

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE LICENSING FORUM – BLENDED MEETING**

**Committee Room 2, Floor 5, Fife House, Glenrothes**

**23 November 2023**

**2.00 pm – 3.10 pm**

**PRESENT:** Gregor Hannah (Convener), John Barclay, Clare Campbell, Catherine Chudleigh, Izzy Corbin, Gillian Dewar, Jeff Ellis, Douglas Hardaker, Neil Ewing, Paul Smith and Jo Worrall.

**ATTENDING:** Rebecca Shovlin, Policy Officer, Health and Social Care; Nicky Corletto, Licensing Standards Officer; Kirsty Wilson, Solicitor and Wendy MacGregor, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Chris Clarke, St Andrews Student Association, Morag Douglas, Licence holder, Helen Hutton, FAAS and Peter Reid, Scottish Government.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Tom Adams.

**12. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Convener, Gregor Hannah, welcomed everyone to the meeting, noted apologies and acknowledged the recent retirement of Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Fife Council. On behalf of the Forum, the Convener thanked Elizabeth for her valued support to the members of the Forum.

**13. MINUTE**

The Forum:-

- (a) considered the minutes of the meeting of the Fife Licensing Forum on 24 August 2023 and 18 September 2023; and
- (b) noted that the minutes from the meeting of the Fife Licensing Forum on 25 May 2023, had not been approved and agreed to also consider those minutes.

**Decision**

The Forum agreed to approve the minutes of the meetings on 25 May, 24 August and 18 September 2023.

**14. APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS**

The Forum considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services seeking agreement to appoint new members to the Forum, following agreement at the meeting of Fife Council on 22 June 2023, to increase the membership from 15 to 18 members.

## 2023 FLF 5

The Forum has a current membership of 12 members and 6 vacancies. Five persons had expressed an interest in joining the Forum, the report provided a brief outline of their interests and relevant experience.

### **Decision**

The Forum agreed to appoint 5 new members:- Susanna Galea-Singer, Addiction Services NHS Fife; Peter Reid, Fife resident; Morag Douglas - Licence Holder; James Torrance - Licence Holder; and Helen Hutton, FASS, Health and Social Care Partnership.

## **15. CHIEF CONSTABLE'S ANNUAL REPORT 1 APRIL 2022 - 31 MARCH 2023**

The Forum considered the Chief Constable's Annual Licensing Report for the period 2022/23.

### **Decision**

The Forum noted the contents of the report.

## **16. POLICE REPORT**

Neil Ewing, Licensing Sergeant Police Scotland, provided an update on the work of the Police since the last meeting. He advised that joint visits had been carried out with the licensing standards officers to premises where issues had been highlighted and provided advice as required. Positive engagement continued with licensed premises, with Police supporting both Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy Pub Watch Schemes, in preparation for the busy festive period during December.

### **Decision**

The Forum noted the update.

## **17. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICERS UPDATE**

Douglas Hardaker advised that recruitment was underway for a new Licensing Standards Officer following a resignation from the current officer. The team had been carrying out visits to small shops over the past couple of months and noted a rise in the number of shops that had introduced operating plans in their premises.

### **Decision**

The Forum:-

- (1) noted the update;
- (2) raised concerns that delivery drivers had either no training or inadequate training when supplying or selling alcohol which could result in individuals under 18 years of age accepting orders of alcohol; and
- (3) following a discussion, agreed the Chair of the Forum would contact the Fife Licensing Board and Scottish Ministers to highlight the concerns raised by the Forum for the requirement of training for delivery drivers when supplying/selling alcohol.

## 18. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

The Forum considered a report by Catherine Chudleigh, Public Health Consultant, NHS Fife, providing an update on the following:-

- impact of overprovision in Fife through detailed analysis of the provision and harms associated with Alcohol in Fife, several areas had been identified where alcohol provision and harms were high, recommendations had been submitted to the Licensing Board but not upheld;
- detailed response was submitted to the Alcohol Licensing Statement consultation, identifying opportunities for strengthening the statement in relation to the public health objective; consideration on work to reduce harms associated with alcohol in communities with the affected by the highest rates of alcohol related harm in Fife;
- a summary report on Substance Use in Fife;
- Fife ADP Stakeholder engagement event; and
- completion of a detailed review of alcohol specific deaths, a report would be brought to the Forum in due course for discussion.

### Decision

The Forum noted the updates.

## 19. UPDATES FROM FIFE LICENSING BOARD

The Forum considered the Lists of Decisions from the Fife Licensing Board meetings on 21 August and 2 October 2023.

### Decision

The Forum noted the Lists of Decisions from the Fife Licensing Board meetings on 21 August and 2 October 2023.

## 20. MEETING DATES FOR 2024

The members of the Forum discussed future meetings of the Forum in 2024, including whether the day and time of future meetings should be altered, to assist in securing a quorum to allow business to be transacted.

### Decision

The Forum:-

- (1) agreed to continue to hold meetings on a Thursday at 2pm; and
- (2) noted that the Committee Officer would circulate dates for meetings in 2024 to all members of the Forum.

## 21. ALCOHOL FOCUS SCOTLAND - EFOCUS NEWSLETTERS

The Forum noted that eFocus newsletters could be accessed directly through the Alcohol Focus Scotland Website, a link to the newsletters was also provided for members use.

**22. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

Following a discussion on Minimum Unit Pricing, it was suggested MUP could be an increased which would aid in the decrease of alcohol consumption, concerns were raised that there would be risk that users would find other means of substance abuse as a substitute.