrangements were to change, there could be a significant staff resource impact within planning team which would need considered in future budget plans.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Area for Assessment	Assessment Summary
Equality	No impact
Poverty	No impact
Human Rights	No impact
Children’s Rights	No impact
Data Rights	No impact
Rural/Island	No impact
Climate Change	No impact

Assessment Summary:

The motion proposes that a letter is written to support the position of Planning Democracy to initiate a review, therefore there is no potential impact positive or negative as a result of the motion.

AMENDMENT

Signed: Mr R Stewart

To move the direct negative.

Section 95 Officer assessment of financial implications:

This amendment is **not** anticipated to have a financial implication to the Council.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

Amendment Summary

Amendment:

The direct negative.

Area for Assessment	Assessment Summary
Equality	No impact
Poverty	No impact
Human Rights	No impact

Children's Rights	No impact
Data Rights	No impact
Rural/Island	No impact
Climate Change	No impact

Assessment Summary:

The amendment proposes that no action is taken, there is therefore no impact.