

LOCAL LICENSING FORUM'S MINUTES.

Glasgow, 13th May 2025.

Local Licensing Forum.

- Present:** Donald MacLeod, Concert Promoters' Association (Chair); Lise Fisher, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, Glasgow City Council; Brian Fulton, Night Time Industry Association; Billy Gold, Scottish Licensed Trade Association; Archie Maciver, Accredited Liquor Licensing Law Specialist; Jamie Mackie, Scottish Grocers' Federation (Substitute for Pete Cheema); Bailie Margaret Morgan, Glasgow City Council; Julie Pearson, Glasgow Life; Sergeant Belinda Rafferty, Police Scotland (Substitute for Inspector Alan Ferris); 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.
- Apologies:** Dr Daniel Carter, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; Pete Cheema, Scottish Grocers' Federation; Eva Curran, National Union of Students; Inspector Alan Ferris, Police Scotland; and Fiona Moss, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Attending:** G McDermid (Clerk); I Miller, Legal Advisor to the Forum; M Millar, Depute Clerk to the City of Glasgow Licensing Board; and Professor N Fitzgerald, ELEPHANT Study Research Team.

Membership update noted

1 With reference to the minutes of 18th February 2025 noting an update regarding the 2 vacant Community Resident positions on the Forum for the North East and South areas of the city, there was heard and noted a verbal update by the Clerk to the Forum regarding the matter, advising that

- (1) following an election process co-ordinated by the Council's Communities Team whereby nominations had been sought from Community Councils in the North East and South areas of the city, no nominations had been received for either area by the closing date of 18th April 2025; and
- (2) both vacant Community Resident positions would now be discussed at a Community Council Development Session meeting to be held in June 2025 where I Miller, Legal Advisor to the Forum, would be in attendance to provide further information and answer any questions.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

2 The minutes of the previous meeting of 18th February 2025 were submitted and approved.

Evaluating Later or Expanded Premises Hours for Alcohol in the Night-time Economy (ELEPHANT) Research Study – Update noted etc.

3 In terms of Standing Order No 6 and with reference to the minutes of 29th November 2022 noting an update on progress in relation to the Evaluating Later or Expanded Premises Hours for Alcohol in the Night-time Economy (ELEPHANT) Research Study, there was submitted a report by Professor Niamh Fitzgerald, ELEPHANT Research Team, providing an update regarding the study, advising

- (1) that the aim of the study was to understand and evaluate the introduction, operation and impact of later trading hours for late-night licensed venues in Glasgow and Aberdeen and to consider the implications for licensing policy and practice;
- (2) of the recent opening hour changes in both Aberdeen and Glasgow, in particular, advising of the City of Glasgow Licensing Board's Policy on Licensed Hours which allowed applicants seeking Premises Licences where the premises primarily operated as a nightclub to generally be permitted to open until 4am within the city centre, subject to certain criteria;
- (3) of the study progress and emerging findings, as detailed in the report; and
- (4) that further papers would report on the impact of the of the City of Glasgow Licensing Board's pilot scheme in relation to the granting of a terminal hour of 1am to on-sales premises in the city centre and on the following:-
 - (a) Economic impacts of the later trading hours;
 - (b) Long-term impact of the later hours on the National Health Service and health inequalities;
 - (c) Changes in the location of harms;
 - (d) Media coverage of the local policy changes; and
 - (e) Modelled impact for other cities.

After consideration and having heard further from Professor Niamh Fitzgerald in response to a number of members' questions, the Forum noted

- (i) the contents of the report;
- (ii) comments by members regarding a change in culture in relation to persons attending licensed premises in the city centre where such persons were

frequenting licensed premises earlier in the day and were less likely to attend such premises in the later hours;

- (iii) that with regard to any change in the timeframe for the consumption of alcohol, the research would investigate whether any such change had resulted in an increase in alcohol harm and how this could be reduced;
- (iv) the outcome of recent visits by members of the Licensing Board to appropriate licensed premises in relation to the review of its pilot scheme granting a terminal hour of 1am to on-sales premises in the city centre;
- (v) that at its meeting on 9th May 2025, the Licensing Board had determined to extend the 1am terminal hour for on-sales premises in the city centre under the following terms:-
 - (A) All premises which were initially granted a terminal licensed hour of 1am as part of the pilot would continue with existing conditions, subject to minor amendment; and
 - (B) Applications for major variations in respect of city centre on-sales premises who applied for a terminal hour of 1am would be considered on their own individual merits.

