

## **Notice of Motion**

### **Library Penalties**

Committee recognises that most library services in Scotland have now removed library penalties for overdue items.

Committee understands that the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) recommends, in its Public Library Strategy 2021- 2025, that library services ‘remove financial penalties for all borrowers’<sup>1</sup>

Committee recognises that financial penalties affect lower-income patrons disproportionately and are a barrier to universal access. Council also acknowledges that library fines are not cost effective as they discourage patrons from returning materials.<sup>23</sup>

Committee understands that the loss of revenue can be offset by the reduced number of unreturned library items and the elimination of administration costs of the penalties.

Committee acknowledges that the removal of library fines can help tackle the poverty agenda, increase library usage, and reduce conflict within the library environment.

Committee instructs officers to bring forward a report on the removal of library penalties for all patrons at the earliest opportunity.

Proposer: Councillor Fernandes

Seconder: Councillor Warren

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<sup>1</sup> [https://scottishlibraries.org/media/3462/slic-public-library-strategydigital\\_final.pdf](https://scottishlibraries.org/media/3462/slic-public-library-strategydigital_final.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://ischool.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Overdue-Fines-Advantages-Disadvantages-and-How-Eliminating-Them-Can-Benefit-Public-Libraries.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/ontario-libraries-overdue-fine-free-benefits-1.6562304>