

Glasgow, 5th December 2024.

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

**Item 2**

**9th December 2025**

*Local Licensing Forum*

**Present:** Gary Atkinson, Community Resident – North West Area; Dr Daniel Carter, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; Lise Fisher, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council; Billy Gold, Scottish Licensed Trade Association; Inspector Gareth Griffiths, Police Scotland; Andrew Hunter, Accredited Liquor Licensing Law Specialist (Substitute for Archie Maciver); Kerstin Lamb, Night Time Industry Association; (Substitute for Brian Fulton); Donald MacLeod, Concert Promoters' Association; Mary McMahon, Glasgow Pubwatch Groups (Substitute for Matthew Reilly); Jamie Mackie, Scottish Grocers' Federation (Substitute for Pete Cheema); Bailie Margaret Morgan, Glasgow City Council; and Paul Stewart, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council.

**Apologies:** Pete Cheema, Scottish Grocers' Federation; Eva Curran, National Union of Students; Brian Fulton, Night Time Industry Association; Archie MacIver, Accredited Liquor Licensing Law Specialist; Fiona Moss, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership; Julie Pearson, Glasgow Life; and Matthew Reilly, Glasgow Pubwatch Groups.

*City of Glasgow Licensing Board*

**Present:** Margaret Morgan (Chair), Bill Butler, Rashid Hussain, Thomas Kerr and Alex Wilson.

**Apology:** Dan Hutchison.

**Attending:** G McDermid (Clerk); I Miller, Legal Advisor to the Forum; M Millar, Depute Clerk to the City of Glasgow Licensing Board; and Dr Claire Kerr and Dr Chloe Taylor, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde .

**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 Donald MacLeod would chair the meeting.

## **Minutes of previous meeting approved.**

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

## **Public health update on alcohol harms and review of alcohol licensing outcomes in Glasgow City- Presentation noted etc.**

**3** The Forum and Board heard a joint presentation by Dr Daniel Carter, Dr Claire Kerr and Dr Chloe Taylor, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, providing a public health update on alcohol harms and information on a review of alcohol licensing outcomes in Glasgow City, advising of

- (1) national information in relation to alcohol-specific deaths in Scotland, in particular, highlighting that
  - (a) there had been 1,277 alcohol-specific deaths in Scotland in 2022, which was an increase of less than 1% (1 death) from the previous year;
  - (b) male deaths continued to account for around two thirds of deaths and that over the last year, male deaths had increased by 25, while female deaths had increased by 24; and
  - (c) the age profile of deaths had become older over time, with the average age of death increasing from 56 years to 60 years in the last decade;
- (2) information in relation to alcohol-specific deaths in Glasgow City, in particular, highlighting that
  - (a) there had been 184 deaths in 2023, which represented a decrease of 8.9% (18 deaths) from 2022; and
  - (b) despite the decrease in the number of deaths, the age-standardised mortality rate had continued to increase in recent years;
- (3) the approach by the NHS to reducing alcohol harms, which included:-
  - (a) continuing with an assertive outreach model for alcohol patients within Glasgow Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services who had poor levels of engagement; and
  - (b) reviewing, and where relevant objecting to, licensing applications, in particular, in areas of overprovision and in Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 1 areas;
- (4) the aims of a review of alcohol licensing outcomes in Glasgow City, which had sought to assess

- (a) the rate of application and outcomes in areas of overprovision and to compare them with areas of non-overprovision;
  - (b) the rate of application and outcomes across SIMD quintiles; and
  - (c) licensing outcomes following public health objections;
- (5) the methodology used, data limitations and findings of the review; and
- (6) the review recommendations in relation to the need to develop a standardised dataset that would improve understanding of licensing outcomes and support this Forum in analysing licensing data.

After consideration and having heard further from Dr Daniel Carter, Dr Claire Kerr and Dr Chloe Taylor in response to a number of members' questions, the Forum and Board noted

- (i) the presentation;
- (ii) its intention to provide an update to the Forum on an annual basis on alcohol licensing outcomes and that a meeting would be held between appropriate officers of the Board and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to discuss the data in more detail;
- (iii) remarks by the Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board clarifying the legal position in relation to the determination of licensing applications, in particular, highlighting that each application was considered on its own merits;
- (iv) concern expressed that the licensing outcomes data also needed to take account of the types of premises that were being granted licences in certain areas, such as pubs and restaurants, as such premises could have a positive impact on the economic regeneration of these areas; and
- (v) that the Clerk to the Forum would arrange for the presentation slides to be emailed to all members after the meeting.

