WELLBEING, EQUALITIES, COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND ENGAGEMENT CITY POLICY COMMITTEE'S MINUTES.

Hybrid meeting, 2nd March 2023.

Wellbeing, Equalities, Communities, Culture and Engagement City Policy Committee.

Present: Anne McTaggart (Chair), Eva Bolander (substitute for Stephen Dornan), Holly Bruce, Anthony Carroll, John Carson, Annette Christie, Audrey Dempsey, Sharon Greer (substitute for Fiona Higgins), Angus Millar, Margaret Morgan, Cecilia O'Lone and Roza Salih and Ms Martina Johnston-Gray and Ms Irene Loudon.

Also present: Allan Casey.

Apologies: Stephen Dornan and Kevin Lalley.

Attending: M Hughes (Clerk); B Monaghan, Director of Community Empowerment and Equalities; C Edgar, Head of Communications and Strategic Partnerships; M Millar, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; M Fitzpatrick and G Stewart (for the Director of Legal and Administration); and J Laiolo and J Foster (for the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability).

Glasgow Begging Strategy Annual Report 2022-23 noted.

1 With reference to the minutes of the City Administration Committee of 25th March 2021 (Print 1, page 36) approving the Glasgow Begging Strategy (GBS) and Action Plan and agreeing that the progress of the GBS be reported annually, there was submitted and noted an annual progress report by Councillor Allan Casey, Chair of the Glasgow Begging Strategy Steering Group, regarding the GBS for 2022-23, advising

(1) of the context and challenges associated with street begging, which continued to be affected as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis, as detailed in the report;

(2) that the Council, in liaison with its project partners, continued to assess the potential impact of the issues as described above;

(3) that the GBS project delivery had been impacted by these issues as the Council had to prioritise and focus resources on the economic recovery of the city through such strategic workstreams as the City Centre Task Force, the Glasgow Economic Recovery Group and the City Centre Recovery Plan;

(4) of the Action Plan for the GBS, including the delivery to date and future activity proposals, as detailed in the report; and

(5) of various concluding comments in relation to the delivery of key projects and highlighting that despite the significant challenges faced over the year, progress with the GBS remained positive.