

Argyll and Bute Council
Comhairle Earra Ghaidheal agus Bhoid

Customer Services
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12 December 2012

NOTICE OF MEETING

A joint meeting of the **ARGYLL AND BUTE LICENSING BOARD AND LOCAL LICENSING FORUM** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD** on **WEDNESDAY, 19 DECEMBER 2012 at 9:00 AM**, which you are requested to attend.

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director - Customer Services

BUSINESS

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)**
3. **MINUTES**
Joint Meeting of Argyll and Bute Licensing Board and Argyll and Bute Local Licensing Forum held on 28 September 2011 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. **REVIEW OF ARGYLL AND BUTE LICENSING BOARD'S LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT**(Pages 9 - 32)

Contact: Shona Marshall Tel. No. 01546 604407

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MINUTE OF
JOINT MEETING OF LICENSING BOARD AND LICENSING FORUM
28 SEPTEMBER 2011
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD

Point 2 on Agenda

Minutes of previous meeting of the Licensing Board and Licensing Forum were approved.

After approval of the minutes of the last meeting, Councillor Currie raised an issue regarding occasional licenses which was discussed at the previous Board meeting. The issue which arose was voluntary organisations applying for occasional licences to run private functions. Councillor Currie suggested that this process had been approved at the last Board meeting. Depute Clerk to the Board, Peter Robertson, suggested that the issue raised by Councillor Currie had been approved accordingly to certain parameters - there must be a link between the event and the organisation. Peter Robertson was not aware that the Board had committed itself to approving this whole process. Licensing Standards Officer, Eric Dearie, specified that the 2005 Act was clear that the event must be linked to the voluntary organisation. He also specified that a voluntary organisation cannot run a private function.

Councillor Currie raised the issue that on Islay, hotels will not run bars for private parties. There is a good opportunity for fund raising for voluntary organisations to undertake this function. Eric Dearie suggested that a personal licence holder could apply to run the function in his own right. Chairman of the Licensing Forum, Eric Box, suggested that the minute from the previous joint meeting could not be amended to include this matter. Councillor Currie said he did want to discuss the matter. Eric Box replied that he would question whether the joint meeting was the correct forum to discuss this matter. Chair of the Licensing Board, Councillor Kelly, queried whether there had been any licences issued in this manner. Eric Dearie replied that there had been one licence granted in this manner but subsequent to that licence being granted, he had made clear to the applicant that it was not the proper method for doing so.

Peter Robertson said that he didn't think there was anything the Board could do about this as there is a requirement that the Board function within the legislative framework. Councillor Kelly agreed with this. Councillor Mackay questioned how we interpret the legal framework where there are different needs considering that in the central belt functions always take place in licensed premises. He suggested that in Argyll and Bute perhaps we might need to deal with this different issue. He suggested that this is the forum to discuss the matter as thoughts could be picked up

and comments taken from all people involved. Councillor Mackay further stated that there may be a need to put this issue on the agenda for the next meeting. Eric Box suggested that it may be a good idea to contact other Boards and if the problem is seen to persist and to be apparent within other Board areas, it may be necessary to report to Parliament. Councillor Kelly questioned whether it was appropriate for a personal licence holder to get an occasional licence. Eric Box queried what action those present would be wishing to take. Callum MacLachlan questioned why the meeting would be taking any action. The solution was for people holding functions to get a personal licence holder to make an occasional application. Russell Buchanan questioned whether it would be a good idea to put the required information into a leaflet or advert in the paper. Callum MacLachlan suggested that it could be mentioned to all applicants when the application came in.

Iain MacNaughton asked whether there was any legal obligation on a personal licence holder. Callum MacLachlan confirmed there was but the licence was just a licence to sell alcohol and there was no financial control involved. Eric Dearie stated that a personal licence holder was responsible for the licence. Councillor Currie thanked everybody for their input and stated that the situation was now clearer.

Point 3 on Agenda

Criminal Justice and Licensing Act 2010 and the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 : presentation by Legal Services Manager – Corporate, Peter Robertson. At the end of his presentation, Peter Robertson asked if there were any questions from those present. Councillor McKay questioned the widening of the LSO's powers and queried what seizing articles entailed. Eric Dearie suggested that this could involve seizures of alcohol, seizures of measures of alcohol but it would depend upon the infringement alleged. Councillor McKay questioned whether these seizures could include a noise limiter on a sound system. Eric Dearie responded that could be removed in a very wide ranging power for evidence gathering. The LSO would not be in a position to charge for an offence but the powers granted would be similar to those granted to police for seizing documents etc.

Councillor McKay further questioned whether this could allow the removal of a doctored licence. Eric Dearie responded that it could.

Iain MacNaughton questioned the statistic of 6% of people within the West Dunbartonshire Licensing Authority area being alcohol dependant and whether there was a provision for alcohol dependant individuals to receive a daily allowance for the purchase of alcohol in a similar way to heroin addicts receiving methadone. Peter Robertson stated he was not aware of this. Kath Cakebread said there was no definition of alcoholic and there was no such thing as a registered alcoholic and that the biggest problem with alcohol abuse came from those drinking just a bit too much but were possibly not dependant on alcohol. Peter Robertson suggested that the 6% referred to related to those addicted to alcohol. Kath Cakebread said that referrals

or admissions to hospital could be counted but there has been no relevant study for alcohol carried out. Kath Cakebread further stated that we don't provide money for addicts for alcohol, which will do additional harm to the body.

Councillor Currie had a further query regarding occasional licenses and questioned whether we are getting the message out that 35 days is needed for an occasional licence to be processed. Peter Robertson stated that the Board has discretion to grant occasional licences within a smaller time frame. Russell Buchanan suggested that it would be worthwhile to put information on the Council website highlighting the 35 days required to process an occasional licence.

Point 4 on Agenda

Publicity

Eric Box raised the issue of publicity of the Board and Forum suggesting this had been discussed previously but there had been little impact. Eric Box asked those present whether it would be worth extending this. He further suggested that it was important that people were aware of the good work being done. Councillor Kelly questioned what information would be supplied to people. Eric Box suggested that there was lots of useful information from Alcohol Focus Scotland. Martin Donovan questioned whether this information was to be passed within the trade or outside of the licensed trade. Eric Box suggested both.

