

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of meeting of the Falkirk Local Licensing Forum held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Monday 4 December 2017 at 3.30 p.m.**

**Present**

**Forum members** Chief Inspector Damian Armstrong (Police Scotland); Amanda Campbell (Education), Carol Carmichael (Public); Gordon Emslie (Trade); David Gibson (Social Work); John Hamilton (Trade); Andrew Kane (Public); Michael Kleist (Public); Ruth McDonald (Health); Thomas Ross (LSO); Liam Slaven (Young Person), and Mark Stevenson (Trade).

**Apologies** June Bertinelli (Public); Aileen Holliday (Health); Madelene Hunt (Public); Ian Lovie (Trade); Lindsey Sabin (Public), and Annette Walinck (Public).

**Chair:** Gordon Emslie.

**Also present** Alison Barr, Consumer Protection Manager; and Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer.

**1. Appointment of Convener**

Prior to nominations being sought, all those in attendance gave a brief personal introduction, detailing their background, and what they felt they could bring to the Forum.

Thereafter, nominations for the position of Convener were sought. There being only one nomination, the Forum **agreed** to appoint Gordon Emslie as Convener of the Falkirk Local Licensing Forum for 2018.

**2. Minute**

The Forum **approved** the minute of meeting held on 30 March 2017.

**3. Matters Arising from Minute**

There were no matters arising from the minute of 30 March 2017.

**4. Chief Constable's Report for 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017**

A copy of the Chief Constable's annual report for 2016/17 had been previously circulated for members' information. The report set out the Chief Constable's views on matters relating to policing in connection with the operation of the

Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 in the Board's area in the previous year and the following year, and also set out any steps taken, or to be taken, to prevent the sale or supply of alcohol to those under 18 years.

Chief Inspector Armstrong referred to the advantages of test purchasing which is seen as a valuable tool to ensure compliance with the licensing objectives and legislation in protecting children and young people from harm. He advised that any member of the Forum who was interested in accompanying Police Scotland on a test purchase operation, could contact him with their request.

He mentioned the intervention process which is designed to aid premises management in addressing specific issues linked to their premises, and which is recognised as a positive interaction between Police Scotland, the licensing section and licence holders.

Reference was also made to recent large scale events and football matches which had resulted in no associated level of disorder taking place.

The Forum had an open discussion which included the following:-

- the large scale event planning which is undertaken between Police Scotland, Falkirk Council, promoters and other associated agencies for large scale events and concerts at the Falkirk Stadium
- the requirement for promoters to apply for a public entertainment licence and occasional licence from Falkirk Council for each event
- the requirement for promoters to submit an Event Management Plan and Alcohol Management Plan for each event
- the Alcohol Management Plan details how alcohol sales will be managed due to the diverse age group of those attending
- a Safety Advisory Group requires to be established for every major event to ensure public safety
- that effective stewarding policies at previous events had been in place to ensure that unaccompanied youngsters could not purchase alcohol. It is illegal to purchase/supply alcohol for under 18s, however, it was acknowledged that there are adults/parents who still do this
- to reduce the risk of vehicle borne attacks, temporary traffic regulations are put in place at the Falkirk Stadium. Police Scotland undertake debrief meetings on counter terrorism, prior to such events taking place
- the problems associated with out of hours on-line alcohol sales and the challenges this possess for Police Scotland. To date there has been no successful convictions for such activity
- due to privacy rights, Police Scotland has had no co-operation forthcoming from social media companies, where these companies advertise the sale and quick delivery of alcohol at inflated prices
- the impact of the impending implementation of the minimum pricing of alcohol legislation, including how pricing will be displayed (per unit or per item)

- the lifestyle of those dependent on alcohol/drugs and how this impacts on others and communities

The Licensing Forum **noted** the Chief Constable's annual report.

## 5. Dates of Licensing Forum Meetings

The Forum **agreed** the dates of meetings for 2018, namely:-

- Tuesday 13 February at 6.00 p.m.
- Thursday 26 April at 3.30 p.m.
- Tuesday 28 August at 6.00 p.m.
- Thursday 1 November at 3.30 p.m.

\*The confirmed date of the joint meeting between the Licensing Board and Licensing Forum had been confirmed as Monday 19 February at 3.30 p.m.

*\*post meeting*

## 5. Any Other Competent Business

### Licensing Board Policy

Discussion took place on the Licensing Board's requirement to prepare and consult on its draft Statement of Licensing Board Policy by November 2018. The Forum was advised that the Licensing Board had set up a working group in preparation of the draft being issued for wider consultation.

**Noted.**

### Trade

Reference was made to the challenges which licensed premises and the night time economy are experiencing, in terms of trade numbers. It was recognised that there was a trend whereby many patrons are "front loading" before attending licensed premises, including nightclubs.

**Noted.**

### Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan 2016-2020

Chief Inspector Armstrong referred to the key priorities and outcomes set out in the Strategic Outcomes and Local Delivery Plan 2016-2020, which is available on Falkirk Council's Community Planning webpage.

[www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/council-democracy/policies-strategies/community-planning.aspx](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/council-democracy/policies-strategies/community-planning.aspx)

The document provides information on how the Falkirk Community Planning Partnership and key partners intend to address the key priorities which includes minimising the impact of substance misuse, including alcohol.

**Noted.**

Test Purchasing – Police Scotland

It was **agreed** that Police Scotland bring a presentation on the test purchasing process to the Licensing Forum at its meeting on 13 February 2018.

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 13 February 2018 at 6.00 p.m.