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| **THE FIFE COUNCIL -** **FIFE LICENSING FORUM – REMOTE MEETING** | | |
| **25 February, 2021** | | **2.00 p.m. – 3.40 p.m.** |
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| **PRESENT:** | Jeff Ellis (Convener), John Barclay, Jim Bett, Fiona Rattray, Team Manager, Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services, Gordon Hood, Licensing Sergeant, Police Scotland, Paul Madill, Consultant, Public Health, NHS Fife, Susan Normansell, Licensing Standards Officer (for Douglas Hardaker), Rebecca Shovlin, Policy Officer, Fife Alcohol & Drug Partnership and Paul Smith. | |
| **ATTENDING:** | Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services | |
| **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** | Izzy Corbin, Douglas Hardaker, Lead Officer, Environmental Health (Public Protection) and David Henderson. | |

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| **1.** | **Welcome and Introductions** |
|  | Jeff Ellis, Convener, welcomed members to the meeting. |
| **2.** | **Minute of Joint Meeting of Fife Licensing Board/Fife Licensing Forum of 26 November 2020** |
|  | The Forum considered the minute of the Joint Meeting of Fife Licensing Board/Fife Licensing Forum of 26 November 2020. |
|  | **Decision** |
|  | The Forum agreed to:-   1. approve the minute; and 2. noted that, due to changes in the government guidance in respect of the Covid 19 pandemic, the letter agreed at the meeting had not been issued. |
| **3.** | **Updates from Fife Licensing Board** |
|  | The Forum considered reports detailing the business of the Fife Licensing Board - 'List of Decisions' from the Board meetings of 17th August, 14th September and 9th November, 2020, which were sub-divided into: New Grant(s); Provisional(s); Variation (Major)(s); Premises Licence Review(s), Personal Licence(s), Personal Licence Review(s), Temporary(s) and Occasional(s). |
|  | **Decision** |
|  | The Forum noted the decisions of the Board Meetings on 17th August, 14th September and 9th November, 2020. |
| **4./** |  |
| **4.** | **Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic Restrictions** |
|  | Members discussed the continuing impact of the COVID pandemic on the licensed trade and hospitality sector. A report by the All Party Parliamentary Group for the Night Time Economy entitled 'COVID-19 and UK Nightlife' had been circulated to members along with a Public Health Scotland briefing paper on alcohol sales and consumption in Scotland during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.  There was general concern at the impact of the Government restrictions and closures on licensed premises during the pandemic and the subsequent effect on the sustainability of these premises should the measures continue for an extended period. A significant number of premises had already permanently closed during the pandemic and there was a need for additional assistance from the Government to ensure that premises could be supported throughout this time. It was however, also noted that premises had a responsibility to ensure that Government guidelines were being adhered to and previous visits by officers had found this was not always the case.  There was also discussion on the future impact of on-line alcohol sales and home consumption once licensed premises reopened and it was suggested that representation on the Forum of additional members from the on-line sales sector be sought. |
|  | **Decision** |
|  | The Forum agreed to:-   1. note the current COVID-19 pandemic situation relating to licensed premises and the point raised; and 2. seek representation on the Forum from members of the on-line alcohol sales sector. |
| **5.** | **Alcohol focus Scotland - eFocus Newsletters** |
|  | The Forum was advised that eFocus newsletters could be accessed directly through the Alcohol Focus Scotland website and a link was provided. |
|  | **Decision** |
|  | The Forum noted the information provided. |
| **6.** | **Any other competent business** |
|  | No items of other competent business were raised. |
| **7.** | **Date of next Meeting** |
|  | The Forum noted that the next meeting would be the Joint meeting with Fife Licensing Board on 22nd April, 2021 at 2.00 p.m. |

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