Martin Donovan suggested that it was struggle to know what the Forum was looking for from the licensed trade and there were issues of licensing boards putting different interpretations on mandatory conditions. He suggested that the Board should decide what it wanted, not tweak. Callum MacLachlan stated that the licensed trade functions in much the same way as other trades. Callum MacLachlan queried what the Forum had achieved, suggesting that there was a struggle to see a benefit. Councillor Currie said it was good for the Board to hear from the trade. Eric Box considered that there is a misconception on what the Forum is for. In his opinion, it is not to change the world – it is to review use of the Act, operation of the Board and to advise the Board. Callum MacLachlan questioned whether the Forum had been productive.

Martin Donovan suggested there were too many non-publicans on the Forum. Callum MacLachlan responded that he would not want to see an imbalance in members of the Forum but questioned whether the licensed trade members were sufficiently interested. He further asked whether the Licensing Board feel the Forum has a point to make. Councillor McKay stated that the 2005 Act is clear that the Forum is to advise the Board but in a lot of other areas the Act is not so clear. He felt that the Forum was an opportunity for the Board to hear from interested groups. He said it was not an advisory body but was an appropriate body for discussion.

Callum MacLachlan raised the issue of the Licensing Forum requesting that matters be dealt with by the Licensing Board, asking whether the Forum provides questions in writing and the Board provided answers in writing. Then people would see and know what the policy position of the Board and Forum were. Callum MacLachlan further questioned whether written responses would be received from the Board. Eric Box considered that it was his understanding that this would be so. Callum MacLachlan stated that the Forum has regularly asked questions of the Board over the years and stated that had these questions and answers been published everybody would know what had been done. He further questioned whether anybody present had any issues with recording or publicity. Councillor Kelly said that the question and answers could be recorded. Callum MacLachlan suggested that they should not just be in the form of a minute of a meeting but in the form of a specific answer to a question. Brian Kupris said that when the licensing policy was formed, the Forum had a long list of questions and recommendations for the Board. He further stated that the Forum did finally receive some responses from the Board. However, he considered that some were readily responded to and to some there were no responses. Councillor Kelly said that if questions were put to the Board answers would be provided. He considered that the Board had initially been very busy meeting every month and dealing with new legislation. He further suggested that any questions or queries could be forwarded to Eric Dearie and the LSO could deal with providing answers. Councillor Kelly stated that the licensing office is always busy and there are queries coming in to licensing administration staff all the time. Peter Robertson stated that if any licence holder or member of the public wants advice, they can always contact the LSO or licensing staff. He considered that staff are not inundated with queries on the Act rather they received queries regarding applications processed. Peter Robertson further stated that if the Licensing Board received a recommendation from the Forum but decided not to follow the recommendation, reasons for this decision must be provided to the Forum. He also stated that it was important that the Forum consulted on the formulation and review of licensing policy.

Councillor Reay commented that he sees the Licensing Forum as being similar to Community Councils. If the Forum were to see an issue with licensing, it would be the Boards responsibility to deal with the issue. Callum MacLachlan said that it would be good to see the interaction between the Board and the Forum. He further stated that licensees have a responsibility to know what they are doing or to seek answer to questions. Councillor Mackay questioned whether the Licensing Forum should be providing input to Local Area Community Planning Groups. He suggested a wide range of members in Local Area Community Planning Groups and it would be conduit for information from the Licensing Board. Iain MacNaughton said that he saw the Licensing Board as a separate entity and that regular attendance would not be useful. Russell Buchanan stated that the Forum has done a lot of work and put a lot of information to the Licensing Board but in his opinion there does not appear to be much evidence of what the Forum had done.

Councillor Currie asked how often the Forum met. Eric Box stated that there was a statutory minimum of once a year but there have been more meetings of the local Licensing Forum in Argyll and Bute. Russell Buchanan considered that the agenda for the Licensing Forum was always historical and there may be a need to discuss more up to date issues. Callum MacLachlan stated that the economic situation would need to be considered as, in his opinion, pubs closing was not good for any community. He considered people sometimes miss the community role of pubs. Russell Buchanan stated that the smoking ban has been tremendously successful in stopping smoking but has, in his opinion, failed as a social policy as it has driven smoking back into homes where it can affect young persons.

Eric Box reminded the group that they were intended to discuss publicity at this point. Councillor Currie stated that it was important to remember that the whisky industry provides huge sums of money to the exchequer each year. Councillor McKay stated that, to his memory, the Community Council has not discussed closed pubs in Oban. There is often discussion of closed shops. Eric Box asked those present whether he was right in thinking there was no desire to pursue greater publicity. There was a general consensus for this.

Councillor Currie questioned whether the agenda for meetings should be set by the Forum. Russell Buchanan responded that it was a joint agenda which would be created giving enough time prior to the meeting for those to do research. Councillor McCuish stated that, in his opinion, the agendas were often too safe. He would like to see a more risky agenda and he considered it was important that those present should be able to answer questions but if they could not do so, to seek answers to questions. Eric Box questioned whether another joint meeting should be convened in six months. There was agreement to this proposal. Councillor Kelly suggested February or the beginning of March for the next joint meeting. Brian Kupris suggested that the Forum discuss at their next meeting what the Forum would like to put on the agenda for the joint meeting.

Callum MacLachlan queried whether there was any way in which the Licensing Board could recognise that licensees do more than just what is required by the Act. He considered that could be good as it could be seen by less competent licensees that it was a good idea to become a better licensee.

He questioned whether it could be Board policy to recognise better licensees. Councillor Kelly, chair of the Licensing Board, stated that this would be reflected in Board practice. Councillor McCuish questioned whether Callum MacLachlan was suggesting that there should be some benefit to being a good licensee. Callum MacLachlan confirmed. Councillor McKay reminded those present that the Board took into account local knowledge along with reports from the LSO, police, environmental health and other interested parties. Peter Robertson suggested that for a proposal, such as that raised by Callum MacLachlan, there would require to be some form of accreditation for licensees. Councillor Kelly stated that the premises

not toeing the line knew who they were and that nobody is getting away with anything.

Iain MacNaughton questioned whether a signal could be sent to licensees. Councillor Kelly responded that he believed that a signal had been sent where needed. Callum MacLachlan stated that it was important that licensees see the benefit of doing good work. Councillor McKay asked those present take those factors into account. Councillor Reay suggested that the reputation of the Licensing Board is evolving. If someone is not co-operating, the Board will come down heavy upon them and that this is known to licensees.

