**67 Whitfield Street – External Seating**

The following note has been prepared in response to the consultation responses to the proposals to use the external area adjacent to 67 Whitfield Street as an external seating area in association with the current restaurant tenant.

The proposals would give the existing operator at No 67 Whitfield Street, Officina 00, who are an independent operator, a small area of additional space from which to trade. This would help with the viability of the business given the current uncertainty from rising costs and a cost of living crisis.

Officina 00 have been a positive addition to the local area. There have been no issues raised in respect of the operation of the restaurant to date.

The key issue identified in the consultation responses relate to the potential for noise and disturbance from the proposals.

In order to give reassurance on this issue further information is outlined below on the proposed use and management of this space.

The initial application suggested that this area could accommodate 8-10 tables, with a maximum of 20 covers. However, on further review it is clear that the space could accommodate a maximum of 16 people. The enclosed seating drawing shows how this would be arranged as tables of 2 (a maximum of 8 tables).

It is proposed that tables would be limited to a maximum of 6 covers. This would ensure that the whole space could not be used by a single group of 16 – which would have the potential to the most noisy configuration.

The hours of use for this space would be limited to 11am to 10pm Mon to Sat and 11am to 5pm on Sunday.

Smoking would not be permitted within this area. The use of the space for smoking would in any event not be permitted under the regulations given the coverage to this area.

The use of this space would only be proposed for table service. The space would not be used for ‘standing up’ drinking.

No amplified or live music would be played within this area.

Refuse collection would be as per the existing arrangements for the restaurant, and the tables and chairs would be stored within the restaurant unit during the night time for security purposes.

One of the key comments has been regarding the potential for the noise generated within the space to be amplified.

The enclosed note by Hann Tucker undertakes an assessment of the potential noise impact from the use of the space as external seating in its current condition – and without any further measures. This concludes that:

*“The above indicates compliance with our proposed assessment criterion. When assessed to human response to change in noise level (see Section 4.3), above noise levels are determined ‘barely perceptible’ without the need for further noise mitigation measures….”*

The Report also suggests a Noise Management Plan, and concludes that:

*“The proposed restaurant outdoor seating area, in conjunction with the proposed Noise Management Plan, should therefore be acceptable in terms of noise.”*

It is therefore clear that with the management of this space and the limited capacity for use of this area there would be no adverse impact on noise to local residents.