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

8 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 2022, advising

(1) that Licensing Standards 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) of the nature of some of the applications submitted, which related to

  (a) requests for inclusion of additional facilities, such as outdoor drinking areas;

  (b) off sales consumption, including delivery services;

  (c) the regularisation of previously granted temporary permissions; and

  (d) occasional licences and extended hours applications, which had shown a marked increase as a result of the variety and number of small to medium scale events taking place and the introduction of the 6 month outdoor licensed area process;

(3) that Licensing Standards had dealt with 121 complaints, which mainly related to outdoor drinking, noise and anti-social behaviour and had been dealt with working in conjunction with partner agencies and services;

(4) that Licensing Standards had also dealt with 230 enquiries, which mainly related to applications or to legislative processes/procedures; and

(5) of interest and stakeholder group activity undertaken by officers, which included guidance, monitoring and enforcement in relation to the high number of events/concerts taking place in the city and engagement work with licence holders on a range of best practice issues.

After consideration, the Forum noted

(i) the contents of the report; and

(ii) the following comments and responses by members:-

(A) there was a general discussion regarding licensing complaints and it was highlighted that although there had been a small decrease from the last 6 month period, there had been a greater number of technical complaints from the public that required more detailed investigation by officers, such as premises where no designated manager had been in attendance and issues in relation to compliance with legislative procedures;

(B) with regard to the above, members discussed the number of noise complaints in relation to licensed premises and it was highlighted that although there had been a significant number of such complaints following the end of lockdown, the number of such complaints had now returned to a more normal level;

(C) attention was drawn to the increasing number of noise complaints from residents within the city centre in relation to commercial premises generally; and

(D) there was a general discussion regarding the increase in the number of applications for occasional licences/extended hours and it was suggested that in the current economic climate many organisations/businesses were looking to maximise their revenue.