Tim Saul, a representative of the On-Trade on Bute, raised a query regarding license renewal fees and suggested that there had been an increase in fees which was too great. The question, however, was: is there a plan to review fee levels for renewals? Peter Robertson responded that the Board were aware of the issue and there had also been issues raised regarding the costs for application plans as required by the Act. Peter Robertson further stated that the administration of the licensing process is intended to be self funding. There had been huge amounts of work which had to be done but the level of work may level out. At that point, there may be some scope for capping or reducing fees. There is a perceived unfairness that the fees are set by rateable value but rateable value is capped. There is suggestion that large Tesco's and other large supermarket stores may end up paying the same licensing fees as smaller independent shops. He further stated that there had been a suggestion that fees should relate to the value of alcohol sold and that the Licensing Board could look to see if there was scope to consider the feeing levels. Councillor Kelly requested that a report be put to the Licensing Board.

Tim Saul suggested that the licence fee increases had led to a number of small premises deciding to de-licence when the new Act had come into force and a number of these had continued to operate as "bring your own bottle" premises. In his opinion, this permitted unsupervised consumption which was not controlled by the Act.

Eric Box raised consideration of correspondence from Alcohol Focus Scotland regarding the National Communities Project. Councillor Kelly stated that there had been an e-mail from a Carolyn Church who wished to look at the alcohol issues in the area. Councillor Currie queried whether another survey was needed. Callum MacLachlan was in agreement with Councillor Currie's point of view.

Fred Bruce queried whether Lochgilphead would provide a good base for a survey. Kath Cakebread suggested that the proposed project would be looking to show alcohol is a community issue rather than purely a health issue or purely a police issue. She further stated that she also had reservations about using Lochgilphead a base for the survey.

Callum MacLachlan queried who would pay for a survey such as this. Kath Cakebread responded that a similar project carried out in Blackburn had been paid for by the Robertson Trust. Eric Box said that Alcohol Focus Scotland were looking for one urban area and one rural area in which to carry out projects. Brian Kupris queried the Licensing Forum's role in this. Eric Box responded that initially Carolyn Church was looking to come to speak to the Forum.

Councillor McKay queried whether this was just a case of packaging lots of information in a different way. Councillor Reay suggested that alcohol is a cultural problem and further that projects, like the one proposed, were not going to solve it. Raymond Boyle queried why the surveys could not take place, as initially suggested, in Campbeltown or Rothesay. Eric Box responded that there were issues with the funding. Councillor Currie suggested that there may be a need for local group input too.

Councillor McAlister reminded those present that in the 1890's the Band of Hope was established to protect workers and young people from alcohol but we still see the same problems today. Further, in Sweden in the 1960's and 1970's, alcohol was subject to huge price increases but the outcome of this was to drive drinking underground. Eric Box queried whether his sense that there was no enthusiasm for taking part in the project was correct. This was confirmed by those present.

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ARGYLL AND BUTE LICENSING BOARD

THE LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005

**STATEMENT
OF LICENSING POLICY**

2010-2013

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CONTENTS

	Page No.
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. CONTEXT	2
3. THE LICENSING OBJECTIVES	3-4
4. BOARD BUSINESS	5
5. PREMISES LICENCES	5-9
6. OVERPROVISION	9
7. CAPACITY OF PREMISES	10
8. LICENSING HOURS	10-12
9. OCCASIONAL LICENCES	13-14
10. MANDATORY CONDITIONS	14-15
11. DISCRETIONARY CONDITIONS	16
12. PUBLIC AWARENESS MATERIALS – SAFE LIMITS AND DRINK-DRIVING	16
13. ACCESS BY CHILDREN TO LICENSED PREMISES	16-17
14. OFF-SALES PREMISES	17
15. OUTSIDE SEATING AREAS	17-18
16. PROCEDURES THE BOARD HAS DEVELOPED FOR HANDLING APPLICATIONS, OBJECTIONS, HEARINGS	18
17. ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE BOARD MEMBERS	18-19
18. LICENSING REGISTER	19
19. LOCAL LICENSING FORUM	19
20. MEMBERS CLUBS	19-20
21. EXCLUDED PREMISES – GARAGES	20-21
22. LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICERS	22
23. DUPLICATION	22
24. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER STRATEGIES	22

1.

INTRODUCTION

The law relating to liquor licensing in Scotland changed with the implementation of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. The Act came fully into force on 01 September 2009 but this was preceded by a transitional period which began on 01 February 2008

The administration of liquor licensing is carried out by Licensing Boards and Section 6 of the 2005 Act requires all Licensing Boards to publish a statement of their licensing policy. It is intended that this policy will be applied by the Board in exercising its functions under the 2005 Act.

The policy must be reviewed every 3 years but it should also be kept under review during this period, in consultation with stakeholders, when it is open to the Board to publish a supplementary statement of their policy.

This policy statement has been prepared by Argyll and Bute Licensing Board and, as part of this process, the Board has consulted with a range of organisations with an interest in this matter.

2.

CONTEXT

Argyll and Bute is an area of outstanding beauty and varied geography – stretching from Helensburgh and Cardross in the east to Tìree in the west. The cultural diversity of local communities reflects this geographic diversity.

There are 25 inhabited islands, more than any other local authority area in Scotland. The islands are not well interconnected because links tend to be with the mainland.

The mainland is divided by long sea lochs that cut deep inland and further fragment already remote and sparsely populated areas. This extends road links, with long drive times, and very often only one road connects settlements.

Ferries are an essential part of everyday life. 17% of the population live on islands reliant on a ferry. Air links are becoming more prominent as airport improvements are completed at Oban and on Coll and Colonsay.

The area is very sparsely populated - an area that is 10% of Scotland houses only 92,000 people. This has an impact on the range of services that are available and increases the cost of delivery. Communities are often very self-reliant, but do lack access to many of the services that are often taken for granted.

The changing population profile is a significant challenge as younger people leave the area to attend university or seek work. Simultaneously, the older population is on the increase, partly because of higher life expectancy and partly because the area is seen as an attractive retirement destination.

Affordable housing is a significant issue as many properties are sold at inflated prices for second, holiday or retirement homes.

