Item 6

26th September 2024

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Anderston/City/Yorkhill Area Partnership

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

Contact: john.foster@glasgow.gov.uk **Telephone: 0141 287 6540**

Busking Update

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update on related activities.

Recommendations:

That the Anderston/City/Yorkhill Area Partnership:
(i) Considers the contents of this report
(ii) Notes that a further review will be undertaken in late 2024

1. Introduction

1.1 Despite the many benefits it can bring, busking can also be regarded as intrusive or a nuisance by neighbouring residents and businesses, especially where amplified equipment is used. On such occasions, local authorities are restricted in how they can respond.

1.2 Street performing is not a licensable activity. Instead, Glasgow City Council has a voluntary Code of Conduct for buskers and street performers.

1.3 A report on busking was issued to the Council's Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration (EHTR) City Policy Committee on 4th June 2024. Without seeking to duplicate the content of that document, a summary of actions undertaken to date, as well as an outline of anticipated next steps is provided below.

2. Previous & Current Actions

2.1 Following steps taken by City of Edinburgh Council, GCC carried out a similar public consultation exercise about perceptions of busking in July/September 2023. Feedback was significant and results are available as part of the previously referenced Committee report.

2.2 New on-street signage was produced and has been installed in Buchanan Street since June 2024 to highlight good busking behaviour. Additional sites at Partick Station have also included.

2.3 This activity coincided with the development and launch of a new council webpage which provides an easy online portal for customer enquiries and complaints about busking.

2.4 At the same time, Code of Conduct cards were created for distribution by the council's Community Enforcement Officers (CEOs) to raise awareness amongst the busking community.

2.5 Related external organisations, such as the Musicians Union, and Equity, have also been approached to engage with members towards encouraging good behaviour, and to help inform the project's strategic approach.

2.6 Similarly, messaging through local and national media has been carried out as part of broader communications.

2.7 Enhanced reporting mechanisms between the council and Police Scotland enable persistent breaches of the Code to be reported for further action. Targeted Days of Action have also been agreed with Police Scotland, during which uniformed officers will provide a supporting presence and assist CEO engagement.

2.8 A Short Life Working Group (SLWG) has been established with membership from the council and Police Scotland. This group is responsible for managing the current busking project and will provide an update report to Committee later this year.

3. Next Steps

3.1 The SLWG is monitoring project performance against a range of key performance indicators. As outlined above, a follow up report with be issued to Committee by the end of 2024. The effectiveness of actions taken to date will be assessed at that time and options will be offered for consideration.

3.2 Additional signage sites have been explored, but are challenging for different reasons. For instance, Argyle Street precinct has a lack of lighting columns, whilst Sauchiehall Street precinct is currently undergoing works. The latter will be revisited going forward.

3.3 Liaison with City of Edinburgh Council colleagues continues as part of wider project scoping, and to help inform any further actions.