

## **Evaluating Later or Expanded Premises Hours for Alcohol in the Night-time Economy (ELEPHANT) Research Study – Update noted etc.**

**3** In terms of Standing Order No 6 and with reference to the minutes of 29th November 2022 noting an update on progress in relation to the Evaluating Later or Expanded Premises Hours for Alcohol in the Night-time Economy (ELEPHANT) Research Study, there was submitted a report by Professor Niamh Fitzgerald, ELEPHANT Research Team, providing an update regarding the study, advising

- (1) that the aim of the study was to understand and evaluate the introduction, operation and impact of later trading hours for late-night licensed venues in Glasgow and Aberdeen and to consider the implications for licensing policy and practice;
- (2) of the recent opening hour changes in both Aberdeen and Glasgow, in particular, advising of the City of Glasgow Licensing Board's Policy on Licensed Hours which allowed applicants seeking Premises Licences where the premises primarily operated as a nightclub to generally be permitted to open until 4am within the city centre, subject to certain criteria;
- (3) of the study progress and emerging findings, as detailed in the report; and
- (4) that further papers would report on the impact of the of the City of Glasgow Licensing Board's pilot scheme in relation to the granting of a terminal hour of 1am to on-sales premises in the city centre and on the following:-
  - (a) Economic impacts of the later trading hours;
  - (b) Long-term impact of the later hours on the National Health Service and health inequalities;
  - (c) Changes in the location of harms;
  - (d) Media coverage of the local policy changes; and
  - (e) Modelled impact for other cities.

After consideration and having heard further from Professor Niamh Fitzgerald in response to a number of members' questions, the Forum noted

- (i) the contents of the report;
- (ii) comments by members regarding a change in culture in relation to persons attending licensed premises in the city centre where such persons were frequenting licensed premises earlier in the day and were less likely to attend such premises in the later hours;
- (iii) that with regard to any change in the timeframe for the consumption of alcohol, the research would investigate whether any such change had resulted in an increase in alcohol harm and how this could be reduced;

- (iv) the outcome of recent visits by members of the Licensing Board to appropriate licensed premises in relation to the review of its pilot scheme granting a terminal hour of 1am to on-sales premises in the city centre;
- (v) that at its meeting on 9th May 2025, the Licensing Board had determined to extend the 1am terminal hour for on-sales premises in the city centre under the following terms:-
  - (A) All premises which were initially granted a terminal licensed hour of 1am as part of the pilot would continue with existing conditions, subject to minor amendment; and
  - (B) Applications for major variations in respect of city centre on-sales premises who applied for a terminal hour of 1am would be considered on their own individual merits.