The main employers are public sector, tourism, construction and agriculture/fishing. There are higher than average levels of self-employment, with a significant proportion of this in tourism.

The Board further recognises the contribution which licensed premises make to the economy of Argyll and Bute in relation to employment and service to tourism which is vital to the area. At the same time, the Board is aware that alcohol misuse can damage the economy in terms of decreased productivity and extra demands on public services such as police, social work and health.

3.

THE LICENSING OBJECTIVES

The provisions of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 are intended to work alongside other policies of the Scottish Government, including the strategic approach set out in the Scottish Government publication “Changing Scotland’s Relationship with Alcohol: A Framework for Action”. The Act sets out five licensing objectives on which the licensing system is based and Licensing Boards must take these into consideration when carrying out their functions. Each has equal weighting and they are as follows :-

- Preventing crime and disorder
- Securing public safety
- Preventing public nuisance
- Protecting and improving public health
- Protecting children from harm

Preventing Crime and Disorder

The Board wishes to see Argyll and Bute a safe place to live in and to visit. It is committed to improving the quality of life for the people in the area by ensuring that licensed premises are run in such a way as not to contribute to crime and disorder. Applicants should be able to demonstrate in relation to their premises, that they will address the problems of -

- (a) underage drinking;
- (b) drunkenness on premises;
- (c) public drunkenness;
- (d) illegal possession and/or use of drugs;
- (e) violent behaviour;
- (f) anti-social behaviour;
- (g) litter, and
- (h) noise

Securing Public Safety

The Board wishes to ensure that the safety of any person visiting or working on or in the vicinity of licensed premises is not threatened.

Preventing Public Nuisance

The Board wishes to protect and maintain the amenity of residents and occupiers of businesses from the adverse consequences of the operation of licensed premises.

Protecting and Improving Public Health

The Board recognises the link between consumption of alcohol and public health and will have regard to the views of the relevant authorities responsible for the protection and improvement of public health and will take advice from these bodies.

Operating plans are expected to demonstrate that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained to protect public health. This will include such measures as making available information with regard to sensible drinking, the effects consumption of excess alcohol has and contact points where assistance can be obtained for drink problems.

Protecting Children from Harm

The Board wishes to promote family friendly premises. Applicants who wish to operate such premises should appreciate the additional responsibilities upon them whilst at the same time recognising that parents and other adults accompanying children also have responsibilities. The issue of under-age drinking is taken very seriously by the Board and applicants and licensees are reminded that they and their staff must comply with all other legislation in relation to children and young persons including not selling or allowing the sale of alcohol to children and young persons. The Board also recognises that parental alcohol abuse may lead to harm both direct and indirect to children.

4.

BOARD BUSINESS

The Board in exercising its functions will consider each application on its individual merits and will give due consideration to an application regardless of whether it conforms to all of the requirements set out in the Policy Statement.

The Board is committed to conducting its business in an open and transparent manner. Information and assistance will be made available to those who wish to apply for a licence, to make representations or to object to an application. It is also strongly recommended, however, that any applicant, objector or representor seeks independent legal advice. The Board also recognises the need to ensure that the licensing process is accessible to all. Assistance will be made available on request for those who require special arrangements to access any part of the process.

It is intended that the Board will develop regulations setting out their procedures in detail.

In addition, the Board will develop a Scheme of Delegation setting out those applications and other matters which are required to be considered by the Board and those matters which can be determined by the Clerk to the Board.

5.

PREMISES LICENCES

5.1 Any premises that wishes to sell alcohol for consumption on or off the premises must have a premises licence. An application for a premises licence must be accompanied by an operating plan which will take account of the requirements of this Policy, an appropriate layout plan relevant to the scale of the business and the appropriate fee. Each licence will be tailored to the particular premises and will set out, amongst others, what activities can be undertaken on the premises and the licensing hours.

5.2 Operating Plans

The operating plan is a crucial document and applicants should pay particular attention to its completion. The plan must be in the prescribed form as set out in The Premises Licence (Scotland) Regulations 2007 and should contain, amongst others, the following information :-

- (1) A description of the activities to be carried on in the premises;
- (2) A statement of the times during which it is proposed that alcohol be sold on the premises;
- (3) A statement as to whether the alcohol is to be sold for consumption on the premises, off the premises, or both;
- (4) A statement of the times at which any other activities in addition to the sale of alcohol are to be carried on in the premises;
- (5) A statement as to whether children or young persons are to be allowed entry to the premises and, if so, a statement of the terms on which they are allowed entry, including, in particular –
 - (i) the ages of children or young persons to be allowed entry,
 - (ii) the times at which they are to be allowed entry, and
 - (iii) the parts of the premises to which they are to be allowed entry.
- (6) Information as to the proposed capacity of the premises, and
- (7) Information about the person who is to be the premises manager.

5.3 Other Matters

The Board expects licensed premises to be operated in a manner which seeks to promote the five licensing objectives. Accordingly, in addition to the matters set out in 5.2, operating plans will set out what measures are proposed by the applicant to actively address each of the licensing objectives. The following are suggested as matters to be considered by the applicant :-

- (i) **Preventing Crime and Disorder**
 - A written crime prevention strategy;
 - Staff training in respect of the prevention of crime and disorder;

- Crime prevention measures such as security patrols, advice notices/signs and/or other material demonstrating anti-theft messages/strategies, regular toilet checks demonstrated by the existence and operation of these measures by way of documented check sheets;
- Carry out regular security briefings for staff and appropriate records kept for inspection. Periodic reviews of no less than every 18 months undertaken and amendments made as deemed necessary;
- Every licensed venue to demonstrate their commitment to prevent crime and disorder on a wider community basis, for example, PubWatch Scheme
- A written violence reduction strategy available for inspection. Periodic reviews of no less than every 18 months undertaken and amendments made as deemed necessary;
- House Policy – Licensees are encouraged to have a policy which stipulates the standards to be adhered to and gives guidance to staff on how the business must be conducted. This could be included within the staff training manual;
- Operating Procedures Manual – Licensees are encouraged to have a Manual which stipulates the operating procedures staff must comply with to include aspects of being a responsible retailer of alcohol;
- The Board encourages the upkeep of an incident book or register which lists incidents where staff and management have dealt with a situation by preventing it escalating into a more serious incident.
- Conflict management training and appropriate records kept for inspection by appropriate officers of the Council/Strathclyde Police;
- Adequate seating should be provided. The Board recognise that establishments unwilling to provide adequate seating are in effect promoting vertical drinking which is known to increase consumption of alcohol;
- Much public disorder and nuisance occurs at or immediately after the terminal hours for the supply of alcohol. Licensees should ensure that they and their staff have sufficient measures in place to minimise the impact of the terminal hour, and to ensure patrons exit the premises as quickly as possible in good order and as quietly as possible. Measures to be adopted may include;
 - a) limiting the amount of alcohol sold just before the terminal hour (eg. only permitting a group to purchase one round, not two);
 - b) making sure all patrons know well in advance the last time for purchasing alcohol is approaching;

