Item 2

29th November 2022

By video conference, 7th December 2021.

Joint meeting of the Local Licensing Forum and the City of Glasgow Licensing Board.

Local Licensing Forum

Present: Emilia Crighton, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; Councillor Stephen Dornan, Glasgow City Council; Lise Fisher, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council; Brian Fulton, Glasgow Clubwatch Group; Inspector Gareth Griffiths, Police Scotland; Andrew Hunter, Licensing lawyer representative (substitute for Jack Cummins); Donald MacLeod, Concert Promoters' Association; Lionel Most, Community Resident - North West Area; Matthew Reilly, Glasgow Pubwatch Groups; Elaina Smith, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (Substitute for Fiona Moss); and Paul Stewart, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council (substitute for Graeme Ross).

Apologies: Pete Cheema, Scottish Grocers' Federation; Councillor Robert Connelly, Glasgow City Council; Jack Cummins, Licensing lawyer representative; Susan Deighan, Glasgow Life; Brian McNelis, Greater Glasgow Hotels' Association; Fiona Moss, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; Stuart Patrick, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce; Graeme Ross, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council; and Gail Sheridan, Community Resident - South Area.

City of Glasgow Licensing Board

Present: Matt Kerr (Chair), Bill Butler, Josephine Docherty, Marie Garrity, Thomas Kerr, Margaret Morgan and Alex Wilson.

Attending: G McDermid (Clerk); I Miller, Legal Advisor to the Forum; M Millar, Clerk to the City of Glasgow Licensing Board; I Campsie, Chief Executive's Department, Glasgow City Council; C Sibbald, Scottish Government; and D Boyd, Scottish Recovery Consortium.

Chair of meeting – Position noted.

1 In terms of paragraph 3 of the Code of Conduct for joint meetings of the City of Glasgow Licensing Board and the Local Licensing Forum, it was noted that Councillor Matt Kerr would chair the meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

2 The minutes of the previous meeting of 8th December 2020 were submitted and approved.

'Is the landscape for alcohol changing?' – Presentation noted etc.

3 The Forum and Board heard a joint presentation by Elaina Smith, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership and Donna Boyd, Scottish Recovery Consortium, entitled 'Is the landscape of alcohol changing?', advising of

(1) comparative statistical information in relation to the alcohol-specific death rates by local authority per 100,000 population in respect of the periods 2000/04 and 2016/20, which highlighted that

  (a) in 2016-20, Inverclyde and Glasgow City had the highest rates of alcohol-specific deaths per 100,000 population; and

  (b) since 2000-04, the death rates in Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire had reduced the most with the death rates of 5 other local authorities increasing;

(2) various article headlines highlighting a shift in attitude towards alcohol, with a rising number of people rejecting alcohol and socialising while sober; and

(3) work undertaken in relation to the Freed Up Event Project which was funded by the Glasgow Alcohol and Drug Partnership, in particular, highlighting

  (a) various background information in relation to the project and how it had started in March of this year;

  (b) details of a monthly event entitled 'Unity at the Unit', where people in recovery performed alongside musicians and DJs;

  (c) information on various other events held from August to October 2021 in addition to the said monthly event, including a La Discotecha Rave Event and a La Discotecha Comedy/Music Event;

  (d) interest from higher profiled artists and performers in the work of the project and of offers of help from artists and performers who had already attended events; and

  (e) the project's potential to help reduce stigma not only around recovery but alcohol and substance free socialising as a whole.

After consideration and having heard further from Elaina Smith and Donna Boyd in response to a number of members' questions, the Board and Forum noted

(i) the joint presentation;

(ii) the following comments by members on its content:-

(A) there were a number of positive comments made by members in support of the work of the Freed Up Event Project;

(B) it was highlighted that there was now a greater availability of low alcohol or alcohol free products on the market and that venues could now offer customers greater choice although it was pointed out that people in recovery would not want to attend events where alcohol was available;

(C) it was suggested that the on-trade should be encouraged to hold alcohol free events generally and also provide assistance to the project and it was pointed out that promoting alcohol free events was part of Best Bar None Glasgow's assessment criteria, with premises scoring points for hosting alcohol free events and that this would contribute to their overall score and the category awarded;

