School meal debt principles – Update noted.

4 There was submitted and noted a report by the Executive Director of Education Services regarding the application of good practice principles for school meal debt management and how these principles had been applied within Glasgow schools, advising

(1) that the good practice principles for school meal debt management had been developed by COSLA, with partners from across Local Government, and the purpose of the principles was to promote good practice in the management of school meal debt, whilst retaining a level of flexibility to enable local authorities to design and implement approaches which aligned with the unique needs and circumstances of their communities, and that decisions around school meal debt management, including all aspects of policy and practice, remained at the discretion of each local authority;

(2) of research that had been conducted into the prevalence of school meal debt in Scotland and the key findings from the results of this research, as detailed in the report;

(3) of Glasgow's own principles in the management of debt for school meals, as detailed in the report;

(4) that at no point would a child be refused a meal if they had no credit on their parent pay account; and

(5) that there had been a renewed focus on ensuring that schools had in place a process for debt management following a decision by the Council on 30th March 2023 (Print 3, page 8) to write off levels of debt held centrally.