- c) covering bar taps once the terminal hour has passed;
- d) raising the lighting level;
- e) reducing the level of music noise and altering the type of music played (eg slow ballads), all of which will assist in reducing patron boisterousness; and
- f) inspecting all parts of the premises for patrons (eg toilets).

(ii) **Securing Public Safety**

- Details as to how occupancy will be managed at any given time - having regard to maximum capacity;
- All licensed venues other than premises open for the main purpose of providing a meal - a weapons and drugs search policy;
- All licensed venues other than premises open for the main purpose of providing a meal - an effective glass management policy either by clearing all glassware regularly or by operating an alternative glass scheme, including provision for the prevention of customers taking glassware outside the premises;
- A written policy on how to deal with customers who may become incapacitated or vulnerable due to drink or drugs;
- The provision of first aid facilities and an area in which incapacitated persons can be placed pending the attendance of emergency services.
- A written fire evacuation policy and be able to demonstrate training and test evacuations;
- A written accident recording system;
- The Board supports the use of CCTV systems and encourages licensees to make use of these wherever possible.

(iii) **Preventing Public Nuisance**

- All licensed premises open after 11 pm should have a policy on minimising noise pollution, which should include having all servicing and deliveries undertaken at times suitable to the local community;
- All licensed premises should demonstrate their commitment to a cleaner environment in and around their premises.

(iv) **Protecting and Improving Public Health**

- All licensed premises should display anti-drunkenness materials, if appropriate to their premises along with information on units of alcohol in the context of recommended guidelines. Sources of free materials in this regard are :-

www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk

www.infoscotland.com/alcohol

www.drinkaware.co.uk

www.safer-scotland.co.uk

www.noidnosale.com

- All licensed premises should have in place a workplace alcohol policy in order to raise awareness, minimise harm and ensure that staff are able to access help without fear of losing their job if a problem arises.
- In relation to smoking outside licensed premises, licensees should have measures in place to address issues such as noise nuisance, litter, disorder and smoke drifting into neighbouring premises.

(v) **Protecting Children from Harm**

- A written policy in regard to preventing sales of alcohol to persons under the legal age;
- The Board encourages the use of a refusals register where all refusals of service are recorded;
- The operation of a “no ID, no sale” scheme;
- Training in respect of under age sales.

6.

OVERPROVISION

- 6.1 Section 7 of the 2005 Act requires the Licensing Board to include a statement on overprovision within this policy.
- 6.2 The Licensing Board must state the extent to which it considers there to be overprovision of:
- (a) Licensed premises; or
 - (b) Licensed premises of a particular description.
in any locality within the Board’s area.
- 6.3 Having consulted with the Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police and the Local Licensing Forum, the Board does not consider that there any particular areas which should be regarded as separate localities for the purpose of assessing possible overprovision.
- 6.4 The Board does not consider that there is any evidence of a saturation point having been reached in respect of licensed premises generally or in respect of any particular type of licensed premises which would indicate a current difficulty with overprovision.
- 6.5 The Board recognises that whilst overprovision is not considered to be an issue at this time (November 2010), the situation should be monitored and Strathclyde Police and the Local Licensing Forum will be asked to give a view on the matter on an annual basis throughout the duration of this policy.

7.

CAPACITY OF PREMISES

For the purposes of the overprovision assessment, the operating capacity of licensed premises will be particularly important. The definition of operating capacity for (off-sales) and (on-sales) is set out in the 2005 Act -

Off-Sales

- The amount of space given over to the display of alcohol for sale.

On-Sales

- The maximum number of customers who can be accommodated in the premises at any one time.

8.

LICENSING HOURS

Whilst each application will be considered on its merits, the following sets out the Board's policy on licensing hours. Applications for hours at times outwith the Board's policy will require to demonstrate that the additional requested hours are appropriate in the circumstances.

8.1 Off-Sale Premises

The licensing hours for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises (off-sales hours) are 10 am to 10 pm each day. The Board has no discretion to permit licensed hours outwith these times. In determining applications and licensed hours within these times, the Board will have particular regard to the promotion of licensing objectives.

8.2 On-Sale Premises

For applications relating to premises licences including extensions of hours, the licensed hours for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises shall generally be no earlier than 11 am. Applicants need to demonstrate a clear operational need for opening prior to 11.00am.

Licensed hours for on-sales premises in particular can have an impact not only within the individual premises but also within the locality in which the premises are situated. Taking into account the five licensing objectives, the presumption against 24 hour drinking and the guidance for Licensing Boards and Local Authorities issued by the Scottish Executive and that mandatory conditions specified by Regulation apply to those premises opening after 1 am, the Board considers the following to be appropriate for the terminal hour beyond which alcohol must not be sold on the premises or parts of the premises :-

Sunday to Thursday	12 midnight
Friday & Saturday	1 am

Premises that wish to remain open beyond the foregoing terminal hours must justify the need for late hours and demonstrate measures that promote the licensing objectives.

