

ABERDEEN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

WORKPLAN AS AT FEBRUARY 2012

Licensing Objectives (for reference) –

- (1) Preventing Crime and Disorder,
- (2) Securing Public Safety,
- (3) Preventing Public Nuisance,
- (4) Protecting and Improving Public Health, and
- (5) Protecting Children from Harm.

Remit of Local Licensing Forums as set out in the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – keeping under review the operation of the Act in the Forum's area and in particular the exercise by the Licensing Board of their functions including giving advice and making recommendations to the Board in relation to those matters where the Forum considers it appropriate. The Act does not enable a Forum to review or give advice or make recommendations in relation to the exercise by a Board of their function in relation to a particular case. "Case" is taken to mean an application before a Board and in the interests of natural justice is also taken to mean individual licensed premises. The preferred route for consideration of complaints about the running of licensed premises is to write directly to the Clerk or Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board.

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 requires Licensing Boards in exercising any of their functions to have regard to any advice given or recommendations made to them by a Local Licensing Forum and where the Board decides not to follow the advice or recommendation to give the Forum reasons for that decision, the Board must provide copies of relevant statistical information to the Forum as it may reasonably require for the purposes of its general functions.

Licensing Standards Officers have a general function of providing to interested persons information and guidance concerning the operation of the Act, supervising compliance with the Act and the conditions of their licences by holders of Premises Licences and Occasional Licences and mediate between communities and the trade or between any two parties where there is a need to resolve a local problem and develop a local solution. LSOs do not act as "policemen" with regard to licensing but they will liaise with the police and other relevant officials such as Environmental Health Officers in pursuit of the objectives of the Act.

No	Action/Decision agreed by Forum or Sub-Committee	Update/Outcome/Response	Referral to Licensing Board or Clerk (Yes/No) Reply (Yes/No)	Issue requires discussion at next Joint Meeting with Licensing Board (Yes/No)
(1)	Find out from communities what are their areas of concern	The Community Council Liaison Officer is now included in the distribution list of the Forum so that she can disseminate a request for continued communication to all community councils.		
(2)	Improve intelligence in relation to statutory bodies.	The Forum is gaining experience as it considers topics and input from Forum members who are representatives of relevant agencies. The Forum has been represented at conferences and training events and will continue to do so.		
(3)	To receive reports from the Licensing Board containing relevant statistical information.	The Forum and Board will continue to liaise at joint meetings. An invite to the Depute Clerk of the Board to attend a meeting to discuss incoming legislation was made.		
(4)	To request an outline from the Licensing Board on measures it will employ to ensure compliance with the five licensing objectives. This is being addressed as part	At the joint meeting with the Board on 23/4/10 it was confirmed that it will continue to monitor statistical trends in relation to crime and if possible health and other indicators in order to evaluate contributions		

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	of the review of the Statement of Licensing Policy.	to the achievement of the licensing objectives.		
(5)	Staffing Levels – the Forum and the Sub-Committee noted that Aberdeen is the only city in Scotland to employ only one Licensing Standards Officer. Although information on staffing levels elsewhere in Scotland may be out-of-date there is no doubt the majority of local authority areas employ more than one Licensing Standards Officer.	The officers concerned have given a commitment to review the position to decide whether or not to prepare a business case to support a request for additional staff resources. Meantime the Forum is asked to note that in addition to the Licensing Standards Officer one other officer has been trained in the Licensing Act duties. Other staff have also received elements of LSO training and this should facilitate a more proactive approach in relation to visiting licensed premises. The LSO's Line Manager will continue to monitor her workload which is standard Council practice.		
(6)	Door Supervisors Working Group	The Group met for the first time on 26 January 2012. The Forum will receive regular updates from the representative members.		

ACTIONS FOR LICENSING FORUM IN
ALCOHOL STRATEGY 2009 – 2019 AND IN ALCOHOL RELATED DISORDER IN THE CITY CENTRE ACTION PLAN

- (1) Reducing Consumption – The Licensing Board will consult widely on specific measures to deliver and enhance their policy including receiving advice from the Licensing Forum.
- (2) Prevention (a) – Encouraging developments to increase access to food and non-alcoholic drinks in clubs and the licensed premises at night in liaison with Unight, the Licensing Board and City Centre/Safer Aberdeen Forum.
- (3) Prevention (b) – Review to establish how a more preventative approach to over-consumption of alcohol can be devised in partnership between the Licensing Board and the trade.
- (4) Prevention (c) – Attract different types of premises to offer family orientated entertainment such as late night coffee shops, cafes, etc. in liaison with the Licensing Board, Unight, Safer Aberdeen Forum and Economic Development staff.