

## **Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 - Update on licensing standards issues noted etc.**

**7** There was submitted a report by the Council's Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability providing an update on licensing standards issues in respect of the period from July to December 2024, advising

- (1) that Licensing Standards, as statutory nominees, had provided comment on various applications, as detailed in the report, which included applications for
  - (a) new and provisional premises licences;
  - (b) major variation;
  - (c) occasional licences; and
  - (d) extended hours;
- (2) that the focus for the period primarily related to work associated with applications for new premises licences and major variation, the delivery of major events, the Licensing Board's Pilot Scheme in relation to the granting of a terminal hour of 1 am to on sales premises within the city centre, minimum unit pricing and the festive period;
- (3) that the number of applications processed for occasional licences and extended hours remained consistent due to the variety of small to medium scale events that had taken place and the continuation of the 6-month outdoor licensed area process;
- (4) that Licensing Standards had dealt with 112 complaints and 228 enquiries, as detailed in the report; and
- (5) of interest group activity undertaken by officers during the period, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Forum noted

- (i) the contents of the report;
- (ii) that there had been an increase in the number of applications for extended hours in comparison with occasional licences during the period; and
- (iii) that in terms of paragraph 8.9 of the Licensing Board's Licensing Policy Statement in relation to the restriction on the number of extended hours applications, the Board generally considered that it would not be appropriate to grant licensed premises extended hours on more than 10 days in each calendar year, or on a pro-rata basis, in respect of new licensed premises.