

MINUTE

of

EAST RENFREWSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM AND
EAST RENFREWSHIRE LICENSING BOARD

Minute of joint meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 15 September 2015.

Present:

Local Residents

Caroline Church
Ken Hunter
Frank McGee
Helena Shanks

Health/Social Work

Janice Thomson

Licensees

Keith Miller

Licensing Standards Officer

Dominic McMahon

Strathclyde Police

Chief Inspector Angela Carty

Licensing Board

Councillors Charlie Gilbert, Kenny Hay Stewart Miller and Tommy Reilly.

Dominic McMahon presided

Attending:

Eamonn Daly, Clerk to the Forum; Jacqui McCusker, Senior Solicitor.

Apologies:

James Breckenridge, Bruce Tulloch and Fiona Macdonald.

ACTION BY

1. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The meeting considered and approved the Minute of the previous joint meeting held on 3 February 2014.

2. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that there were no matters arising from the Minute.

3. POLICE SCOTLAND ANNUAL REPORT

Mr McMahon invited Chief Inspector Carty to present the police annual report for the period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, prepared in accordance with Section 12A of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.

Chief Inspector Carty was heard further on the report in the course of which she referred to the National Liquor and Civic Licensing Policy Unit. This was a specialist department which, working with divisional licensing teams, shaped policy and strategy concerning the police licensing function in conjunction with providing practical and tactical advice to police licensing practitioners operational officers supervisors and policing commanders. She explained that the licensing objectives contained in the legislation linked nicely with the police's own priorities.

Thereafter Chief Inspector Carty provided some information in relation to the operational arrangements in the East Renfrewshire area, explaining that the licensing board area was policed by Greater Glasgow Division. She also referred to the partnership working taking place and to the close working relationship with the Licensing Standards Officer. She commented on the intervention process used by the police as part of their operational policing toolkit highlighting that it had not been considered necessary to implement the process for any East Renfrewshire licensed premises.

Details of the number of licence applications submitted in 2014/15 having been provided, Chief Inspector Carty provided further information regarding the work carried out by the police in relation to the prevention of the sale or supply of alcohol to children or young persons. She explained that this was more in relation to agent sales rather than direct sales to young people, and also referred to the key role played by campus cops in relation to educating young people.

Chief Inspector Carty was then heard on some of the work being carried out in relation to serious and organised crime where licensed premises were often used as a "front" for illegal activities. In conclusion Chief Inspector Carty was then heard on some of the proposed police activity for the coming year.

Thereafter full discussion took place in the course of which reference was made to the new "Innkeeper" IT licensing solution that had been purchased and the perceived benefits of the system.

Mr McMahon also supported the comments made in relation to the close working relationship he had with the police, referring in particular to weekly meetings he had with local police to identify potential issues.

On behalf of the meeting, Mr McMahon thanked Chief Inspector Carty for the presentation.

4. FORUM MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

The meeting considered a paper prepared by Alcohol Focus Scotland providing information relating to licensing forum membership across the country. The paper explained that membership varied from area to area and highlighted a number of emerging themes. These included that some areas did not have a health representative member, that forums in general were having difficulty in attracting either young persons or persons representative of young persons.

The paper was noted.

5. REVIEW OF LICENSING BOARD

The meeting took up consideration of a report relative to the review of the operations of the Licensing Board conducted by the Council's Chief Executive. A copy of the Chief Executive's report was attached.

Councillor Reilly, Chair of the Licensing board, having commented further on the reason for the review, Ms Church sought clarification of the status of the Board's policy statement.

In reply it was explained that the Board had now approved the policy statement and that the reason for the delay in this had been finalising the overprovision statement.

It was noted that policy statements were to cover the period 2013/2016 and that the next policy statements were scheduled to be in place from November 2016, although Mr McMahon, referring to the provisions of the new Air Weapons and Licensing Act explained that the timescales for policy statements may be amended and pushed back to May 2017.

The meeting noted the report.

6. EAST RENFREWSHIRE ALCOHOL AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY PLAN 2015-2018

The meeting considered the East Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drugs partnership Delivery Plan 2015-2018.

Having set out the role of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) and set out the outcomes the delivery plan was intended to achieve, the plan provided details of the governance and accountability arrangements for the ADP and the financial framework for the period covered by the plan. Thereafter, the plan listed ADP and Ministerial priorities and associated actions, as well as providing details of the performance framework in

place along with priority actions to improve outcomes for the 2015-2018 period.

Janice Thomson ADP Coordinator was then heard further on the report. She highlighted the complex nature of the work and the importance of any interventions that were introduced were evidence based, targeted and appropriate.

Referring to the activities, she explained that real inroads were being made and that more people were recovering from drug and alcohol problems.

Explaining that East Renfrewshire Council was one of the best performing councils in the country, Ms Thomson reported that feedback on the plan from the Scottish Government had been very positive and the plan had been held up as an example of good practice.

Having heard Ms Thomson further on areas for improvement and the key actions going forward, full discussion took place. In response to a question from Councillor Reilly on “legal highs” Ms Thomson explained that new legislation was being introduced in respect of which there would be a lot of high profile awareness-raising work. Reference was also made to the positive uptake by staff of training in this area.

Mr McMahon also referred to some of the other work taking place and that information on “legal highs” had been incorporated into the recent “Safety in the Park” event.

The meeting noted the report and the additional information.

7. LIFTING OF BAN ON PERSONAL LICENCE HOLDERS

Mr McMahon referred to the legislative provisions whereby if a personal licence holder did not renew their licence on or before the date it was due to expire then they were prohibited from reapplying for a licence for 5 years.

Mrs McCusker explained that the Clerk to the Board had written to personal licence holders several times in advance of the new provisions being introduced but that in the region of 200 licences had been revoked.

However new legislation had now been introduced which allowed anyone whose personal licence had been revoked to reapply for a licence.

The meeting noted the information.

8. ALCOHOL WHOLESALER REGISTRATION SCHEME

The meeting took up consideration of a briefing pack produced by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in relation to the new scheme being introduced to help combat alcohol duty fraud.

Commenting on the pack, Mr McMahon explained that the briefing listed all those elements that would be considered by HMRC, highlighting that applicants would be required to undergo a “fit and proper” test.

He emphasised that the new scheme would place a duty on licenses to ensure that their suppliers were legitimate.

Discussions regarding who would ensure compliance with the scheme were ongoing, although it was being suggested that the responsibility may fall to licensing boards/Licensing Standards Officers or Police Scotland.

It was noted that the number of alcohol wholesales in the area were low.

The meeting noted the information.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next joint meeting would be held on Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 7pm in the Council Chamber.

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