Black Lives Matter/Slavery Legacy Working Group – Position noted etc.

7 With reference to the minutes of the General Purposes City Policy Committee of 25th May 2021 (Print 2 page 102) approving the proposals for the establishment of a Black Lives Matter/Slavery Legacy Cross Party Working Group, including the meeting arrangements and Terms of Reference, there was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Community Empowerment Services providing an update on the work of the working group, advising

(1) of the background to the establishment of the working group, as detailed in the report;

(2) that prior to the Covid pandemic, the Council had commissioned Dr Stephen Mullen of the University of Glasgow to carry out an audit of Glasgow's Slavery Connections, however this had been delayed due to lack of access to the various library archives during the lockdown, with the report being finally published in March 2022 and providing an important account of Glasgow's involvement in the slave trade and how that shaped the city;

(3) that the working group had agreed that it would be good to hear from the learning of other British cities with similar involvement in the transatlantic slave trade, particularly as they were further ahead in terms of reviewing their legacy, and of work that had been carried out in this respect in Liverpool and Bristol;

(4) that the working group had agreed to carry out a set of initial community conversations, primarily targeted at the BME community, and was also afforded the opportunity to get a set of questions into the biannual Glasgow Household Survey, with the key findings of both being detailed in the report;

(5) of other engagement and key initiatives being undertaken in the city, that had involved the Museums and Galleries Scotland and the Hunterian Museum at the University of Glasgow;

(6) of the resources committed so far by the Council towards the project; and

(7) of a few key points that had emerged, together with the proposed next stages, including seeking resources for a temporary community engagement and education post that could work between the museums and the Council, creating educational resources within museums and community settings, by engaging more widely with communities and other partners over a 2-year period, using digital and face to face methods.

After consideration, the committee noted

(a) the report, including the progress made so far by the Black Lives Matters/Slavery Legacy Cross Party Working Group and plans for the next stages of the project; and

(b) that the working group would report back regarding funding for the post of community engagement and education officer, as detailed in the report.