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

5 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 January to June 2023, 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 applications for new premises licences and major variation, together with the significant resource demands linked to the delivery of major events in the city, were the focus of the period;

(3) of the increasing number of applications for occasional licences 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 111 complaints and 210 enquiries, as detailed in the report;

(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, including the dissemination of event details to residents; and

(6) that engagement work with licence holders on a range of best practice issues continued, including the resolution of neighbourhood disputes and the resurrection of various Pub Watch and Off Sale Watch Groups that were currently not meeting.

After consideration, the Forum noted

(i) the contents of the report; and

(ii) various concerns expressed by members in relation to the increasing number of applications for occasional licences and that the Clerk to the Licensing Board would update members at the appropriate time on work being undertaken by the Scottish Government in relation to bringing forward regulations which would put in place "occasional licence limits" in terms of the number of occasional licences, or the number of days on which occasional

licences had effect, in relation to the same applicant or premises in any 12 month period.