

Glasgow Begging Strategy Annual Report 2024/25 noted.

3 With reference to the minutes of 29th February 2024 (Print 7, page 72) noting the Glasgow Begging Strategy Steering Group annual progress, there was submitted a report by Councillor Allan Casey, Chair of the Glasgow Begging Strategy Steering Group, regarding the Glasgow Begging Strategy and Action Plan 2020-25 annual update report, advising

- (1) of the context and challenges associated with street begging that continued to be affected by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and other related economic and resourcing concerns, as detailed in the report;
- (2) that at a meeting of the City Administration Committee on 30th November 2023 (Print 6, page 25) a housing emergency had been declared due to unprecedented pressures faced by the Council in relation to homelessness and was recognised within the context of the Glasgow Begging Strategy (GBS) and officers and project partners continued to support efforts to mitigate against the worst impacts of related issues;
- (3) of alternative giving schemes that offered the public options beyond direct donations whose funds were spent on interventions to assist individuals who were begging and to help support routes to positive destinations and that GBS had selected Street Change Glasgow (SCG), an initiative developed and managed by Simon Community Scotland (SCS);
- (4) of the Environmental Strategy that reflected the emerging ethos of the City Centre Strategy and the Public Perceptions key project to integrate the various narratives arising from the wider work of the GBS into a clear public awareness campaign;
- (5) of the challenges that had impacted project delivery during the lifetime of GBS; and
- (6) of the GBS Action Plan delivery to date, future activity proposals, key project updates and next steps, as detailed in the report and associated appendices.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) thanked K Turner, Simon Community Scotland, for the update regarding the work of Street Change Glasgow; and
- (b) noted
 - (i) the progress made with the Glasgow Begging Strategy to date;
 - (ii) the pilot project closure and proposed model; and
 - (iii) an invitation by Simon Community Scotland to the committee to visit “The Thistle”, the UK’s first Safer Drug Consumption Facility.

