

# Midlothian Council

## Labour Group

Midlothian Council  
Tuesday 21 November 2023  
Item No 7.1

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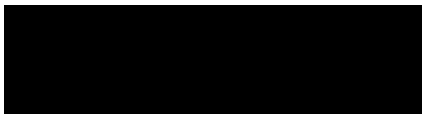
### **Notice of Motion**

Council notes the calls from organisations, including Age Scotland and Independent Age, for a new Commissioner to champion the rights of older people in Scotland. This is to ensure that the long term needs of people in later life are considered in policy and practice across Government. Also, that negative stereotypes are challenged, and the contribution older people make to society is promoted, acknowledges projections that Scotland's population is continuing to age and that by 2040, 1 in 4 people will be aged over 65. Highlights that new statistics from the Scottish Government published in March 2023 reveal that in 2019-22, 15% of pensioners in Scotland were living in relative poverty after housing costs, compared with 14% in the previous period.

Council believes that the COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on older people; notes the view that this demonstrates more than ever the need to give older people a strong, independent voice to reflect their views and experiences and protect and promote their human rights.

Further notes that all four nations of the UK now have Commissioners for children; understands that Wales and Northern Ireland already have Commissioners who are improving the lives of older people, and that the campaign for a Commissioner for England is reportedly growing all the time.

Moved:



Councillor Margot Russell

Seconded:



Councillor Russell Imrie