Review of City of Glasgow Licensing Board's work during 2024 – Presentation noted etc.

4 The Forum and Board heard a presentation by Mairi Millar, Depute Clerk to the City of Glasgow Licensing Board, regarding a review of the work of the Licensing Board during 2024, advising of

(1) various statistical information in relation to the processing of applications by the Board during 2024, in particular, highlighting that

(a) 55 new licence applications had been granted, including 4 new premises licences (2 off sales and 2 on & off sales) and 51 new provisional licences (7 on sales, 25 off sales and 19 on & off sales); and

(b) 134 applications for approval of major variations had been granted (17 on sales, 19 off sales and 98 on & off sales);

(2) various statistical information in relation to the number of current licences in force in the city, in particular, highlighting that there were currently 1,927 premises licences (592 on sales, 595 off sales and 740 on & off sales) and 4,390 personal licences;

(3) an analysis of the number of premises licences in force by type from 2020 to 2024; and

(4) a summary of the work undertaken by the Board regarding the pilot scheme in relation to the granting of a terminal hour of 1 am to on sales premises within the city centre and of the proposed review of the scheme, where the Board would review the impact of the scheme throughout the initial 12 month period and determine whether to continue it or to maintain the existing policy terminal hour of 12 midnight.

After consideration, the Forum and Board noted

(i) the presentation;

(ii) various comments that the review of the pilot scheme should also consider

(A) the reduction in footfall in the city centre at night time;

(B) the economic impact of the scheme on the night time economy;

(C) concerns regarding public transport provision from the city centre at night time;

(D) the need for the criteria considered by the Board when determining applications for major variation from city centre premises for the pilot scheme to be the same as the criteria considered for applicants seeking premises licences to operate as a nightclub to 4am; and

(E) the content of a report by Professor J J Lennon, Glasgow Caledonian University, entitled “The Value of the Night Economy in Glasgow 2024”, which had been commissioned by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce;

(iii) that Donald MacLeod would liaise with appropriate trade organisations and provide information to the Board on current trends in relation to the closure of licensed premises in the city centre;

(iv) various positive comments by members on the work undertaken by officers of the Licensing Board during the year; and

(v) that the Clerk to the Forum would arrange for the presentation slides to be emailed to all members after the meeting.