

## ABERDEEN LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

22 April 2010

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Licensing Board Conveners' Conference

Ken Eddie attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Licensing Board Conveners' Conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 as another commitment prevented Allan McIntosh, Convener, from attending. The Conference was attended by Councillor Muriel Jaffrey, the Convener of the Aberdeen Licensing Board and both Ken and Councillor Jaffrey have reported back that the Conference was worthwhile and provided a useful opportunity to exchange ideas on common issues. The programme included presentations on the Alcohol Etc (Scotland) Bill and on research on minimum pricing/alcohol consumption. Attached to this report are the presentation slides in respect of the Alcohol Etc (Scotland) Bill and the speech given to the Conference by Jackie Baillie MSP. This material provides useful information for reference purposes.

Inspector Gordon Hunter of Lothian and Borders Police gave a presentation on their approach to policing Edinburgh City Centre and he supports a cooling off area to reduce pressure on limited staff resources to avoid having to remove troublemakers immediately to Police Headquarters. Ambulance and paramedical staff also support a cooling off area or use of a bus for triage purposes and administration of first aid to ease the pressure on the ambulance service and on Accident and Emergency departments.

David Hossack of Morton Fraser, Solicitors, gave a presentation on the inflexibility of the licensing regime in relation to changes of ownership in respect of provisional licences and confirmation of licences. He pointed out the costs involved in submission of full sets of drawings to accompany Operating Plans and to the relationship between licensing and planning requirements.

Janet Hood, Head of BII Scotland gave a trade perspective on legislation and as she is resident in Aberdeenshire she may be an interesting speaker at a future Forum meeting if the Forum consider that would be appropriate.