

ABERDEEN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

Licensing Board Policy Frameworks

At its meeting on 9/10/08, the Aberdeen City Alliance (the City's Community Planning Partnership Body) considered a report entitled "Alcohol Related Disorder Profile – Aberdeen City Centre". The Licensing Forum received an extract from that report on licensing issues was asked by the Alliance to investigate "whether other Licensing Boards had stronger strategic policy frameworks to work within than Aberdeen City Licensing Board". The Forum should reply to the Alliance in due course.

The Forum and the Forum's Sub-Committee have discussed policy documents from other Scottish cities and at the joint meeting with the Licensing Board, the Forum had the opportunity to question representatives from the Board. After that meeting there was a feeling that the Forum could prepare better for the next joint meeting in 2010 with some questions ready in advance. A summary of apparent differences between policies might help that process. The Board representatives could be asked to comment. For example, the Depute Clerk to the Board has been asked to supply information on the conditions attached to the licences. The Forum are aware that apparent gaps in policy documents may in fact be addressed in this way whereas other Boards have details in policy documents themselves. His attention has been drawn to the difference in the level of detail in relation to members' clubs in Edinburgh City's Licensing Board policy document.

I understand the Alliance is due to receive an update on the "Alcohol Related Disorder Profile – Aberdeen City Centre" report at its meeting on 25/11/09. It seems the right time to advise them of the work the Forum is undertaking and will continue to undertake in 2010. The report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum and we can anticipate receiving a copy of the minute and any Action Plan arising from the Alcohol summit which is scheduled to take place before the Christmas recess.

The Forum is asked if there are any points noted from consideration of policy documents from other Licensing Boards (previously circulated) which should be referred to the Depute Clerk at this time given the commitment to continue to work on this in 2010 it may be appropriate to wait to enable the Sub-Committee to undertake further work on behalf of the Forum.