Welcome Places Initiative noted.

4 There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Chief Executive, Glasgow Life, providing an overview of the Welcome Places initiative in operation in the city, advising

(1) that Welcome Places was a partnership project hosted by the Council, Glasgow Life, Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector and Third Sector organisations that had been launched on 17th October 2022 and that the Welcome Places Initiative established free “warm hubs” throughout the city which could be accessed by citizens that struggled with fuel costs or faced with a choice between fuel or food, for respite and support during the colder winter months;

(2) that Welcome Places in Glasgow were free, established community spaces accessible to any member of the public without any conditions of entry and a total of 23 Welcome Places venues had been confirmed across the city, 18 of which were libraries or community centres managed by Glasgow Life and the remaining 5 venues were managed by Third and Voluntary Sector partners;

(3) of the Welcome Places funding arrangements until the end of March 2023;

(4) of an independent evaluation undertaken by the University of Glasgow on the Welcome Places model to understand the impact achieved for citizens and to articulate lessons for the future and the associated findings;

(5) that due to the value of the Welcome Places initiative, Glasgow Life had committed to expand the involvement of its libraries in the programme, in recognition of their role as key community spaces, and that from 1st October 2023 all 32 community libraries along with the Mitchell Library would operate as a Welcome Place; and

(6) in further detail on the Welcome Places 2023/24 initiative, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the committee

(a) noted

(i) the detail of the Welcome Places initiative along with the impact secured to date;

(ii) the proposals for libraries to act as Welcome Places going forward; and

(b) encouraged further discussion with Third Sector organisations regarding potential input to Welcome Places.