Glasgow City Centre Business Improvement District Let's Go Glasgow (Ward 10) etc approved – Authority to Chief Executive and Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability.

5 Councillor Millar, City Convener for Climate, Glasgow Green Deal, Transport and City Centre Recovery, presented a report regarding the development of the Glasgow City Centre Business Improvement District (BID) Let's Go Glasgow (Ward 10), advising that

(1) a BID was a precisely defined geographical area of a city or town where businesses and organisations in that area had voted to invest collectively in additional services to those provided by the local authority and BIDs would enable the business community to invest in their priorities, as well as working collaboratively with statutory authorities to take forward projects which would benefit the local economy;

(2) BIDs were developed, managed and paid for by the business and organisations by means of a compulsory BID levy where all eligible parties had to pay and each business/organisation liable to contribute to the BID would be able to vote on whether the BID goes ahead;

(3) of the proposed Let's Go Glasgow BID, as detailed in the report and the BID activity focused on the Magnetic Experience which aimed to create more compelling reasons to visit, shop and enjoy a city centre which should have the power to surprise and inspire visitors;

(4) that the Executive Director of Regeneration and Sustainability be authorised to accept the BID proposal and that the Chief Executive be authorised to cast a yes vote in the ballot on behalf of the Council and that once the BID proposal had been approved, it would become legally binding on the BID company which would be established if the ballot was successful;

(5) the interest of both large and small businesses would be protected through a voting system, as detailed in the report, and a ballot would run from 16th October to 27th November 2025 and if the Let's Go Glasgow BID was successful, a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee with no share capital would be created which would begin operations on 1st April 2026 and a senior officer in Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability would be appointed to sit on the Board; and

(6) in line with other Councils in Scotland and the UK, the Council would collect the levy on behalf of the Let's Go Glasgow BID and a charge of 1.8% had been included in the BID's Business Plan for the cost of providing this service and if successful the levy would generate a maximum of £14.5m over its 5-year term.

After consideration, the committee

(a) agreed support for the Let's Go Glasgow BID;

(b) authorised the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability to

   (i) accept the BID proposal and for the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council’s family properties to cast a yes vote in the ballot; and

   (ii) conclude the final financial arrangements and to nominate an officer to sit on the BID Board following a successful ballot; and

(c) noted that

   (i) the Council would provide transitional finance on the basis that this would be repaid from the levy; and

   (ii) an update would be provided to committee following the ballot.