

LOCAL LICENSING FORUM SUB-GROUP – 13 DECEMBER 2012

Present:- Garry Burnett, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service (Chair)
 Inspector John Soutar, Grampian Police
 Diane Sande, Aberdeen City Council (Licensing Standards Officer)
 Sandy Kelman, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
 Mairi MacLeod, Aberdeen City Council (Children's Services)
 Ken Eddie, Aberdeen Civic Forum
 Ruary Campbell, Unight
 Eric Anderson and Vikki Cuthbert, Aberdeen City Council (Legal and Democratic Services)
 Councillors Boulton, Cameron (as substitute for Councillor Dickson) and Forsyth

Apologies:- Councillor Dickson

Topic	Discussion/Decision	Action By
1. Remit	<p>Vikki Cuthbert, Clerk to the Forum opened the meeting by reminding the Sub-Group that it had been established following the joint meeting between the Licensing Board (the Board) and the Local Licensing Forum (the Forum) in August, 2012, arising out of discussions on the Board and Forum working together on joint aims and objectives. The Forum had subsequently agreed at its September meeting to set up a Sub-Group, and the Board had agreed to this at its November meeting, based on a letter from the Forum, and had also agreed that the Sub-Group consider what relevant evidence could be provided to the Board in order for members to assess and decide upon policy. The Board had also agreed that four of its members attend the first meeting and listen to suggestions on how the process could best be achieved, whilst noting that its members should not involve themselves in the operational side of the process.</p> <p>The Clerk to the Forum explained that the Sub-Group would make recommendations to the Forum, which would in turn make recommendations to the Board in agreeing the draft Statement of Licensing Policy.</p>	
2. Appointment of Chairperson	<p>Nominations for a Chairperson for the Sub-Group were sought. It was noted that this ought to be a member of the Local Licensing Forum, for the purposes of maintaining a separation between the Forum and the Board in relation to the SLP.</p> <p>Garry Burnett was nominated and appointed as Chairperson.</p>	

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3. Timescales	<p>Eric Anderson, Clerk to the Board, advised the Sub-Group of the timetable for producing the Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP). This was a three-year document, currently running from November, 2010 to November, 2013. A draft version would be agreed by the Board at its meeting on 30th April, 2013, and the Forum could submit recommendations on its content at this stage. The Forum would also be able to respond as part of the consultation over the summer period, and could make recommendations to the Board prior to it finalising the SLP in November. Eric also explained that the new SLP could have any range of changes included, and that it should be viewed as a working document, even beyond the November 2013 date. It would be helpful if any evidence were available to the Board by April, 2013, to assist it in preparing a draft SLP for consultation purposes.</p>	
4. Discussion	<p>The Chairperson invited those present to highlight the main areas which they would like addressed in the SLP, and any issues which were worthy of further discussion within the Sub-Group as it developed a recommended position for the Forum to submit to the Board in April. These are summarised below:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ SLP to be influenced by agreed Alcohol Strategy for Aberdeen City ➤ Link to the Single Outcome Agreement ➤ Statistical information need to be provided and scrutinised. Outcome based where possible ➤ Need to link to all five licensing objectives ➤ High-end objectives required for the Forum and this Sub-Group ➤ Measure the success of the current SLP so as to address any shortcomings, ie performance management ➤ Clarify the position in respect of over provision, particularly off-sales ➤ Address over provision in off-sales, possibly starting with a look at shelf space/visibility. Address “pre-loading”/availability of alcohol. ➤ Future SLP should take account of city suburbs as well as city centre ➤ Input from Health needs to be far more focused ➤ Seek guidance from the Scottish Government on what they are likely to consider changing ➤ Review significant changes brought about by Edinburgh and West Dumbartonshire councils due to their SLP – approach this from both Police and Health perspectives, and also ask the respective Clerks to their Licensing Boards. 	<p>Linda Smith John Soutar Eric Anderson</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Await the impact of minimum pricing on alcohol ➤ Need to listen to the student voice ➤ Selling of alcohol in petrol stations to be addressed <p>As part of this broad discussion, Councillor Boulton as Convener of the Licensing Board highlighted the need to make decisions which were not then the subject of successful legal challenge. Eric Anderson reinforced the need for the Board to receive robust evidence in determining its SLP, and undertook to 1) write to the Scottish Government to determine whether there were any legislative changes planned which may impact upon the SLP; and 2) to attempt to gather some information for the Sub-Group on off-sales shelf space, such as the number of licensed premises, licence fee payable and total income to the Council from such licences.</p> <p>The Sub-Group also wished to increase representation of Unight members at future meetings, and if at all possible, to seek an off-sales representative. The Sub-Group was advised that this would need to be ratified at the next meeting of the Forum, which would also be asked to agree to the addition of Councillor Greig to the membership of the Forum. Those present indicated their support for this, as this would mean valuable input from the community safety perspective.</p>	<p>Eric Anderson</p>
5. Future Meetings	<p>It was agreed to hold meetings at the end of January, February and March, and that the next meeting include on the agenda:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current Statement of Licensing Policy – it was noted that the Board members could not form part of this discussion 2. Statistics – under each of the five licensing objectives, a list of statistics already collated and those which should be obtained. 3. Feedback from Edinburgh and West Dumbartonshire councils on their SLPs 	<p>Vikki Cuthbert</p> <p>All members</p> <p>Linda Smith John Soutar Eric Anderson</p>