Item 2

14th May 2024

LOCAL LICENSING FORUM'S MINUTES.

Glasgow, 13th February 2024.

Local Licensing Forum.

Present: Donald MacLeod, Concert Promoters' Association (Chair); Gary Atkinson, Community Resident – North West Area; Andy Clark, Night Time Industry Association (Substitute for Brian Fulton); Eva Curran, National Union of Students; Billy Gold, Scottish Licensed Trade Association; Inspector Gareth Griffiths, Police Scotland; Charlie Ingham, Glasgow Life (Substitute for Julie Pearson); Chris McGuinness, Greater Glasgow Hotels' Association; Gail Sheridan, Community Resident – South Area; Aidan Smith, Scottish Grocers' Federation (Substitute for Pete Cheema); Elaina Smith, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (Substitute for Fiona Moss); and Paul Stewart, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council.

Apologies: Daniel Carter, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; Pete Cheema, Scottish Grocers' Federation; John Ferguson, Community Resident – North East Area; Lise Fisher, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council; Brian Fulton, Night Time Industry Association; Bailie Margaret Morgan, Glasgow City Council; Fiona Moss, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; Julie Pearson, Glasgow Life; Bailie Hanif Raja, Glasgow City Council; and Matthew Reilly, Glasgow Pubwatch Groups.

Attending: G McDermid (Clerk); I Miller, Legal Advisor to the Forum; G McNaught, Clerk to the City of Glasgow Licensing Board; F Campbell, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council; and A MacIver, Accredited Liquor Licensing Law Specialist.

Chair.

1 Iain Miller, Legal Advisor to the Forum, assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order.

Appointment of Convener approved.

2 Iain Miller, Legal Advisor to the Forum, reported on the procedure for the appointment of the Convener of the Local Licensing Forum.

After consideration, the Forum appointed Donald MacLeod as Convener.

Vacation and appointment of Chair.

3 Iain Miller, Legal Advisor to the Forum, vacated the chair, which was taken by Donald MacLeod.

Membership update noted.

4 With reference to the minutes of 5th December 2023 when the Forum had noted that correspondence had been received from Jack Cummins confirming that he would no longer act as the representative of licensing lawyers in the city following that meeting and that his replacement would be approved at a future meeting of Glasgow City Council (GCC), the Forum heard and noted a verbal update by the Clerk to the Forum regarding the matter, advising that GCC, at its meeting on 15th February 2024, would consider the appointment of Archie MacIver as an Accredited Liquor Licensing Law Specialist and that he was attending today's meeting in a observational capacity only.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

5 The minutes of the previous meeting of 5th December 2023 were submitted and approved.

The new Vision and Plan for the Golden Z - Presentation noted etc.

6 There was submitted a report by the Council's Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability providing an overview of the content of the new Vision and Plan for the Golden Z and information on the project's process, including stakeholder engagement and progress towards delivery of recommended actions, advising

(1) that the new Vision and Plan had been funded by the Scottish Government City Centre Recovery Fund and was part of a package of projects progressed by the City Centre Task Force to stimulate post pandemic recovery;

(2) that the Vision and Plan was a strategic planning project which explored the spatial, socio-economic and environmental challenges and opportunities faced by the city centre's 3 iconic streets, namely, Sauchiehall Street, Buchanan Street and Argyle Street;

(3) that the project aimed to define a renewed development direction to re-energise the city centre's retail core and ensure its greater resilience in the future;

(4) that the project also aimed to provide a responsive future development trajectory that would provide clarity and confidence to residents, businesses, investors and developers and identified priorities for intervention and investment that would support recovery and resilience;

(5) of the Project Team, stakeholder engagement and key messages, as detailed in the report, with the main body of the report structured around 6 themes and the final section summarising key actions required to deliver the Vision; and

(6) of the next steps, with recommendations and actions on the new Vision and Plan informing the development of the City Centre Strategy and the review of the City Development Plan.

