

FC25. NOTICES OF MOTION – CONTINUED FROM FALKIRK COUNCIL – 5 MARCH 2008

(c) Alcohol Misuse

Councillor Thomson, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn, moved that:-

“Council welcomes the commitment of the Justice Secretary, Kenny MacAskill, to tackle the problems of alcohol misuse.

The ethos of drinking to get drunk is one of the main contributions to anti-social behaviour, crime and health issues within our communities.

Council agree to work with the Justice Secretary to tackle this growing problem by taking the lead locally by:

1. Arranging a local conference of stake holders including representatives of the drink industry, health, police and community groups to begin the process of developing a strategy for the changing of the public attitude.
2. Regular updates at Community Health & Safety of the development of the strategy and its implementation.
3. Instructs Officers to prepare a report for Community Health and Safety on how the policy direction above can be implemented.

By way of an amendment Councillor Nicol, seconded by Councillor Buchanan moved that –

“Council recognises the detrimental effect the misuse of alcohol has on Scottish Society.

It causes an additional strain on the NHS, the Police and other Public Services. It is a major factor behind much of the anti-social behaviour and the other crimes which blight our communities. It has a huge detrimental effect on the individual, their health, their finances and sadly their relationships with partners and children.

Having developed over generations this problem requires a multi agency approach to changing attitudes through education and enforcement.

In that regard –

- (a) Council calls upon the Scottish Government to bring forward as soon as possible, for consultation, their trailed proposals on limiting the ways alcohol can be promoted within supermarkets and off sales, the proposals on minimum pricing and on banning drink promotions and the proposed “polluter pays” levy a proposal which if enacted would make funds available to assist in education on the effects of alcohol misuse and in enforcement of legislation.
- (b) Council acknowledges the role of the recently formed Licensing Forum whose membership includes representatives of the Drinks Industry, the local

Licensed Trade, Police, Forth Valley Health Board, as well as community bodies in the form of various Community Councils.

Council further instructs officers to bring forward a report on how the role of the Forums can be developed within the terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

- (c) Council welcomes the introduction of Test Purchasing across the whole of Scotland as an additional weapon in the fight against those who sell alcohol with no regard for the social consequences.

It applauds the work done by the Licensing Officers of Central Scotland Police and other officers involved in Licensee education and enforcement.

It looks forward to reports to Council from the Licensing Standards Officer when into his important role under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

On a division 14 Members voted for the Motion and 17 for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Amendment.