

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of MEETING of the FALKIRK LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 30 MARCH 2017 at 2.00 p.m.**

**FORUM MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Inspector Billy Drummond (Police Scotland); Gordon Emslie (Personal Licenceholder); David Gibson (Social Work); Madelene Hunt (Person resident in Forum Area); Ian Lovie (Scottish Grocers Federation); Nash Lalli (Personal Licenceholder); Warren Luke (Person resident in Forum Area); Bruce Rennie (District Bowling Association), and Thomas Ross (Licensing Standards Officer).

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sergeant Marie White, Police Scotland; and Douglas Frood (Licensing Standards Officer).

**APOLOGIES:** Jill Bennet (Person resident in Forum Area) and Ruth McDonald (Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership).

**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 27 October 2016.

**2. Matters Arising from Minute**

On Line Sales

Inspector Drummond provided an update on the local intelligence received by Police Scotland in relation to on line sales within the Falkirk area. The issue was being taken seriously and included options measures to address the problem. Further updates would be provided at future Forum meetings.

**Noted.**

**3. Licensing Objectives – Protecting Children from Harm**

Members of the Forum held an open discussion on the licensing objective “protecting children from harm”, during which the following issues were highlighted:-

- the need for a holistic approach and early intervention measures to address the problems associated with young people and alcohol;
- the importance of young people reaching their potential;
- the unlawful selling of alcohol to young people and the licenceholders responsibilities in accordance with the licensing objectives;
- the involvement by town centre management and community warden;
- the attendance at Forum meetings by street pastors;
- the problem of proxy sales;
- the Police Scotland bid for funding through the anti violence unit to support initiatives to address alcohol, drugs and associated gun violence;
- the intelligence received on licenced premises selling alcohol to the underage;
- the impact of current legislation in tackling the issue;
- the influence of the use of Facebook in the selling of alcohol and the difficulties involved in detection;
- the need for new and innovative approaches to deal with on line sales and in identifying the perpetrators;
- the licensing objectives, their breach and the required mitigation measures;
- the lack of understanding and contribution by the licensing community to the problem;
- the value of an in depth study of the problem;
- the required corporate and joined up approach between agencies;
- the importance of robust and ongoing licenceholder training on the licensing objectives and its breaches;
- the training of the Licensing Board and all elected members;
- the attendance of the Licensing Board at Forum meetings;
- the opportunities for a joint meeting early in the new Council on the future rules of engagement;
- the importance of a joined up approach by agencies to addressing the issues associated with alcohol sales and health;
- the option for a SOLAR officer workshop on overprovision;
- the high number of off sales within Grangemouth;
- the current youth disorder within Grangemouth including the congregation of young people at licensed premises and in the local park;
- the legislation governing alcohol sales and the issue of overprovision;
- the importance of the licensing objectives within the licensing policy;
- the contribution of the schools, the local Head Teachers Forum and the Youth Parliament;
- the importance of joint collaboration with the Health Board;
- the crucial role of the Health Board as an active and proactive partner in tackling alcohol misuse;
- the role of premises licenceholders/managers and the robust upskilling and training of staff, including clubs, on their responsibilities under licensing legislation;
- the valuable contribution of Police Scotland in providing to advice and training to all licenceholders including clubs;
- the large size of drinks measures within licensed premises and the opportunity to address the issue within the next licensing policy; and
- the value of local intelligence including from young people.

#### **4. Proposed Establishment of a National Licensing Forum**

Consideration took place in relation to a letter and questionnaire from Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council proposing the establishment of a National Licensing Forum.

Discussion included the benefits of a National Licensing Forum, the collaborative opportunities and the national consistency of practice.

#### **5. Future meetings**

The Forum noted that future meetings of the Forum would be convened following the local government elections in May 2017.

#### **6. Any Other Competent Business**

Minute of Joint Meeting

The Forum noted the minute of the joint meeting of the Licensing Board and Licensing Forum on 22 November 2016.