(D) there was general concern expressed regarding the number of alcohol-specific deaths as highlighted in the data presented and it was pointed out that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was still unclear, with people maybe unwilling to seek support or present themselves to medical practitioners;

(E) it was also pointed out that over the last few years there had been an increase in the number of young people under the age of 14 presenting themselves to accident and emergency units intoxicated and that this issue was causing concern and was being monitored; and

(F) reference was made to the success of national advertising campaigns such as the anti-smoking campaign and it was suggested that the appropriate authorities should look to learn from such campaigns to try and prevent the number of alcohol-specific deaths in Scotland; and

(iii) that the Clerk to the Forum would arrange for a background report on the Freed Up Event Project and the presentation slides to be emailed to all members after the meeting.

Review of City of Glasgow Licensing Board's work during 2021 – Presentation noted etc.

4 The Forum and Board heard a presentation by Mairi Millar, Clerk to the City of Glasgow Licensing Board, regarding a review of the work of the Licensing Board during 2021, advising of

(1) various statistical information in relation to the processing of applications by the Licensing Board during 2021, highlighting that

(a) 34 applications for new premises licences had been granted (4 new premises licences/30 new provisional premises licences) and 1 application had been refused; and

(b) 43 applications for approval of major variations had been granted and that no applications had been refused;

(2) various statistical information in relation to the number of current licences in force, in particular, highlighting that there were currently 1,914 premises licences and 6,729 personal licences;

(3) work undertaken by the Board to support the licensed trade through the COVID-19 pandemic recovery, highlighting that

(a) applications for approval of major variations had been granted for take away and on-sales facilities to 'future proof' premises licences;

(b) occasional licences previously granted for outdoor areas had been automatically extended from March 2021 to March 2022;

(c) there had been a 1/3 reduction in annual licensing fees for premises with on-sales; and

(d) an additional hour had been granted for all on-sales premises throughout the duration of the COP-26 event; and

(4) work that would be undertaken by the Licensing Board in the year ahead, which would include a review of the 4am pilot scheme and the start of the 18-month period to develop a new Licensing Policy Statement following the Local Government Elections in May 2022 and the establishment of a new Licensing Board.

After consideration and having heard further from Mairi Millar in response to a number of members' questions, the Board and Forum noted

(i) the presentation;

(ii) the following comments by members on its content:-

(A) there were a number of positive comments made by members in support of the work of the Licensing Board and also the Clerk to the Licensing Board and her team of officers in relation to the support provided to the licensed trade throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic recovery;

(B) there were also a number of positive comments on the resilience shown by the city's hospitality and tourism sector generally and also the city's taxi and private hire car trade during the COVID-19 pandemic and it was suggested that they needed greater support going forward;

(C) there was concern expressed regarding the impact of the COP-26 event on the licensed trade in the city and it was suggested that more should have been done to promote the city to delegates attending the event;

(D) as noted at the Forum meeting held today prior to this meeting, there was also concern expressed regarding the number of occasional licences for 'pop up' bars in the city that had been granted and that these applications undermined the licensing process as they were not subject to overprovision or to a full consultation process;

(E) with regards to the proposed review of the 4am pilot scheme, it was pointed out by a member of the trade that he had noted a 'drop off' in alcohol sales from 0300 hours but that venues should remain open to 0400 hours to allow time for people to disperse safely; and

(F) it was also pointed out that there was concern regarding the number of people selling flowers outside late night venues from 0300 hours and a possible link to 'pick pocket' gangs operating at that time; and

(iii) that the Clerk to the Forum would arrange for the presentation slides to be emailed to all members after the meeting.

Glasgow Festive Safety Initiative 2021 – Presentation noted etc.