- 8.3** Applicants should be aware that premises are expected to remain open for the licensed hours they apply for and which are granted by the Board. The Board recognises, however, that at certain times of the year demand may diminish to the point where it is no longer economically viable for premises to remain open, particularly on weekday evenings. The Board expects that any premises licence applicants ensure that if they anticipate being affected by this and wish to close early, for example during the winter months, that this is specifically referred to in their operating plan. Licence holders of existing premises licences who may wish to close early or open later should make application for the appropriate variation to their operating plan.
- 8.4** In determining applications where more than one activity takes place in the premises, the Board will have regard to when the activities take place and the principal activity taking place. The Board may impose further conditions to ensure other activities do not take place or remain ancillary to the principal activity for those licensed hours.
- 8.5** Premises operating as hotels should note that if they wish to serve alcohol to residents beyond the ordinary licensed hours, they must specify the hours during which they wish to do so in their operating plan.
- 8.6** The Board is aware that there is a strong view against allowing later opening of licensed premises particularly in mixed residential and commercial neighbourhoods. In this regard operating plans must consider the impact their patrons may have after leaving their premises:-
- the effect of the grant of a licence for later or earlier hours on crime and disorder, public safety, public nuisance, public health and children;
 - the proposed hours when any music, including incidental music will be played;
 - the hours when customers will be allowed to take food or drink outside the premises or be within open areas which form part of the premises;
 - the existing hours of licensable activities and the past operation of the premises if any;
 - the capacity of the premises;
 - the type of use, recognising that premises which sell alcohol, play music for dancing, provide late night refreshment or takeaway food, are more likely to be associated with crime and disorder and public nuisance than restaurants, cinemas or other performance venues;
- 8.7** Restricted licensing hours may be appropriate in cases where licensed premises are situated in the vicinity of residential property. Additionally where the trading hours of licensed premises and other businesses in the area may lead to additional public nuisance, disorder or anti-social behaviour, then restricted licensing hours may be appropriate.

8.8 Extended Hours Applications

It should normally be possible for applicants for premises licences to anticipate special occasions which occur regularly each year such as major local events. The Board expects premises licence holders to apply for a variation to their operating plans in respect of extended hours applications required for seasonal events, such as Christmas and New Year.

8.9 Upon submission of an application, the Board may extend the licensed hours in respect of premises by such period as is specified in the application or such other period as it considers appropriate; but in either case the period must **not** exceed one month. The Board will normally only do so in connection with -

- (i) a special event or occasion to be catered for on the premises, or
- (ii) a special event of local or national significance.

Where the hours sought fall outwith the on-sales hours specified above, the applicant will have to demonstrate the hours requested are appropriate in the circumstances. The applicant should provide to the Board sufficient information to enable a decision to be made. This will include :-

- (a) hours sought;
- (b) the description of the special event or occasion;
- (c) what activities are proposed to take place during the hours sought;
- (d) when each activity will take place;
- (e) why the event or occasion is considered to be special, and
- (f) why the event or occasion cannot take place within the on-sales hours specified above.

9.

OCCASIONAL LICENCES

9.1 It is possible to make an application for an occasional licence authorising the sale of alcohol on premises which are not licensed premises. This may be made by :-

- (i) the holder of a premises licence;
- (ii) the holder of a personal licence;
- (iii) a representative of any voluntary organisation.

An occasional licence can only last up to a maximum of 14 days.

9.2 Voluntary organisation is not defined within the Act. The Board considers, that in order to fulfil the definition of a voluntary organisation, then the organisation ought to be able to supply the Board with a copy of its constitution and it would also be expected that it would have in place office bearers, such as a chair and secretary.

9.3 The holders of premises or personal licences may make unlimited applications. However, there are restrictions on the number of applications a voluntary organisation can make. In any twelve month period, the Board may not issue more than four licences each lasting four days or more, and not more than twelve licences each lasting less than four days; and during that period the total number of days on which occasional licences have effect must not exceed fifty-six.

9.4 In order to allow time to consult with the Police and other interested parties, applications should be submitted as far in advance of the event as possible. In order to avoid any difficulties and to ensure that there is sufficient time for processing the application and consulting with the Police, application should be submitted a minimum of 35 days in advance of the event.

9.5 The Board considers that activities such as dances, discos and dinner dances, wedding receptions and parties where a disco or band is provided are generally acceptable for the granting of an occasional licence. Annual events or competitions may also be acceptable; however, darts, domino or pool competitions, karaoke evenings, or private parties where there is no significant entertainment are not considered acceptable activities. Where live entertainment is not an integral part of the function then this would also not be acceptable - eg. background piano music.

The Board considers the commencement of the sale of alcohol should normally be no earlier than 11 am. For the terminal hour beyond which alcohol must not be sold on the premises, the Board considers the following to be appropriate.

Where there is no specific entertainment –

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	11 pm
Thursday, Friday and Saturday	12 midnight
Sunday	11 pm

Where there is specific entertainment –

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	11 pm
Thursday, Friday and Saturday	1 am
Sunday	12 midnight

- 9.6** Applications for licensed hours outwith the Board’s policy will require to demonstrate that the additional requested hours are appropriate in the circumstances.
- 9.7** The Act and Regulations set out mandatory conditions and the Board will also consider on an individual basis whether it is necessary to impose additional conditions to promote one or more of the licensing objectives and/or this Policy Statement.
- 9.8** The Board is aware that the 2005 Act does not require the office-bearers of voluntary organisations who apply for occasional licences to obtain an appropriate training qualification. The Board recognises, however, that such persons are in charge of events where alcohol is being dispensed. Having regard to the licensing objectives, the Board wishes to give consideration to making it a condition that such persons undertake some form of limited training (possibly provided by Licensing Standards Officers). It is recognised that this would require to be implemented over a period of time.

10. **MANDATORY CONDITIONS**

10.1 The 2005 Act recognises that Licensing Boards must have the flexibility to deal with local circumstances but this must be balanced with a clear and effective national framework within which Boards must operate. Accordingly, there is a requirement that all premises licences issued will be subject to certain mandatory conditions which are set out in Schedule 3 of the Act. These conditions include the following :-

- No alcohol is to be sold on the premises where
 - there is no premises manager for the premises;
 - the premises manager does not hold a personal licence or it has been suspended;
 - the licensing qualification held by the premises manager is not appropriate.
- Every sale of alcohol made on the premises must be authorised (whether generally or specifically) by the premises manager or another personal licence holder. The Licensing Board considers it good practice for the alcohol authorisation to be in a written format so that the premises manager or other personal licence holder (or member of staff so authorised) can evidence the authorisation if needs be. Further information on alcohol authorisation can be obtained from the Licensing Standards Officer.