#### **Review of City of Glasgow Licensing Board's work during 2024 – Presentation noted etc.**

**4** The Forum and Board heard a presentation by Mairi Millar, Depute Clerk to the City of Glasgow Licensing Board, regarding a review of the work of the Licensing Board during 2024, advising of

- (1) various statistical information in relation to the processing of applications by the Board during 2024, in particular, highlighting that
  - (a) 55 new licence applications had been granted, including 4 new premises licences (2 off sales and 2 on & off sales) and 51 new

provisional licences (7 on sales, 25 off sales and 19 on & off sales);  
and

- (b) 134 applications for approval of major variations had been granted (17 on sales, 19 off sales and 98 on & off sales);
- (2) various statistical information in relation to the number of current licences in force in the city, in particular, highlighting that there were currently 1,927 premises licences (592 on sales, 595 off sales and 740 on & off sales) and 4,390 personal licences;
- (3) an analysis of the number of premises licences in force by type from 2020 to 2024; and
- (4) a summary of the work undertaken by the Board regarding the pilot scheme in relation to the granting of a terminal hour of 1 am to on sales premises within the city centre and of the proposed review of the scheme, where the Board would review the impact of the scheme throughout the initial 12 month period and determine whether to continue it or to maintain the existing policy terminal hour of 12 midnight.

After consideration, the Forum and Board noted

- (i) the presentation;
- (ii) various comments that the review of the pilot scheme should also consider
  - (A) the reduction in footfall in the city centre at night time;
  - (B) the economic impact of the scheme on the night time economy;
  - (C) concerns regarding public transport provision from the city centre at night time;
  - (D) the need for the criteria considered by the Board when determining applications for major variation from city centre premises for the pilot scheme to be the same as the criteria considered for applicants seeking premises licences to operate as a nightclub to 4am; and
  - (E) the content of a report by Professor J J Lennon, Glasgow Caledonian University, entitled "The Value of the Night Economy in Glasgow 2024", which had been commissioned by the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce;
- (iii) that Donald MacLeod would liaise with appropriate trade organisations and provide information to the Board on current trends in relation to the closure of licensed premises in the city centre;
- (iv) various positive comments by members on the work undertaken by officers of the Licensing Board during the year; and

- (v) 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 2024 – Presentation noted.**

**5** The Forum and Board heard a presentation by Lise Fisher, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council, providing information on the delivery of the Glasgow Festive Safety Initiative 2024 in support of the night time economy, advising

- (1) that the initiative would be held every Friday and Saturday between 29th November and 21st December 2024 and would be delivered through a partnership approach involving Glasgow Alcohol and Drug Partnership, Police Scotland, British Transport Police, Glasgow Taxis Ltd and various voluntary sector organisations;
- (2) of matters considered in planning for this year's initiative, including the lessons learned from previous years;
- (3) that the initiative would be delivered through the enhancement of the 'nitezone' provision in the city at the following 3 city centre locations:-
  - (a) Gordon Street, outside main entrance to Central Station;
  - (b) West George Street, on George Square; and
  - (c) Sauchiehall Street, near the Garage Nightclub;
- (4) that the following enhanced public safety initiatives would also be delivered:-
  - (a) Patrolling of 'nitezones' by Community Enforcement Officers;
  - (b) Police Scotland/British Transport Police Festive Plans;
  - (c) Glasgow Street Pastors and Glasgow Street Aid;
  - (d) Dedicated CCTV at the Glasgow Operations Centre; and
  - (e) Digital radio link to pubs, late night venues, street pastors, taxi marshalls, Glasgow Operations Centre and other voluntary services; and
- (5) of various forms of communication to be used in relation to the delivery of the initiative, including social media/press, use of emails to Best Bar None premises, delivery of training seminars and information sharing.

After consideration, the Forum and Board noted

- (i) the presentation; and
- (ii) that the Clerk to the Forum would arrange for the presentation slides to be emailed to all members after the meeting.

**Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 – Glasgow Annual Licensing Report for 2023/24 noted etc.**

**6** There was submitted the Glasgow Annual Licensing Report for 2023/24 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 led by Inspector Gareth Griffiths supported by 2 Sergeants, 6 Constables and 9 members of police staff;
- (5) work undertaken in relation to preventing the sale or supply of alcohol to children or young people and tackling serious and organised crime; and
- (6) the proposed activity for the year ahead.

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

- (a) the report;
- (b) that Inspector Gareth Griffiths would be transferring from his post within the Greater Glasgow Licensing Department on 6th January 2025; and
- (c) various positive comments from Forum members regarding the improved relationship that now existed between the licensed trade and Police Scotland in the city.