

## **ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **SOUTH ABERDEENSHIRE LICENSING FORUM**

**TOWN HALL, STONEHAVEN, 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017**

**Present:** Mr Alistair Black, Mr Chris Endersen, Mr Michael Riley and Mr Keith Simpson.

**Officer:** Anna Ziarkowska (Assistant Committee Officer), Aberdeenshire Council

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Mr Kenneth McGeough and Mr Peter Argyle.

#### **2. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2017**

There was circulated and **approved** the Minute of Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

Members were given a brief update as to the Single Licensing Forum proposal. It was mentioned that Committee Report with recommendation to agree on the formation of Single Aberdeenshire Licensing Forum would be submitted to Business Services Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. Members would be advised on the outcome of the Committee decision in due course.

Mr Keith Simpson reported that there is still ongoing uncertainty over the process for renewing personal licences after the initial 10 year period and the level of training that is required. Members were informed about difficulties in obtaining guidance and information from the Government on training requirements: whether personal licence holders need to undertake a full licence training or refresher training before the licence expiry date. It was noted that this issue was picked up at the SOLAR meeting and Mr Simpson will report back to the Forum once the training requirements are confirmed.

Thereafter, Committee Officer went through the action sheet from the last meeting to provide an update on progress in respect of each point. There were no further matters arising.

#### **4. LICENSING BOARD REVIEW OF POLICY STATEMENT– CONSULTATION PROCESS**

Members were informed about the Consultation on Localities launched by the Licensing Board and invited to consider the proposed localities within the South Board area. It was noted that data regarding the population provided in a table attached was not sufficient to properly determine the localities. Members were interested to see how many facilities operate within the area and where is the largest concentration of them. It was observed that having 'hot spots' within the identified wards would allow to better control and monitor the overprovision. Members recommended to break down the current wards in to smaller areas/zones and required an evidence as to the number of outlets in the town centre. Despite the observations made, Members were happy to continue with the current localities based on the AC Wards highlighting the need for greater flexibility which would allow to focus on particular zones in towns - otherwise the localities would be too restrictive.

Members were advised that there will be a joint meeting set up between the Board and the Forum to discuss matters in respect of the review of the liquor licensing policy statement.

It was reported that there is ongoing discussion with the Board to identify the suitable day and Forum Members would be informed about meeting details in due course.

After consideration, the Forum **agreed** to:

1/ organise informal get together session for the Forum members to prepare for a discussion with the Board on the review of the Licensing Policy Statement.

2/ identify and set up a meeting between the Board and the Forum to discuss matters in respect of the Review of Licensing Policy Statement.

3/ forward Forum's comments & suggestions in respect of the consultation on localities to the Licensing Policy Review Team

## **5. LICENSING BOARD UPDATE**

During Mr Peter Argyle absence, Members were advised that Board has 18 months from the date of the election to reconsider and agree a new policy for licensing. It was reported that consultation process has been already initiated and Licensing Forum should take advantage of this opportunity to share their views with the Board and influence the licensing policy change. Members were also informed that there will be a joint session organised between Forum and the Board to discuss the review process.

After consideration, the Forum **agreed** to note the information provided.

## **6. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICER UPDATE**

Keith Simpson advised that most premises operate well in South area and things progressing very smoothly in respect of the liquor licensing. Members were also advised that new post of Civil Licensing Standard Officer has been introduced by statute to ensure compliance with conditions of civic licensing which may potentially impact on the LSOs' workload. Despite the fact that a lot of work is required around taking on the new role, Members were assured that LSOs will remain equally focus on alcohol issues.

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

## **7. POLICE UPDATE**

During the Police representative absence, the update from Police Scotland would be provided to Members at the next Forum meeting.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Riley advised that Alcohol Forum Scotland recently published the Community Licensing Toolkit which provides guidance for local community on how to get involved in Alcohol Licensing. Members were also informed about the South Community Council Forum – it was reported that forum brings all the community councils in the area together for information sharing and networking and represents communities' views on licensing. Members were invited to contact Mr Riley if they wish to raise a particular issue for the CC Forum attention or to work closer with Community Councils.

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Forum would take place on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at 10.00a.m. in Stonehaven.