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

3 With reference to the minutes of

(1) the Local Licensing Forum of 17th December 2019 when the Forum had agreed to provide support to the Evaluating Later or Expanded Premises Hours for Alcohol in the Night-time Economy (ELEPHANT) Research Study; and

(2) 8th December 2020 when the Board and Forum had noted a presentation by Professor Niamh Fitzgerald, ELEPHANT Study Research Team, regarding the said study,

there was submitted a report by Professor Niamh Fitzgerald, ELEPHANT Research Team, providing an update regarding the study, advising

(a) that the 3 year study was now in its 26th month, with all aspects progressing well;

(b) that the first local public engagement involvement groups with venue-goers and residents from Glasgow had been held in January 2022 and from Aberdeen in June 2022;

(c) that the said groups had inputted into the development and finalisation of materials for focus groups that would soon be conducted with members of the public within the relevant work package; and

(d) of progress in relation to each of the 5 work packages, as detailed in the report.

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

(i) the contents of the report; and

(ii) the following comments and responses:-

(A) members discussed the policy approach taken in Glasgow and Aberdeen in relation to changes in late night opening hours and a number of positive comments were made by members in relation to the approach taken in Glasgow, in particular, referring to the content of the criteria considered by the Licensing Board in determining major variation applications from city centre nightclubs for the 4am pilot scheme;

(B) in response to clarification being sought as to when the study findings would be available, it was highlighted that although the study was for a 3 year period, it was hoped that some initial findings would be available

to assist with the development of the Licensing Board's Policy Statement;

(C) members also discussed concerns regarding the safety of hospitality workers returning home from working in late night opening premises in the city centre and the need for better public transport generally, including the greater availability of taxis and private hire cars; and

(D) with the regard to the criteria considered by the Licensing Board in determining major variation applications for the 4am pilot scheme, it was highlighted that although the Licensing Board could not attach a condition of licence requiring premises to arrange for late night staff transport, this was included in the said criteria.