

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Note of meeting of the Falkirk Local Licensing Forum held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Thursday 26 April 2018 at 3.30 p.m.

Present

Forum members Chief Inspector Damian Armstrong (Police Scotland); Gordon Emslie (Trade); Madelene Hunt (Public); Andrew Kane (Public); Michael Kleist (Public); Ian Lovie (Trade); Ruth McDonald (Health), and Thomas Ross (Licensing Standards Officer).

Apologies Amanda Campbell (Education), Carol Carmichael (Public); David Gibson (Social Work); Aileen Holliday (Health); John Hamilton (Trade), Lindsey Sabin (Public), and Mark Stevenson (Trade).

Chair: Gordon Emslie.

Also present Alison Barr, Consumer Protection Manager; Councillor Allyson Black, Licensing Board member; Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer, and PC Gordon Hutchison, Police Scotland.

1. Minute

Due to the meeting being **inquorate**, the minute of meeting of the Licensing Forum held on 13 February 2018 would be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.

2. Presentation by Ian Lovie, Scottish Grocers Federation

It was agreed that Ian Lovie proceed with his Presentation on Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) due to the legislation being effective from Tuesday 1 May 2018.

The presentation highlighted the following:

- from 1st May 2018 retailers, both on and off trade, must charge at least 50p per unit of alcohol in Scotland
- Scottish Government have set 50p per unit but this could increase in the future – enabling power
- the legislation is aimed at improving health by reducing consumption and targets low cost high strength alcoholic drinks
- was originally intended to come into force in 2001 but was delayed due to legal challenges
- failure to comply is a breach of the mandatory conditions of the Premises Licence and a criminal offence
- Licensing Standards will enforce this legislation
- breaches could result in prosecution and the premises being banned from selling alcohol

Retail Impact

- largest increases will be to multipack cans, cider and perry categories, in particular white ciders
- will prevent deep discounting during seasonal periods and major sporting events e.g. Festive period, World Cup etc
- should make convenience stores more competitive against large supermarkets – they have the benefit of being local and more refrigeration
- MUP will not apply in England (at the moment) so may result in some cross border trade, on-line despatched from England, illicit trade/counterfeit
- it is not a tax so may be benefits to margin but not if sales decrease
- it could result in an increase in theft and abuse of staff
- IT development required in order to prevent alcohol being sold below MUP
- manage stock levels of products that will increase in price, own label and price marked
- may see changes to ABV and changes to the size of some products
- possibility that buying habits will change
- need to review how discontinued and damages will be manage
- review staff discount, coupons & vouchers, supplier tastings and raffle prizes
- undertaken staff training and management briefings

How MUP is calculated :

MUP = the price per unit (50p) x the strength of alcohol (ABV) x the volume in litres

This should be rounded up to the nearest penny.

e.g. for a bottle of Vodka MUP = $0.5 \times 37.5 \times 0.7 = £13.125$ rounded up to £13.13
(note – number of units printed on the side of bottle = $26.3 \times 50p = £13.15$)

After a short discussion, the members thanked Ian for his informative presentation.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Special meeting on Tuesday 8 May 2018*

**** post meeting***