- Pricing of Alcohol
 - variation of prices (the price of alcohol cannot be varied within 72 hours, starting at the start of the day);
 - an irresponsible drinks promotions must not be carried on or in connection with the premises. This will include promotions aimed at persons under 18, supply of free alcoholic drinks (eg. buy 1 get 1 free), supply of unlimited amounts of alcohol for a fixed price, rewarding or encouraging patrons to drink alcohol quickly or being offered as a prize (unless in a sealed container and consumed off the premises);
- Water fit for drinking must be provided free of charge on request.
- Any premises which operate after 1 am on any occasion must have a person trained to the satisfaction of the Licensing Board in administering first aid on the premises from 1 am until the premises close.

10.2 Mandatory Conditions – Certain Premises

There are certain conditions which must be imposed in respect of premises operating after 1 am and which have a capacity of at least 250 people and which -

- (a) will regularly provide at any time in the period between 1 am and 5 am -
 - (i) live or recorded music with a decibel level exceeding 85 dB;
 - (ii) facilities for dancing, or
 - (iii) adult entertainment, or
- (b) when fully occupied are likely to have more customers standing than seated.

The conditions to be imposed are :-

- (1) There must be a personal licence holder present on the premises from 1 am until the premises close.
- (2) There must be written policies in place in relation to the evacuation of the premises and the prevention of the misuse of drugs on the premises.
- (3) A CCTV system must be installed on the premises.
- (4) There must be persons responsible for checking on the safety and wellbeing of persons using any toilet facilities on the premises, and
- (5) A licensed door steward must be positioned at every entrance to the premises, from 1 am until the premises close.

11. **DISCRETIONARY CONDITIONS**

The Board can also impose such other conditions as they consider necessary or expedient to promote the licensing objectives or to give effect to the provisions of this Policy Statement. The decision whether to impose a condition will be made on an objective basis, taking account of any representations and any other relevant information available to the Board.

12. **PUBLIC AWARENESS MATERIALS – SAFE LIMITS AND DRINK-DRIVING**

Licensees are encouraged to use materials such as posters, beer mats etc which promote moderate consumption of alcohol along with awareness of units of alcohol and the recommended guidelines – eg, a wine list would state how many units in a small, large glass and bottle and relate that to the daily/weekly recommended limits. Most of these materials are available from health boards and connected associations free of charge. Drink-driving can have a catastrophic effect on families and licensed establishments can play a part in prevention by displaying anti drink-driving materials, supplying reasonably priced soft drinks, promoting awareness of campaigns such as designated driver schemes and offering free soft drinks to designated drivers.

13. **ACCESS BY CHILDREN TO LICENSED PREMISES**

Licensees must include within an operating plan consideration as to whether the premises are suitable for children. If children are to be admitted adequate standards need to be in place to ensure the venue is a suitable environment for children.

Premises which wish to accommodate families with children require to ensure the environment is safe and suitable. The Board would expect an applicant to demonstrate an understanding of the additional responsibilities placed on them when children are on the premises and to demonstrate that suitable and sufficient measures are in place to protect children from harm.

The Board will not normally grant a premises licence or occasional licence where children could have unsupervised access to pool tables, darts boards or gaming machines. The parts of the premises to which children and young persons are allowed entry will require to have a suitable character and atmosphere. Premises or parts of premises which are very small and enclosed are unlikely to be able to provide an appropriate environment. In addition, premises which have very few facilities are unlikely to comply with the Board's requirements.

The Board will impose appropriate conditions on a premises licence or in granting an occasional licence where children are to be allowed entry. Conditions will seek to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children on the premises.

14. **OFF-SALES PREMISES**

In respect of premises which sell alcohol for consumption off the premises, it will be a condition that displays of alcohol on those premises is confined to a single area. The applicant must show the alcohol display in the layout plan and it will then be for the Licensing Board and the applicant to agree on the defined area. The only exception to the foregoing is that the Board may agree to alcohol being displayed in other areas provided they are inaccessible to the public – eg. behind the counter, locked display cabinet.

In relation to opening hours of such premises, the Board may impose a terminal hour prior to the 10 pm limit defined in the Act. Each case will be taken on its merits but the Board is concerned to ensure that the licensing objectives relating to crime, children, public health and public nuisance, in particular, are promoted in this area and will consider carefully whether later opening hours can be justified.

15. **OUTSIDE SEATING AREAS**

Where applicants propose to provide outside seating, tables and other facilities in any outdoor area (covered or otherwise) regard should be made to the need to ensure that the use of such areas will not cause disturbance or nuisance to the occupiers of premises in the vicinity.

The Board expects an operating plan to include or exclude the use of an outside seating area. If included, effective management controls, supervision and other measures to ensure that the use of the area by patrons does not have a negative impact on the vicinity will be considered and incorporated within the plan. This will include clear delineation of the area by way of a wall or other permanent structure. Conditions as determined by the Board relating to the specific circumstances of the premises will be attached to any grant; this may include the exclusion of the use of glassware within the area after a specified time each evening.

16.

PROCEDURES THE BOARD HAS DEVELOPED FOR HANDLING APPLICATIONS, OBJECTIONS, HEARINGS

The Board must give notice of a premises licence application to -

- (a) each person defined to be a neighbour;
- (b) any Community Council within whose area the premises are situated;
- (c) Argyll and Bute Council;
- (d) the Fire and Police authorities.

Any person may submit an objection or representation to the Board. The objection must relate to one of the five licensing objectives and relate to specific premises. An objection lodged on the general basis of opposing the use of alcohol or to licensed hours on a Sunday will be considered to be frivolous and will be rejected without consideration.

The Board has developed a leaflet entitled “How to object to a liquor licence application” and this is available free of charge from the Clerk’s office or it can be downloaded from the Licensing Board’s pages on the website maintained by Argyll and Bute Council.

When considering an application for premises which have been previously licensed or in any review of an existing licence, the Board will take into account any relevant evidence, especially the impact on local residents and businesses and will also look at the measures proposed by the applicant to mitigate any adverse impact.

17.

ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE BOARD MEMBERS

It is an offence for an applicant to attempt to influence a member of the Board. If this situation arises the Board Member will immediately report the matter to the Clerk to the Board. This will include approaches from a third party on behalf of an applicant.

The Clerk will in turn notify the Procurator Fiscal and if proceedings are brought for the offence the Board is unable to determine the application until after the proceedings are concluded and if the applicant is convicted of the offence, the Board may refuse to consider the application.

