Managing the evening economy towards a safer city centre – Update noted etc.

10 There was submitted a report by the Council's Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability providing an update on recent developments of Best Bar None Glasgow initiatives facilitated and supported by the Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability City Centre Team in respect of the period from January to June 2022, advising

(1) of the initiatives concerned, namely:-

(a) Best Bar None Glasgow Developments;

(b) City Nite Zones;

(c) Voluntary Sector Partners, including Glasgow Street Pastors' Association and Glasgow Street Aid; and

(d) Digital Radio Network;

(2) that work undertaken by Best Bar None Glasgow had now fully recommenced after the previous COVID-19 situation and that all work had been supported by Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability staff and enhanced through a multi-agency approach; and

(3) that all activities provided additional value and assistance to the City Centre Policing Plan, which provided an overall approach to crime and safety in the city centre.

After consideration, the Forum noted

(i) the contents of the report; and

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

(A) reference was made to alleged 'drink spiking' incidents within licensed premises and the importance that friends of any individual who had taken ill be as truthful as possible with stewards as to what they had consumed to ensure appropriate help could be sought;

(B) with regard to the above, it was suggested that some form of media message needed to be sent out, in particular, as a number of students would be arriving in the city over the next month to commence their studies;

(C) it was pointed out with regard to the above, that any such media message needed to be balanced and that if any individual did feel their drink had been 'spiked' them they should be encouraged to seek help;

(D) Lise Fisher would be undertaking some work in the run up to Freshers Week, including a media campaign, and would include an appropriate message taking into account the comments at (A), (B) and (C) above;

(E) Lise Fisher would arrange for further information on applications received for Best Bar None Glasgow to be issued to members through the Clerk, including a breakdown of the types of premises and their location; and

(F) with regard to the Challenge 25 policy, Lise Fisher would also seek advice on concerns that had been expressed regarding the checking of identification of persons who were transitioning from gender to gender and contact Brian Fulton directly.