

MINUTE

of

EAST RENFREWSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM/LICENSING BOARD

Minute of joint meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 11 December 2018.

Present:

Local Residents

Ken Hunter

Health/Social Work

Janice Thomson
Cindy Wallis

Licensees

Onker Singh

Licensing Standards Officer

Dominic McMahon

Strathclyde Police

Constable Jacqueline Petrie

Licensing Board

Councillor Charlie Gilbert

Dominic McMahon presided

Attending:

Aiden Collins, Senior Co-ordinator, Alcohol Focus Scotland; Sergeant Marie Stewart, Police Scotland; Eamonn Daly, Clerk to the Forum; and Jacqui McCusker, Senior Solicitor.

Apologies:

Caroline Church, Niall Rachmann and Helena Shanks; and Councillors Convery, Cunningham, Lafferty and Miller.

ACTION BY

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 20 March 2018.

2. POLICE SCOTLAND ANNUAL LICENSING REPORT

Mr McMahon invited Sergeant Stewart to present the police annual report for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, prepared in accordance with Section 12A of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

The report gave an overview of the police role in terms of licensing, commented on the national perspective including providing details of the national priorities. The report then outlined local policing priorities as set out in the local policing plan for the area as well as listing senior officers in the Greater Glasgow Division with responsibility for licensing matters.

The report then outlined the way in which the police performed their licensing role, highlighting the relationships that had been built up with partner agencies to ensure East Renfrewshire licensed premises were safe places to work in and visit.

Details of the various systems used by the police to ensure they had the most up to date information were provided as well as details of the number of incidents or interventions taken by the Licensing Department since April 2017.

It was explained that given the number of licensed premises in the area offending in relation to the Act was relatively low. This was considered to be testament to the department's efforts and good working relationships with the Licensing Standards Officer, licensees, door stewards, security staff and all partner agencies.

The report also outlined some of the work carried out in relation to preventing the sale or supply of alcohol to children or young people, and work to tackle serious and organised crime in the context of licensing, before setting out proposed police activity for the year ahead.

Sergeant Stewart was heard further on the report and in response to questions.

Thereafter, Mr McMahon having thanked Sergeant Stewart for her presentation, the report was noted.

3. INFORMING THE POLICY STATEMENT

Mr McMahon introduced Aidan Collins, Senior Co-ordinator, Alcohol Focus Scotland, and Janice Thomson, ADP Co-ordinator, who made a presentation on the factors that should be taken into account in the preparation of the Licensing Policy Statement, and the role of and contribution to be made by the Forum in terms of the Policy Statement.

It was explained that in terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act, local licensing boards were required to prepare a licensing policy statement for their area which would set out the local principles for licensing. Local Licensing Forums had a contributory role to play in the development of policy statements and both Mr Collins and Ms Thomson were heard on

the roles played by their respective bodies and the way in which these

bodies could support both licensing boards and licensing forums in the development of policy statements. It was noted that the forum had already made comments on the policy statement as part of the current exercise to develop the new policy statement which would be considered later in the meeting.

Having heard from both Mr Collins and Ms Thomson, Mr McMahon on behalf of the meeting thanked them for their presentation.

4. DRAFT LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT

Under reference to the previous item, the meeting took up consideration of a report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board presenting the draft Statement of Licensing Policy.

Accompanying the policy was the Clerk's response to the various comments and suggestions that had been made by the Forum as part of the early consultation on the new draft policy.

Following discussion the draft policy was noted.

5. COMPLAINTS

The meeting considered a report by the Licensing Standards Officer providing general information on the number and types of reports received over the period January to December 2018.

The meeting was reminded that it had previously been agreed by the forum that whilst not entitled to focus on individual complaint, this being the duty of the licensing board, a report with general information showing trends and types of complaint would be useful.

The report indicated that over the course of the year a total of 141 complaints had been raised. Details of the category of licence in respect of which the complaints had been made, the general nature of the complaints, whether or not mediation was required, and any further action required were listed.

Having heard Mr McMahon in response to questions, the report was noted.

6. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The meeting considered and approved a report by the Clerk outlining proposed meeting dates for 2019.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 12 March 2019 at 7pm in the Council Chamber.