

ABERDEEN CITY LICENSING BOARD

LICENSING BOARD DATE: 26 June 2024

CLERK TO THE LICENSING BOARD: Jenni Lawson

TITLE OF REPORT: OBJAberdeen Licensing Board Annual Functions Report 2023/24

REPORT AUTHOR: Sandy Munro, Solicitor

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To invite the Licensing Board (“The Board”) to approve this Annual Functions Report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board:

- (1) approve this Annual Functions Report and;
- (2) authorise the Clerk to the Board to proceed with the publication of this Annual Functions Report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Licensing Boards must produce and publish annual functions reports and annual financial reports.
- 3.2 This report should contain a statement explaining how the Board has had regard to the licensing objectives, their licensing policy statement, and any supplementary licensing policy statement in the exercise of their functions during the financial year.

4. HOW THE BOARD EXERCISES ITS FUNCTIONS

- 4.1 The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 as amended (“the Act”) sets out regulations for the sale of alcohol and regulations for licensed premises and other premises on which alcohol is sold.
- 4.2 The Act has five licensing objectives which the Board must have regard to when exercising its functions. These objectives are: -
 - (i) Preventing crime and disorder
 - (ii) Securing public safety
 - (iii) Preventing public nuisance

- (iv) Protecting and improving public health
- (v) Protecting children and young persons from harm

- 4.3 The Board deals with all applications in accordance with the legislation, and in particular the five above objectives, together with its Statement of Licensing Policy which is based on the objectives.
- 4.4 The Board has determined all applications in line with the Statement of Licensing Policy. The Board has routinely applied additional conditions on the operation of outdoor drinking areas to ensure minimum disruption to the surrounding area and a condition that restaurants offering a delivery service can only supply alcohol alongside a food delivery. It has also determined all applications for licensed hours in line with the Statement of Licensing Policy.
- 4.5 The Board has also worked closely with partner agencies including Police Scotland, NHS Grampian, the local licensing forum and Licensing Standards Officers to ensure the satisfactory operation of licensed premises. As a result, problems can be identified and addressed at an early stage and this reduces the need for Premises Licence Reviews after the fact.
- 4.6 The Board has also sought a closer working relationship with the Local Licensing Forum, including a standing item of Forum Update on every Licensing Board Agenda. It is hoped that the details of the Annual Functions Report together with topics arising at the annual joint meeting with the Forum will provide a view on developing trends or areas requiring attention in the wider licensing landscape.
- 4.7 A summary of the Board's position in terms of the statistics which the Board has to provide the Scottish Government is enclosed as Appendix 4.
- 4.8 In line with recent years, the Board restricted the issue of General Extensions to the festive period.

5. SUMMARY OF DECISIONS OVER THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR

- 5.1 A Summary of all decision made by the Licensing Board can be found on the Licensing Board's Website at <https://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=151>

6. THE NUMBER OF LICENCES IN THE BOARDS AREA

- 6.1 See Appendix 1 – Premises Licences
- 6.2 See Appendix 2 - Personal Licences
- 6.3 See Appendix 3 – Occasional Licences