

ABERDEEN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM SUB-COMMITTEE
Thursday, 16th July, 2009

Present: Allan McIntosh, Chairperson; Sandy Kelman (substituting for Dr. Lesley Wilkie), Inspector John Soutar, and Bob Westland.

Apologies: Apologies were intimated on behalf of Jennie Biggs, Sohail Faruqi, Diane Sande, Dr. Lesley Wilkie and George Wyatt

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FORUM MEETING TO BE HELD ON 30TH JULY, 2009

The Sub-Committee agreed that the following items should be included on the agenda for the Aberdeen Local Licensing Forum meeting on Thursday, 30th July, 2009 at 2pm:-

- (1) Update on the Entry to Licensed Premises Curfew;
- (2) Overprovision Research;
- (3) Late Night Transport;
- (4) Unight Launch Event;
- (5) Statistical Information;
- (6) Draft Agenda for Joint Meeting with the Licensing Board on 20th August, 2009; and
- (7) Suggested Dates for Aberdeen Local Licensing Forum Meetings in 2010.

In connection with the above proposed agenda items the Sub-Committee noted feedback from Allan McIntosh who attended the consultation meeting on the curfew proposal on 17th June, 2009. He confirmed that the curfew had been set at 2am but during the meeting no one spoke in favour of imposing a curfew and no details were made available about the arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the effect of the curfew. It is understood one of the main sources of information will be crime statistics.

The agenda item on late night transport relates to a wish to request that the Forum endorse writing to First Bus and the Council's Licensing Committee requesting them to make every effort to improve the availability of late night transport at the weekends.

Inspector Soutar confirmed that statistical information would be available from Grampian Police for consideration at the Forum and he confirmed that efforts are being made to develop a consistent approach whereby Grampian Police deal with relevant offences under licensing legislation rather than dealing with these crimes in terms of the common law such as Breach of the Peace.

In relation to research to assist the Licensing Board in producing a statement on overprovision as part of its Statement of Licensing Policy it was noted that although some progress has been made, the focus of efforts has been on the transition arrangements to process as many applications as possible prior to the deadline of 1st September, 2009. It is understood no other Licensing Board in Scotland has made much progress in relation to producing its overprovision policy statement. The staff in Aberdeen have produced a map with an overlay of the location of

licensed premises and Grampian Police have been asked to produce crime statistics to aid identifying any geographical hot spots. The research requires detailed information on the capacity of each licensed premises and the type of operating plan in addition to the number of licensed premises. To assist the Forum in considering this matter extracts from the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 and Scottish Government guidance on overprovision assessment will be issued with the agenda for the Forum meeting. It was considered this would be useful background information before this matter is discussed at the Joint Meeting with the Licensing Board on 20th August, 2009.

Inspector Soutar advised that he would shortly be sending a letter to the Clerk to be issued with the agenda for the next Forum meeting on the launch event for Unight. He explained that Kenny MacAskill, the Justice Cabinet Secretary will be attending the launch event at the Liquid Club in Aberdeen in Monday, 17th August, 2009. He will be sending a similar letter to the Clerk to the Licensing Board. The Sub-Committee agreed it would be important for the Forum and the Licensing Board to endorse the Unight scheme and to show their support. If appropriate representatives from the Forum could attend the launch event. Inspector Soutar reminded the Sub-Committee that the Unight scheme is pursuing the five objectives in the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. They have been focusing on promoting best practice in the night time economy working in partnership with Grampian Police and the Community Safety Partnership in particular.

WORK PLAN

The Sub-Committee considered the updated Work Plan and agreed it would be useful to discuss this at the joint meeting with the Licensing Board. It was noted Community Councils and Neighbourhood Networks had been written to in accordance with the Forum decision on 11th June, 2009 requesting them to raise any concerns/issues with the Forum.

In relation to statistical information, Sandy Kelman advised that NHS Grampian would be carrying out an audit of drink related visits to Accident and Emergency Departments. The audit will be undertaken in August. In due course as previously reported by Jennie Biggs, NHS Grampian will have statistical data which will assist the Forum.

INFORMATION ON LICENSING BOARD POLICY FRAMEWORKS

The Sub-Committee was reminded that the Forum requested the Sub-Committee to consider in more detail if any lessons can be learned from scrutiny of the policy frameworks adopted by other Scottish Licensing Boards. The Clerk agreed to obtain background information from the Licensing Boards in Edinburgh, Dundee and Fife. The information will be circulated together with the papers previously circulated on the policy frameworks in place in Aberdeen and Glasgow with a view to the Sub-Committee considering this matter at its next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to finalise the date and time of the next meeting of the Sub-Committee at the Forum meeting on 30th July. It was noted that a meeting is required during week commencing 31st August, 2009 in order to consider items of business for the Forum meeting on 17th September, 2009.

- **ALLAN MCINTOSH, Chairperson**.