Homelessness, Rough Sleepers and Ukrainian Refugees Update noted.

7 There was heard and noted an update by Jim McBride and Gary Quinn, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnerhship (HSCP) with regards to homelessness, rough sleepers and Ukrainian refugees advising that

(a) the issues relating to homelessness and rough sleeping presented a major challenge to the city;

(b) many of the cases being dealt with relate to individuals with complex support needs, including many with a long standing dependency of drugs and alcohol misuse;

(c) although 85% of homelessness referrals were accommodated in an emergency furnished flat, a number of homeless individuals continued to live in hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, with the hotels being based in the city centre;

(d) the priority was to move people out of hotel accommodation as soon as possible, with single women and families given priority;

(e) a new complex needs service had been introduced in March 2022 with a team of 60 staff, who worked in partnership with Police Scotland, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability and the Third Sector;

(f) the homelessness hub on Argyle Street was managed by the Simon Community, which provided a walk in hub offering access to advice, access to services and support to those affected by homelessness;

(g) intelligence had found that there were 4 long term rough sleepers in Glasgow City Centre, with an average of short term rough sleepers being between 20 to 25 people a night, and homelessness services, HSCP and Police Scotland working to try and provide accommodation to anyone found rough sleeping; and

(h) Ukrainians would be allowed stay in Scotland for 3 years with an entitlement to all benefits, and advised that 600 Ukrainians had been placed in temporary accommodation in addition to 1059 Ukrainians who had been placed in accommodation on HMS Ambition, and that support had been provide to those on the ship.