

**LICENSING (SCOTLAND) 2005 - LOCAL LICENSING FORUM**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides an update by the Licensing Board (the Board) on current issues relating to the membership of the Local Licensing Forum (the Forum).
- 1.2 The report outlines proposals to review the range of businesses, agencies and local groups participating in the Forum in order to optimise its effectiveness.
- 1.3 The recommendation of the report supports the development of a more diverse membership for the Forum.

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Section 10 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, requires the Council to establish a Local Licensing Forum. The Forum must consist of no more than 20 members, and should include one of the Council's Licensing Standards Officers and a representative nominated by the Chief Constable of Police Scotland; leaving a maximum of 18 places to be filled.
- 2.2 The role of the Forum is to keep under review the operation of the licensing system in the area and to give advice and recommendations to the Board. The Board has a duty to "*have regard*" to the Forum's views and must offer reasons where it takes decisions against the advice of the Forum.
- 2.3 Argyll and Bute Council, at the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012, agreed that the Forum should be established with membership drawn from the licensed trade, police, Licensing Standards Officer, persons involved in health, education or social work functions, the Alcohol and Drug Action Team, local residents and young people.
- 2.4 At their meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 the Board decided to present a report to Argyll and Bute Council proposing a review of the recruitment to and membership of the Forum.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To approve the proposal to refresh and extend the scope of Forum membership as detailed in section 4.4 below.

**4.0 REVIEW OF CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS**

- 4.1 At the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016, the Board discussed the fact that since its establishment in 2012, membership of the Forum had changed considerably and that attendance at the meetings had gradually declined during that period.
- 4.2 It was noted at this meeting however that attendance levels had increased when important topics requiring input or action from the Forum had arisen e.g. progressing consultation on overprovision.
- 4.3 At this meeting the Forum also discussed the potential composition of the Forum and the methods that could potentially be used to attract new members from a variety of organisations and business representatives operating with

Argyll and Bute.

4.4 In particular the Forum will take action to recruit members representing:-

- Each of the 4 decentralised areas of Argyll and Bute
- A broader range of trade representatives e.g. hotels, off-sales
- Relevant council services e.g. education, social work
- Relevant officers from specific health service teams e.g. education
- The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (Children's Hearings system)
- Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership
- Additional Community Councils
- Relevant trade associations
- Local 'Pub Watch' groups
- Other relevant groups or agencies

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

5.1 The current membership of the Forum should be reviewed to improve its capacity to support the Board.

5.2 The proposals detailed at s4.4 above will assist in optimising the work of the Forum.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Policy: no change

6.2 Financial: Members of the public serving on the Forum are paid travel and subsistence rates in line with the rates paid to members of the public who sit on similar Council operated Committees. In addition Forum members attend the national training sessions, the cost of which is met by the Council.

6.3 Legal: within relevant statutory powers

6.4 HR: no additional resource required

6.5 Equalities: no additional implications

6.6 Risk: will assist in reducing risk in that the capacity of the Forum support the Board should improve

6.7 Customer Service: likely to improve in terms of broader scope of representation

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