Glasgow's Events Strategy 2025 - Presentation noted etc.

4 The Forum heard a presentation by Julie Pearson, Glasgow Life, providing an overview of Glasgow's Events Strategy 2035, advising of the

- (1) objectives of the strategy, which were to build a unifying vision and direction for events over the next decade;
- (2) approach undertaken in relation to the development of the strategy and the outcome of a group consultation feedback on questions in relation to "What is Glasgow good at?" and "What does Glasgow need to improve?";
- (3) vision, values and strategic priorities; and
- (4) following immediate priority actions:-
 - (a) Creation of a Glasgow Events Sector Industry Group (GESIG);
 - (b) Review and refine the customer journey for an Event Organiser to enable a positive, facilitated and streamlined approach;
 - (c) Initiate a project team to work with transport partners and providers to explore integrated ticketing and improve services around events; and

- (d) Map the GESIG priorities and action plan within the context of other city and national forums to identify collaboration and input on event-specific policy development and responses.

After consideration and having heard further from Julie Pearson in response to members' questions, the Forum noted

- (i) the presentation;
- (ii) comments welcoming the creation of the GESIG; and
- (iii) the ongoing work being undertaken by the City Centre Task Force Sub-group on City Centre Transport.

City of Glasgow Licensing Board – 2024/25 annual functions report noted.

5 There was submitted and noted a report by the Depute Clerk to the City of Glasgow Licensing Board on the annual functions of the Licensing Board over 2024/25, in terms of section 9A of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, advising

- (1) of various statements of how the Licensing Board had regard to both the licensing objectives and its Licensing Policy Statement, as detailed in the report;
- (2) of a summary of decisions made by (or on behalf of) the Licensing Board during 2024/25, including information on the number of licences in force as at 31st March 2025;
- (3) of information on the Board's membership and the administrative arrangements for Board meetings;
- (4) that information and assistance was provided by the Council's Licensing Section and Licensing Standards Officers to members of the public who wished to apply for a licence or to complain about the operation of licensed premises; and
- (5) that in addition to information and assistance provided by the Council's licensing staff, many guidance documents and application forms were available from the Council's website.

City of Glasgow Licensing Board – 2024/25 performance monitoring report noted etc.

6 There was submitted a report by the Clerk to the City of Glasgow Licensing Board detailing the performance of the Licensing Board in the administration of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 over the last 6 months of 2024/25, advising

- (1) of the key indicators used to measure performance in administering the Act;

- (2) of performance in respect of the period from October 2024 to March 2025 in comparison with the targets set; and
- (3) that overall the Board had achieved 88% of its performance targets in respect of this period compared with 82% of performance targets for 2023/24.

After consideration, the Forum noted

- (a) the contents of the report;
- (b) remarks by the Convener referring to recent media reports in relation to a reported increase in sexual assaults within the city centre and of a number of concerns expressed by members regarding the matter;
- (c) the work that would be undertaken with Best Bar None Glasgow premises in the lead up to the festival season and fresher's week, which would include sharing good practice, bystander training and training on the 'Ask Angela' initiative;
- (d) that both Lise Fisher and Paul Stewart would discuss how information on the availability of bystander training and the 'Ask Angela' initiative could be communicated to licensed premises who were not signed up to the Best Bar None Glasgow initiative;
- (e) information on the ongoing process for part of the city centre to be made a Business Improvement District, in terms of the Business Improvement Districts (Scotland) Regulations 2007; and
- (f) that the public consultation on the demand for taxi and private hire car services in the city and whether the Council should continue to have policies limiting the number of such licensed vehicles was currently available on the Council's consultation hub and would close on 28th May 2025, with a significant number of responses already received.

Dates of future meetings noted etc.

7 The Forum noted the following future meeting dates to the year end:-

Meeting

Tuesday, 9th September 2025 at 1400 hours.

Tuesday, 9th December 2025 at 1300 hours.

Tuesday, 9th December 2025 at 1400 hours (Joint meeting with City of Glasgow Licensing Board).