

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

BUNKER, GORDON HOUSE, INVERURIE, 27 JUNE, 2018

Present: Mr A Black, Mr C Endersen, Sgt G Fleet (as a substitute for Insp K McGeough), Mr Fergus Hood, Mr A Killicoat, Mr J McDonald, M Riley and Ms S Ward.

Officers: A Ziarkowska (Committee Officer) Aberdeenshire Council

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting. Thereafter, Members were asked if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and no declarations were intimated.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Mr P Argyle, Mr W Gault, Insp K McGeough, Mr D Moir, Mr J Ross, Ms L Smith, Ms N Thomson, Mr B Topping and Mr S Wood.

3. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In taking decisions on the undernoted items of business, the Partnership **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
 - (b) advance equality and opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (2) to consider, where an equality impact assessment had been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

4. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 23 MAY, 2018

The minute of meeting of 23 May, 2018 was circulated and **approved** as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Committee Officer went through the action sheet from the last meeting advising on progress of each point.

6. PRESENTATION: 'OVERVIEW OF THE ABERDEENSHIRE ALCOHOL & DRUG PARTNERSHIP' BY MICHAEL RILEY, SENIOR COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT WORKER (ADP)

The Chair invited Mr Michael Riley, Senior Community Learning and Development Worker (ADP), to deliver a presentation on ADP role in a licensing process. Mr Riley gave a brief overview of ADP structure and then advised on the operation of Community Forums. It was reported that there are three community forums in Aberdeenshire area (North, Central and South), each having a Community Engagement Officer to support community members in developing their ideas. Reference was made to the Forums' priorities including Prevention, Protection, Recovery and Inclusion. Mr Riley continued by describing the Forum standards (best practice) for community engagement and projects supported through forum participatory budgeting such as Stonehaven Folk Festival, street pastors, Naloxone training and recovery walk. It was observed that Forums have their own community fund to support local initiatives in relation to identified needs around drug and alcohol issues. Mr Riley concluded by outlining the ADP other alcohol priorities including peer support and recovery groups; Community Council Training/information; new ADP website, promotion of alcohol free spaces and events; Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABIs), and alcohol scratch cards.

Thereafter, the Group thanked Mr Riley for his informative presentation and **agreed** to note the information provided.

7. REVIEW OF LICENSING BOARDS' POLICIES

Forum Members were advised that sections 6 and 7 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 require Licensing Boards to review their policy statements and overprovision policy statements within 18 months of new Boards being appointed following local government elections. This means that the Aberdeenshire North, Central and South Boards are currently in the middle of reviewing their existing policy statements. The Boards have a timeline for the policy review which is updated at each Board Meeting and forms part of the agenda for those meetings. The deadline for approval of the revised policy statements is 1 November 2018. It was reported that the draft Policy Document was approved by all three Licensing Boards and that officers would formally consult on the document between 2 July and 13 September, 2018 and thereafter report back to the Boards at their October Board Meetings for consideration of approval of the final Policy Statement Document. Members were advised that Licensing Forum will be consulted as part of that process and that all details will be issued to Forum Members in due course.

During discussion, Members identified a need for organising a separate Forum session for the purpose of revising the draft Policy Document to highlight the areas where changes are required and to discuss the ongoing issues.

After consideration, Members **agreed** to organise a 'get together' session in August in order to discuss the issues raised, review the draft Policy Document and put together the formal Forum response to consultation.

8. CONSIDERATION OF ACTION PLAN

There was circulated a proposed draft of the Aberdeenshire Local Licensing Forum Action Plan. Members were reminded of a need for developing the Forum action plan by identifying and allocating steps/tasks which would help Forum in the accomplishment of its vision and objectives. It was observed that Members should formulate the action plan by compiling a list of potential changes to be sought that will result in the accomplishment of the Forum goals. It was also observed that Members should be given sufficient time to identify the relevant actions and assess its feasibility and importance in the Forum operation. Once approved, Members agreed to discuss how the Forum will use action plan, evaluate critically its appropriateness and set out criteria for its regular review.

After consideration, the Forum **agreed** that consideration of the action plan be deferred to the future meeting to allow time for detail review of the draft Policy Document.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As Wayne Gault was unable to attend and present the item, Committee Officer provided a very brief insight into the MUP wholesale issue. There was circulated a letter from Scottish Government containing a statement on wholesalers and the application of minimum unit pricing (MUP). The letter stated that the Scottish Government is aware of a technical issued related to the interpretation of how minimum unit pricing operates in respect of trade sales by wholesalers which have opted to hold a premises license. The letter clarified that wholesalers selling to trade only are not required to hold a premises licence and so minimum unit pricing does not apply. The letter concluded that the Scottish Government considers that a legislative change is required in order to clarify the situation and consultation on that would be issued shortly.

After discussion, Forum **agreed** to note the information provided in the update.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members discussed the frequency and venues of future meetings. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Forum would take place on Wednesday, 15 August, 2018 at 2.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Gordon House, Inverurie.