

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the FALKIRK LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2015 at 3.15 p.m.**

**FORUM MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Gordon Emslie (Personal Licenceholder); Charles Gillespie (Person resident in Forum Area); Eddie MacLennan (Education); David Gibson (Social Work); Madelene Hunt (Person resident in Forum Area), Warren Luke (Person resident in Forum Area); Bruce Rennie (District Bowling Association); Nash Lalli (Personal Licenceholder); and Thomas Ross (Licensing Standards Officer).

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deborah Shipton, Alcohol Focus.

**APOLOGIES:** Jill Bennet (Person resident in Forum Area); Lorraine Fisher (Education); Caird Forsyth (Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership); Aileen Holliday (NHS Forth Valley); Ian Lovie (Scottish Grocers Federation); Kate Smith (Young Person); Detective Constable Matt Riddell (Police Scotland); and Rose Mary Glackin (Clerk to Falkirk Council Licensing Board).

**CHAIR:** Gordon Emslie.

**COUNCIL OFFICERS**

**PRESENT:** Alison Barr, Consumer Protection Manager; and Antonia Sobieraj, Committee Services Officer.

**1. MINUTES**

The Forum **approved** the minute of meeting held on 13 January 2015.

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Training Event - Update**

Alison Barr advised that the training event/workshop would take place on Wednesday 22 April 2015 at 2.00 p.m. within Falkirk Indoor Bowling Club.

**Noted.**

**Licensing Policy - Update**

Alison Barr advised that it was envisaged that an update on the Licensing Policy would be reported to the Licensing Board in April 2015. It would thereafter go out for consultation.

**Noted.**

### 3. **ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND - RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALCOHOL OUTLET AVAILABILITY AND HARM**

The Forum received a presentation by Deborah Shipton, Alcohol Focus Scotland on the research findings for the Falkirk area in relation to the relationship between alcohol outlet availability and harm.

The presentation included:-

- That alcohol was toxic, intoxicating and addictive;
- The importance of regulation and the minimization of harm;
- The effect on the individual, the population, public order and public health;
- The relationship between alcohol outlet availability and harm including on sales and off sales;
- The key findings for Scotland including:-
  - that across the whole of Scotland neighbourhoods with the highest number of alcohol outlets had significantly higher rates of alcohol related health harm;
  - that alcohol related deaths were more than double that of areas with the least;
  - that alcohol related hospitalisation rates were significantly higher in the neighbourhoods with the most alcohol outlets;
  - the relationship being for both on sales and off sales however the availability of the off sales outlets was linked to bigger increases in deaths and hospitalisations;
  - that the link between alcohol outlet availability and alcohol related health outcomes was found even when other explanatory outcomes such as age, sex, urban/rural status, and levels of income deprivation had been taken into account; and
- The purpose of licensing the sale of alcohol;
- The levels of harm and the broader costs there is a public interest purpose to the regulation of the sale of alcohol.
- The effect within the Falkirk area being:-
  - 360 outlets (223 on sales and 137 off sales) and 19 alcohol related deaths per 100,000 adults;
  - That on average neighbourhoods had 11 outlets within a 10 mile walk and alcohol related hospitalisations were 27% lower than Scotland as a whole;
  - The financial cost to Falkirk in terms of health care, social care, crime and productive capacity was £55m and this represented £364 per head of the Falkirk population; and
- The role of Local Licensing Forums in terms of oversight and advice;
- The role of the Licensing Board;
- The importance of a coherent Statements of Licensing Policy and overprovision;
- The financial costs for Scotland being £3.6 billion; and
- The importance of supporting an outcomes focussed approach.

The Forum thanked the Ms Shipton for her informative presentation and for answering Forum members' questions.

### 4. **CHIEF CONSTABLE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

The Forum **agreed** to continue consideration of the Chief Constable's Annual Report 2013/14 to the next meeting of the Forum.

**5. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

**Community Involvement**

Thomas Ross requested that consideration take place at the next meeting on the wider involvement of local communities in the work of the Forum and holding meetings outwith Municipal Buildings. It was agreed that consideration take place at the next meeting.

**Reconsideration of timings for future meetings**

Discussion took place on the options to change the timings of future meetings and further consideration would take place at a future meetings.

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 19 May 2015 at 6.00 p.m.