**DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**CONSULTATION ON OPENING HOURS FOR LATE HOURS CATERING LICENCES**

At a meeting on 18th October 2005, the Licensing Committee introduced a policy on opening hours for premises holding Late Hours Catering Licences. These licences are required for the sale of meals or refreshment between the hours of 11.00 p.m. and 5.00 a.m. the following day for consumption by members of the public. This covers not just traditional takeaway food shops, but also all-night supermarkets, grocers, etc. who operate during these hours. The policy is that the maximum closing time which will generally be permitted for such premises is 2.30 a.m. This only applies to premises within the City Centre (i.e., the area bounded by the Inner Ring Road). This followed an approach to the Committee by Tayside Police (now Police Scotland) which convinced the members of a link between longer opening hours and the potential for public disorder from patrons exiting liquor licensed premises which closed at 2.30 a.m. If late hours catering premises were still open, there was evidence that patrons lingered in the city centre longer than they might otherwise have done and this caused dispersal problems for the Police.

The policy was first applied in March 2006. There are around half a dozen premises which enjoyed longer hours prior to the introduction of the policy and these premises have been permitted to keep trading to those hours following appeals to the Sheriff which were settled by agreement. However, this arrangement would not apply to anyone taking over the premises concerned since this would mean a new licence would be required.

Following recent attempts by some premises to persuade the Committee to change the policy, and also a number of later liquor licences being granted by the Licensing Board for premises opening until 2.30 a.m., the Committee has decided that this is an appropriate time to review the policy. Accordingly, the Committee has instructed its officers to carry out a consultation with interested parties and to report back to the Committee in September 2013. In particular, the Committee wishes to receive views on the following:-

(1) should the policy continue to apply?

(2) if so, is 2.30 a.m. still an appropriate closing time for late hours caterers?

(3) should the area within which the policy applies (currently the city centre only) be changed?

(The Committee would, of course, welcome comments on any other aspects of this issue apart from the matters set out above)

The consultation will run until **Friday 30th August 2013** and you can respond either by writing to the Principal General Services Officer, 21 City Square, Dundee DD1 3BY or by e-mail to licensing.board@dundeecity.gov.uk.