18.

LICENSING REGISTER

The Board's Clerk will maintain a Register which contains information in relation to the premises, personal and occasional licences processed which will include a decision outcome in relation to each application.

The Register is available for perusal by members of the public during normal working hours at the Clerk's office, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

19.

LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

The Board recognises the importance of the establishment of the Local Licensing Forum in Argyll and Bute and will endeavour to work closely with it. The Board will

- (i) take account of the advice or recommendations made by the Forum;
- (ii) where after consideration the Board decides not to follow the advice or recommendations made by the Forum, reasons for the decision will be given to the Forum;
- (iii) provide the Forum with any relevant statistical information provided it is easily available within the Clerk's office;
- (iv) meet with the Forum at least once per calendar year

20.

MEMBERS CLUBS

- 20.1 The Licensing (Clubs) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, by virtue of section 125 of The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, now regulate the sale of alcohol in licensed members clubs in Scotland and each club is required to operate under the grant

of a premises licence. Each club should be non-profit-making with a constitution and limited access to members of the public, and in submitting an application for a premises licence should submit a copy of its current constitution.

20.2 The Board expects clubs to reflect certain operational requirements in their constitution and may impose conditions on a premises licence to that effect on the following matters (though not limited to) :-

- that the business and affairs of the club shall be under the management of a committee or governing body who shall be elected for not less than one year by a general body of members;
- that the committee or governing body shall hold periodic elections and meetings;
- that correct accounts and books shall be kept showing the financial affairs and intromissions of the club;
- that no member of the committee or governing body and no manager or staff employed in the club shall have any personal interest in the sale of alcoholic liquor in the premises or in the profits arising from;
- that there shall be a definable subscription payable in advance by members of the club;
- that no persons shall be allowed to become honorary or temporary members of the club or be relieved of the payment of a regular entrance fee or subscription, except those possessing certain qualifications defined in the constitution;
- that a maximum of 3 visitors per member shall be permitted in the club premises provided they are signed into the club by that member into a book kept for that purpose by the club;

Clubs must keep their constitutions updated and, when revised, submit a copy of the revised constitution to the Clerk's office. Clubs must also ensure their constitution, accounts and entry book are available for inspection by a Licensing Standards Officer and officers of the Police authority at all reasonable times.

20.3 Section 125 of the 2005 Act allows for exemptions in relation to the licensing of members clubs. These exemptions are:

- inclusion in assessments for overprovision in the Board's area;
- ground of refusal of premises licence application relating to overprovision;
- ground of refusal of premises licence variation application relating to overprovision;

- requirement for operating plan to contain information as to the premises manager;
- requirement for the name and address of premises manager to be specified in the premises licence;
- requirement for there to be a premises manager for the premises; and
- requirement for sales of alcohol under the premises licence to be authorised by a personal licence holder.

20.4 An additional development brought about by the 2005 Act is the inclusion of members clubs in the occasional licence provisions. The Licensing (Clubs) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 now permit members clubs to apply for occasional licences on similar terms as voluntary organisations, and the fact that a premises licence is in effect in respect of premises used wholly or mainly for the purposes of a club, is not to prevent an occasional licence being issued in respect of those premises.

A Licensing Board may issue in respect of those club premises in any period of 12 months –

- a) not more than 4 occasional licences each having effect for a period of 4 days or more, and
 - b) not more than 12 occasional licences each having effect for a period of less than 4 days,
- provided that, in any period of 12 months, the total number of days on which occasional licences issued in respect of the premises have effect does not exceed 56 days.

20.5 Section 9 – Occasional Licences - above details Board policy in relation to occasional licence applications which will be applied to members clubs.

21. **EXCLUDED PREMISES – GARAGES**

21.1 The Act stipulates that certain premises are excluded from authorising the sale or supply of alcohol. This includes motorway service stations and premises or parts of premises used as a garage. Premises are used as a garage if they are used for one or more of the following :-

- (a) the retailing of petrol;
- (b) the retailing of diesel;
- (c) the sale of motor vehicles; and
- (d) the maintenance of motor vehicles

21.2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, if a premises (or parts of a premises) are used as a garage they will be able to apply for an alcohol licence if the local community is (or is likely to become) reliant to a significant extent on the premises as a principal source of either fuel or groceries. The effect of this exemption is not limited to rural areas, as there may be instances in urban or other areas where the community is reliant on the premises as their local shop.

21.3 In determining an application for such a premises licence, the Licensing Board expects the applicant to provide sufficient information to enable the Board to consider :-

- (i) the locality in which the premises are situated,
- (ii) what other sources of (a) fuel and/or (b) groceries are in that locality, and
- (iii) the extent to which persons resident in that locality are, or are likely to become, reliant on the premises as the principal source of (a) fuel, or (b) groceries.

21.4 Factors the Licensing Board may consider include :-

- the number of, and distance to other licensed premises
- the number of premises selling fuel or groceries in the locality;
- the distance to the nearest other premises selling fuel or groceries;
- the opening hours of other premises selling fuel or groceries in the locality;
- the number and/or percentage of persons resident in the locality who are, or are likely to become, reliant on the premises, and
- to what extent, as the principal source of (a) fuel or (b) groceries, with particular reference to weekly groceries rather than convenience goods.

21.5 The Board will have regard to the five licensing objectives when determining such applications and in determining what, if any, conditions it may impose – eg, it may be considered appropriate to restrict the display of alcohol to a particular area within the premises.

22.

LICENSING STANDARDS OFFICERS

- 22.1 Licensing Standards Officers will be employed by Argyll and Bute Council and will have the functions set out in the Act. Their role will be three-fold – guidance, mediation and compliance. They will also be a member of the Local Licensing Forum for the Argyll and Bute area.
- 22.2 Licensing Standards Officers will work with the public, the Council’s Partners, Argyll & Bute Alcohol & Drug Partnership and the business community in seeking to promote the five licensing objectives and ensuring compliance with the law.
- 22.3 At the time of drafting this Policy, there is one licensing Standards Officer in post with the appointment of additional officers being kept under constant review.

23.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER STRATEGIES

- 23.1 The Board will endeavour to secure proper integration with local crime prevention, community safety, health, planning, transport, tourism, race equality and cultural strategies.