



Glasgow City Council

Local Licensing Forum

Report by Local Licensing Forum Sub-Group - September 2026

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Item 6

8th September 2026

SUB-GROUP RESPONSE TO REVIEW LICENSING BOARD'S LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT IN RELATION TO LICENSED HOURS FOR ON-SALES PREMISES WITHIN THE CITY CENTRE AND OVERPROVISION

Purpose of Report:

To provide a Sub-group response to the Forum as referred to in Item 5 of the Local Licensing Forum Minutes 19th May 2026 to review the Licensing Board's Licensing Policy statement in relation to licensed hours for on-sales premises within the city centre boundary and overprovision.

Recommendation:

The Forum is requested to

- (1) approve the terms of the Sub-group review of the Licensing Board's Licensing Policy statement in relation to licensed hours for on-sales premises within the city centre boundary and overprovision as outlined in the report; and
- (2) refer the report to the Licensing Board as its response to the Board's request for an interim review of the above matters.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐ consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1.0 Background

The current Licensing Policy Statement dated November 2023 is in force for a period of five years when a new Licensing Policy Statement will require to be published. This policy seeks to promote the five licensing objectives:

- Preventing Crime and Disorder;
- Securing Public Safety;
- Preventing Public Nuisance;
- Protecting and Improving Public Health; and
- Protecting Children and Young Persons from Harm.

The Licensing Board is required to consult the Local Licensing Forum when reviewing the Licensing Policy Statement. At the Local Licensing Forum meeting on 19th May 2026 and with reference to the minutes of 9th May 2023 noting that the Glasgow City Alcohol and Drug Partnership (GCADP) would be undertaking work in relation to the collation of appropriate health and crime data and also in relation to data provided by the Scottish Ambulance Service and that this could be available for any mid-term review of overprovision areas undertaken by the Licensing Board (work on this data continues to be explored by GCADP), there was heard a verbal report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board regarding the proposed establishment of a Sub-group to review the Licensing Board's Licensing Policy statement in relation to licensed hours for on-sales premises within the city centre boundary and overprovision.

The Forum agreed that a Sub-group would be formed to provide a response to the consultation process and approved the establishment and membership of the Sub-group as below.

2.0 Remit of the Sub-Group

The Sub-group has been established in order to prepare a draft response to the Local Licensing Forum to review the Licensing Board's Licensing Policy statement in relation to licensed hours for on-sales premises within the city centre boundary and overprovision. The Sub-group response, once approved by the Local Licensing Forum, will be considered by the Licensing Board as integral to the review process.

3.0 Sub-Group Membership

The Sub-group membership is as follows:-

Donald MacLeod, Concert Promoters' Association (Chair)

Brian Fulton, Night Time Industry Association

Jamie Mackie (for Pete Cheema), Scottish Grocers' Federation

Inspector Alan Ferris (for Chief Constable), Police Scotland

Daniel Carter NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Gary Atkinson, Community Resident

Susan McKay (for Stuart Patrick), Glasgow Chamber of Commerce.

The Sub-group met on two occasions during August and September 2026 and considered representations and data from all members regarding on-sale hours within the city centre boundary and the current overprovision areas as contained in the Licensing Policy Statement.

In terms of gathering information to inform the Sub-group's response it was clear from the outset that the position had to be evidence based and the following was used to inform the Sub-group response:-

- (1) Crime and incident information from Police Scotland regarding the operation of the 1am pilot scheme.
- (2) Information on 1am pilot scheme and alcohol health harms in Glasgow City from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.
- (3) Current list of numbers of licensed premises as at 2017, 2022 and 2026 in current overprovision areas provided by GCC Licensing Department
- (4) Views from Community Resident and businesses
- (5) Views from the members of the licensed trade
- (6) Views of parties represented by Forum Sub-group members

4.0 Response

The Sub-group was made up of a diverse group of members, representing the range of vastly differing perspectives of stakeholders working within and affected by the licensing community and beyond. This response aims to strike a balance and reach a position that best reflects the views of all members of the Forum. At the heart of all discussions was a view that Glasgow licensing sector should be viewed in a positive light, due to its important role in regenerating and creating vibrancy in the city, attracting visitors and employment. The group acknowledges that the licensed trade also presents key challenges and seeks to manage these on behalf of the city in terms of pressures on public health, crime and disorder and issues around public safety. The group is keen to highlight the need for the Licensing Board to construct and implement a policy that has the five Licensing Objectives at its core.

