

#### **4 PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY RELATING TO OPENING HOURS OF ON-SALE PREMISES LICENCES (AN-66-2013)**

Members will be aware that there were discussions at a recent meeting of an internal Council group set up to look at the various policies of the Licensing Board and the Licensing Committee and to suggest if there were any possible changes which may be needed to those policies in the light of recent decisions of the Board and Committee on individual applications affected by the current policies. The Conveners of the Board (Councillor Bowes) and Committee (Councillor Hunter) were part of the Group, together with the Convener of City Development (Councillor Dawson), Councillors Melville and Ferguson, officers from Corporate Services, City Development and also Police Scotland.

The prevailing view was to suggest to the Board that it formalises its recent practice of granting licensed premises with substantial entertainment extensions to their operating hours until 2.30 am on Fridays and Saturdays, that to recognise the distinction between these premises and dedicated nightclub premises, the latter be allowed to open until 4 am on these same two nights of the week. Another suggestion is to allow licensed premises without such entertainment to open until 1 am, Friday/Saturdays.

If the Board wishes to pursue this suggestion, then it will be necessary to remit to the Clerk to carry out the necessary statutory consultation under Section 6 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. It was suggested at the group that, in addition to the various statutory consultees (Licensing Forum, Health Board, etc) part of any such process should include a meeting with trade representatives. In the event the Board is minded to initiate such a consultation, it is anticipated that this would be reported back to the August 2013 meeting. The Board's instructions are requested.