5 The Board and Forum heard a presentation by Lise Fisher, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council, providing information on the Glasgow Festive Safety Initiative 2021, advising

(1) that the said initiative would be held on a Friday, Saturday and on 1 Sunday between 3rd December and 19th December 2021 and would be delivered through a partnership approach involving Glasgow Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Police Scotland, Glasgow Taxis Ltd and various voluntary sector organisations;

(2) of the matters considered in planning for this year's initiative, including the lessons learned from 2019;

(3) that the initiative would be delivered through the enhancement of the 'nitezone' provision in the city at the following 6 locations:-

(a) Sauchiehall Street;

(b) George Square North;

(c) Gordon Street;

(d) Albion Street;

(e) Pollokshaws Road; and

(f) Byres Road;

(4) that the following enhanced public safety initiatives would also be delivered:-

(a) Patrolling of ‘nitezones’ by Community Enforcement Officers;

(b) Police Scotland Festive Plan;

(c) Glasgow Street Pastors;

(d) Dedicated CCTV at the Glasgow Operations Centre; and

(e) Digital radio link to pubs, late night venues, Glasgow Street Pastors, taxi marshalls and the Glasgow Operations Centre; and

(5) of how the initiative would be promoted.

After consideration and having heard further from Lise Fisher in response to a number of members’ questions, the Board and Forum noted

(i) the presentation;

(ii) the following comments by members on its content:-

(A) there was concern expressed regarding the need for improvements to public transportation to support the night time economy generally and a shortage of taxis and private hire cars was highlighted;

(B) there was a shortage of door stewards with many having returned to their own countries during the COVID-19 pandemic and not returned;

(C) reference was made to work undertaken by the Night Time Industries Association on standards of good practice in relation to incidents of drink spiking and to its campaign for the Home Office to undertake an inquiry regarding the matter and that appropriate web links would be forwarded to all members after the meeting in respect of these issues;

(D) a general discussion followed regarding drink spiking and it was pointed out that training would be delivered by Police Scotland for Best Bar None Glasgow premises in the near future and would be entitled ‘Bystander and Covers’ and would look at issues such as being aware of situations and surroundings, intervening safely and knowing how to help;

(E) there had been a number of recent reported incidents regarding alleged drink spiking which were subject to a Police Scotland investigation, with blood and urine samples taken; and

(F) consideration should be given by Glasgow City Council to establish a campaign to encourage citizens to behave better to each other generally and to also be more respectful of each other; and

(iii) that the Clerk to the Forum would arrange for the presentation slides to be e-mailed to all members after the meeting.

Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Glasgow Annual Licensing Report for 2020/21 noted etc.

6 There was submitted the Glasgow Annual Licensing Report for 2020/21 by the Chief Constable, Police Scotland, in accordance with Section 12(A) of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, advising of

(1) the 2-tier structure for licensing adopted by Police Scotland to support both national and local priorities through service delivery, which comprised the Violence Prevention and Licensing Co-ordination Unit and licensing teams located in each of the 13 Local Policing Divisions;

(2) various information regarding the City of Glasgow Licensing Board's area, which was policed by the Greater Glasgow Division;

(3) the local policing priorities for the division as set out in the Local Policing Plan;

(4) work undertaken at a local level in relation to the operation of the Act by the Greater Glasgow Licensing Department, which was now led by Inspector Gareth Griffiths supported by 2 Sergeants, 6 Constables and 10 members of police staff;

(5) work undertaken in relation to tackling serious and organised crime; and

(6) the proposed activity for the year ahead.

After consideration and having heard further from Inspector Gareth Griffiths in response to a number of members' questions, the Board and Forum noted

(a) the report; and

(b) the following comments by members:-

(i) with regards to concern expressed at minute paragraph 4 (F) regarding people selling flowers outside late night venues after 0300 hours and a possible link to 'pick pocket' gangs operating at that time, Inspector

Griffiths confirmed that the matter would be investigated by Police Scotland;

(ii) with regards to minute paragraph 5 (E) regarding the outcome of reported incidents of alleged drink spiking, it was noted that these incidents were part of a Police Scotland CID investigation and that test results were still awaited; and

(iii) there was a general discussion regarding a possible increase in young people drinking alcohol at certain locations within the west end of the city and reference was made to the contents of the Glasgow City School Survey 2019/20 report and that a web link would be provided to all members following the meeting.