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From: Lauren Cowie
Sent: 18 September 2017 17:47
Subject: Consultation on Localities - Aberdeenshire Licensing Boards

Importance: High

Locality Consultation

The three Licensing Boards in Aberdeenshire are reviewing their statements of licensing policy. As part of this review the Boards must consider to what extent if any there may be overprovision of licensed premises in any locality within the Board area. It is for each Board to determine the "localities" within the Board area. The Board may determine that the whole of the Board area is a locality. If a locality was found to have overprovision, there is a presumption against any new premises obtaining a licence for the sale of alcohol without being able to demonstrate that they are compliant with the licensing objectives.

North Board Area

The Board concluded that the localities should follow the pattern of the administrative areas within Aberdeenshire so that the Board area was split into three localities namely:

The statements on overprovision in the Boards' current policies which took effect as from 30 November 2013 define the existing localities for the purposes of overprovision as follows (the most up to date population figures have been provided):-

North Board	Population (mid-2016 estimate)
Banff and Buchan	36,517
Buchan	41,755
North Formartine	14,130

Central Board

The Board decided that the localities should be based on the Aberdeenshire Council wards and would be:-

	Population (mid-2016 estimate)
Mid Formartine	16,091
Ellon & District	14,719
West Garioch	11,112
Inverurie & District	14,954
East Garioch	13,031
Westhill & District	14,888
Huntly, Strathbogie & Howe of Alford	16,202
Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside	10,406 (This figure is for the entire Ward - part of; this Ward straddles the Central and South Board areas)

South Board

The Board decided that the localities should be based on the Aberdeenshire council wards and would be:-

	Population (mid-2016 estimate)
Aboyne, Upper Deeside & Donside	10,406 (This figure is for the entire Ward - part of; this Ward straddles the Central and South Board areas)
North Kincardine	15,937
Stonehaven and Lower Deeside	14,880
Mearns	15,759
Banchory and Mid Deeside	11,809

Background

The Aberdeenshire Licensing Boards would like to hear the views of interested parties as to what the localities ought to be in each Board area. The Boards will consider the views expressed however the determination as to what the localities should be in each Board area is solely a matter for each of the respective three Boards.

The Boards note that alcohol consumption and purchasing patterns have changed over recent decades and that an increasing amount of alcohol is bought from off sales premises and that people travel further to buy alcohol. This may be particularly the case for rural areas where outlets may be situated at some distance. This might suggest that using only small localities is not always appropriate for assessing overprovision in relation to all licensed premises and for all licensing objectives, particularly the public health objective. At the same time the Boards note that there may be certain settlements where certain statistics might suggest that it would be helpful to define a relatively small locality and it might be possible to define a broad locality, for example the whole of a Board area or an Aberdeenshire Council administrative area and at the same time select individual smaller localities within that broad area. This latter approach may be helpful if there are certain towns and settlements where statistics might indicate that there are certain issues that might be associated with one or more licensing objectives. (In the case of the crime and disorder, public safety and public nuisance objectives these are sometimes referred to as "hotspots"). The Scottish Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation mapping tool might also be used to identify particular areas the Boards may determine as discrete localities for the purposes of the overprovision statement.

Questions (note you need only answer the questions in relation to one or two of the three Board areas if you so wish and you do not need to address all three Board areas)

Do you think the Boards should retain the existing localities within each Board area as currently determined for the purposes of assessing overprovision?

If not, what do you think the localities should be?

Do you have any other comments in relation to the determination of locality for the purposes of the overprovision statement within each of the Boards' Licensing Policy statements?

Thank you. It would be helpful to have your views by **Tuesday 3 October 2017** so that the Boards can begin the process of determining locality at the October round of Board meetings beginning with the South Board on 4 October. Please respond to licensingpolicyreview@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

For the Community Councils – I understand that this is a tight deadline and that you may not have a meeting at which you can discuss this element of our policy. We would welcome any comments that you have and if you are able to ascertain some comments via email we would be most appreciative. This is a small, but important, part of the process and we have built in much more time for engagement with you throughout the policy review process as per our earlier email. If you have any queries, please contact my colleague Peter Robertson through the licensingpolicyreview@aberdeenshire.gov.uk email address.

Kind regards, and looking forward to hearing from you,

Lauren

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