After consideration and having heard a supporting presentation by Fiona Campbell, the Forum noted

(a) the contents of the report and supporting presentation;

(b) that the new Vision's Delivery Plan would be reflected and progressed through the proposed new City Centre Strategy and the review of the City Development Plan;

(c) that dialogue with stakeholders to deliver the ambitions of the new Vision and Plan for the Golden Z would continue; and

(d) various comments from members in relation to the new Vision and Plan, in particular, the following:-

(i) members commented generally in support of the recommendations actions, however, it was highlighted that there should be an improved strategic approach in relation to their delivery, with better planning, consultation and collaboration between partners/stakeholders;

(ii) members discussed the reasons why there were less people frequenting licensed premises in the city centre in the later evening post pandemic and it was suggested that one of the main reasons was a lack of affordable public transport;

(iii) with regard to the above, the Convener highlighted that he had attended meetings of both the City Centre Task Force and a Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Resilience Group where these issues were under consideration, including the public transport issue; and

(iv) that there should also be engagement with appropriate student forums in the city in relation to the ongoing dialogue with stakeholders and that Fiona Campbell would discuss the matter with Eva Curran.

Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 - Update on licensing standards issues noted etc.

7 There was submitted a report by the Council's Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability providing an update on licensing standards issues in respect of the period from July to December 2023, advising

(1) that Licensing Standards, as statutory nominees, had provided comment on various applications, as detailed in the report, which included applications for

(a) new and provisional premises licences;

(b) major variation;

(c) occasional licences; and

(d) extended hours;

(2) that applications for new premises licences and major variation, together with the significant resource demands linked to the delivery of major events in the city, were the focus of the reporting period;

(3) of the above average number of applications processed for occasional licences and extended hours due to the variety of small to medium scale events that had taken place and the continuation of the 6-month outdoor licensed area process;

(4) that Licensing Standards had dealt with 117 complaints and 240 enquiries, as detailed in the report; and

(5) of interest and stakeholder group activity undertaken by officers, as detailed in the report.

After consideration, the Forum noted

(i) the contents of the report;

(ii) that with regard to the City of Glasgow Licensing Board's pilot scheme for on sales premises in the city centre whereby the Board would consider granting a terminal hour of 1am, the Clerk to the Licensing Board would circulate information to all members on the number of applications that had been received for major variation by the 31st January 2024 deadline after this information had been reported to the Licensing Board at its meeting on 16th February 2024; and

(iii) that with regard to work being undertaken by the Scottish Government in relation to bringing forward regulations which would put in place "occasional licence limits" in terms of the number of occasional licences, or the number of days on which occasional licences had effect, in relation to the same applicant or premises in any 12 month period, the Clerk to the Licensing Board had recently met with civil servants of the Scottish Government to discuss the matter and had been advised that the matter remained a priority but had been delayed pending work being undertaken in relation to another urgent matter.

Managing the evening economy towards a safer city centre – Update noted etc.

8 There was submitted a report by the Council's Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability providing an update on recent developments of Best Bar None Glasgow initiatives facilitated and supported by the Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability City Centre Team in respect of the period from July to December 2023, advising

(1) of the initiatives concerned, namely:-

(a) Best Bar None Glasgow Developments;

(b) City Nite Zones;

(c) Voluntary Sector Partners, including Glasgow Street Pastors' Association and Glasgow Street Aid; and

(d) Digital Radio Network;

(2) that all work had been supported by Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability staff and enhanced through a multi-agency approach; and

(3) that all activities provided additional value and assistance to the City Centre Policing Plan, which provided an overall approach to crime and safety in the city centre.

After consideration, the Forum noted

(i) the contents of the report; and

(ii) that if any member wished further clarification on any matter detailed in the report they should email the Clerk to the Forum in the first instance and he would forward any such enquiries to Lise Fisher for a response.

Date of next meeting noted etc.

9 The Forum noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 14th May 2024 at 1400 hours and that all items of business should be submitted to the Clerk to the Forum by Tuesday, 23rd April 2024.