

FALKIRK COUNCIL

NOTE of MEETING of the FALKIRK LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chief Inspector Damian Armstrong (Police Scotland)
Gordon Emslie (Convener)
David Gibson (Social Work)
Madelene Hunt (Person resident in Forum Area)
Nash Lalli (Personal Licence Holder)
Bruce Rennie (District Bowling Association)

ALSO PRESENT: PC Helen Auld, Police Scotland
PC Andy Kane, Police Scotland
PC Fiona Murphy, Police Scotland

APOLOGIES: Jill Bennet (Person resident in Forum Area)
Billy Drummond (Police Scotland)
Lorraine Fisher (Education)
Caird Forsyth (Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership)
Charles Gillespie (Person resident in Forum Area)
Rose Mary Glackin (Clerk to Falkirk Council Licensing Board)
Warren Luke (Person resident in Forum Area)
Thomas Ross (Licensing Standards Officer)

CHAIR: Gordon Emslie

COUNCIL OFFICERS

PRESENT: Alison Barr, Consumer Protection Manager
Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

As the meeting was inquorate, it was **noted** that the minute of meeting of the Licensing Forum held on 13 August 2015 would be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.

2. COUNTER TERRORISM AND SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME (SOC)

PC Helen Auld (Counter Terrorism Liaison Officer) and PC Fiona Murphy (Serious and Organised Crime Co-ordinator), Police Scotland gave a joint presentation to raise awareness of counter terrorism and serious organised crime, and highlighted the following, namely:

- CONTEST overview
- the current threat assessment
- how CONTEST relates to licensing
- an SOC overview

The CONTEST Strategy

- Prevent – to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks
- Protect – to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack

- Prepare – to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

The above strands aim to help reduce the threat, reduce the vulnerability and reduce the risk.

The current threat level to the UK is currently “Severe”, which indicates that an attack is highly likely. Recent reports in the media, suggests that there are possible plots to attack the west and the likelihood being that of lone wolf attacks. The Northern Ireland Related Terrorism (NIRT) level is currently “Moderate” which indicates an attack is possible, but not likely.

The highest threat level is defined as “Critical” which is an attack is imminent.

Any current threat to the UK would probably come from one of the following –

- Al Qaida (AQ)
- Islamic State
- Far Right and Far Left wing
- Environmental Activists
- Animal Rights
- Northern Ireland Related Terrorism (NIRT)

How CONTEST relates to licensing

It was highlighted that in 1995, a local licensed premise was the hub of an operation involving a terror ring supplying guns to an outlawed organisation.

There was discussion on the importance of staff training and raising awareness especially within the licensed trade as there could be potential areas within the trade where unlawful activity could take place. Police Scotland advised that there is a wide range of different training packages available for different groups/staff etc, including:

- WRAP 2 (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent)
 - Which provides staff with an understanding of the prevent agenda, the role they can play within it and some of the skills to help recognise those potentially vulnerable to radicalisation
 - Workshop format – DVD workshop which runs for approximately 1.5 hours
 - Target group – frontline staff who may come into contact with vulnerable people, local authority, emergency services, youth, housing and health sectors
- ACT Now
 - A debating session around the sensitive issue of violent extremism within communities
 - Workshop format – short film clips and interactive session
 - Target group – 15 to 22 year olds in schools and colleges, professionals e.g. teachers, youth workers, Police, young offenders team, pupils referral units etc.
- Common Ground
 - Common ground aims to improve communication and promote better understanding of political violence, terrorism and violent extremism
 - Workshop format – short film clips and exercises to promote debate and discussions
 - Target group – 13 to 21 year olds

- Project Argus
 - National Counter Terrorism and Security Office (NaCTSO) led initiative which asks businesses and other organisations to consider their preparedness for a terrorist attack
 - Workshop format – interactive, including short film clips to promote audience participation and group discussion
 - 2 levels of Argus – professional (education), retail and night time economy
 - Target group – senior management and security staff working within the further education environment, retail environments and town centres
- Project Griffin
 - Griffin – aims to encourage members of the business community to work in partnership with the police to deter and detect terrorist activity and crime
 - Workshop format – presentation by guest speakers who cover relevant topics, tailored to the industry
 - Target group – business community
- CTSA Advice
 - Counter Terrorism Security Advisor (CTSA) can provide a tailored briefing to staff on a range of topics including :
 - General security
 - Mail handling
 - Telephone bombs
 - Suspicious packages

Serious Organised Crime (SOC)

- reference was made to the guidance for specified Scottish authorities on the duty in the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism
- SOC can affect everyone and that we each have a part to play in reducing the harm it causes
- the Scottish Government has published “Scotland’s Serious Organised Crime Strategy” which sets out ways in which Scotland should work together to reduce the harm caused by SOC. The document stresses that it is about detecting and disrupting SOC, but that most of all it is about preventing it at source; cutting off the markets; the recruits and the opportunities on which SOC relies
- it is envisaged that the different strands of the Strategy (set out below) work together to reduce the harm caused by SOC -
 - **Divert** – to divert people from becoming involved in SOC and using its products
 - **Disrupt** – to disrupt SOC and Organised Crime Groups
 - **Deter** – to deter serious organised crime groups by supporting private, public and third sector organisations to protect themselves and each other
 - **Detect** – to identify, detect and prosecute those involved in SOC
- latest figures suggest that there are over 366 separate gangs and over 4000 individuals involved in SOC with 95% of these relating to the drug trade
- the undernoted sectors have been identified as being most at risk from SOC infiltration:-
 - Vehicle/transport
 - Property – private landlords
 - Licensed premises
 - Garage/car repairs
 - Catering/food

- Service/retail
 - Health and beauty
 - Security
 - Taxis
 - Sport and leisure
 - Soft play areas
- things to look out for which could suggest SOC activity are ...
 - expensive items/purchase (outwith means)
 - access to vehicles
 - mobile phones - numerous
 - illicit trade (counterfeit goods)
 - evidence of additional security measures – especially in and around their home
 - false/multiple documents
 - cannabis cultivations
 - human trafficking
 - prostitution
 - samples of counterfeit goods were on display at the meeting for members attention
 - the importance of deterring young people from dabbling in selling these types of illicit goods as this normally leads to them getting involved in the supply of illegal drugs etc
 - the health and safety problems associated with counterfeit goods
 - the need to have a partnership approach and the importance of letting Police Scotland know as how else will they know

The Convener, on behalf of the Forum thanked Police Scotland for their informative presentation.

3. CONSULTATION OF THE DRAFT LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT

Gordon Emslie gave a presentation on the feedback he had received from members of the Licensing Forum on the consultation draft of the licensing policy statement.

He advised that the proposals/feedback would be emailed to all members of the Forum with a deadline for the comments to be agreed. Thereafter, the Licensing Forum's finalised response would be submitted to the Licensing Section.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Convener requested that a special meeting of the Licensing Forum take place on Tuesday 24 November at 1.30 p.m.