5.0 1am Pilot Scheme

The Sub-group noted the current position that:

- (a) the Licensing Board had determined at its meeting on 9th May 2025, to extend the 1am terminal hour for on-sales premises in the city centre for those premises that 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.

Police Scotland commented further to reports as at April 2025 and August 2026 regarding their ongoing assessments of policing demand associated with extended hours in relation to the “City Centre” and confirmed they will continue to monitor the impact of these licensed hours. For present purposes their conclusions are as follows:

- There had been no significant increase in disorder attributable to the participating premises and incidents occurring during additional trading hours remain limited;
- There has been no evidence of detrimental impact upon the city centre as a whole and the pilot had not adversely affected the licensing objectives.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde referred to various research studies consistently finding that later hours have a role in increasing harms, that any further applications of licensing policy and future grant applications should

evidence reduced harms, that any claims of economic benefit have to be objectively evidenced and offset against the economic and other costs borne by wider society including NHS GGC and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

The Scottish Licensed Trade Association, Strathclyde Area LTA indicated that a change in policy to a terminal hour of 1am for the city centre has not brought any commercial benefit to operators nor noticeable advantage to the city. The SLTA noted that public houses across the city are, in many cases, operating on reduced hours due to a substantial decline in late evening footfall/trade caused by customers suffering a "cost of living crisis", a lack of late evening public transport and "taxi anxiety", coupled with the well documented rises in anti-social behaviour, violent crime, sexual assaults and general disorder occurring in Glasgow City Centre.

The SLTA also favours the need for a clear differential terminal hour between public houses and established late night operators who have, over many years, earned Glasgow a well-deserved reputation as a "night life" destination.

The Sub-group also noted that there are a number of 'hybrid' bars which have been prior to the 1am pilot scheme and are operating within the city centre to 3am and that this goes against having a clear differential as above.

Given the above considerations the Sub-Group concluded that it is questionable as to the number of businesses that have been granted and are using the terminal hour of 1am, consumer habits have changed significantly favouring premises operating earlier daytime and evening licensed hours even at weekends, and there is no obvious tangible benefit to continuing the allowance of 1am on-sales within the city centre. While the Sub-group noted a number of premises (originally part of the pilot) have been granted the terminal city centre hour of 1 am on a permanent basis this should only continue if they adhere to the criteria in **5.3.2** of the Licensing Policy Statement together with their licence conditions and that the Board should carefully consider any further major variation applications as referred to in **5.0** (b) above with specific emphasis upon being able to demonstrate that the premises makes a positive contribution to the economy and is able to evidence an investment in safety and security measures for both staff and customers, designed to promote the Licensing Objectives.

6.0 Overprovision Assessment and Localities

The current Overprovision Localities are contained within 7.6 of the Licensing Policy Statement. These localities are Bridgeton, Calton and Gallowgate, Carntyne West and Haghill, Govan and Linthouse, Ibrox, Keppochill, Laurieston and Tradeston, Maryhill West, Parkhead West and Barrowfield, Possilpark, Ruchill, Shettleston North and Wyndford. Within these localities there is a rebuttable presumption against the grant of further licences.

The Sub-group reviewed data received from the Clerk to the Licensing Board referring to the number of Premises within each locality as at 2017, 2022 and 2026 – see Table as below:

Overprovision Areas:	No of Premises 2026	No of Premises 2022	No of Premises 2017
Bridgeton	11	11	13
Calton and Gallowgate	28	32	29
Carntyne West and Haghill	17	16	16
Govan and Linthouse	17	19	17
Ibrox	11	10	12
Keppochill	9	11	12
Laurieston and Tradeston	32	37	39
Maryhill West	7	8	9
Parkhead West and Barrowfield	29	31	33
Possilpark	9	10	11
Ruchill	14	15	16
Shettleston North	17	19	18
Wyndford	6	6	5

The Sub-group also considered an overview of alcohol health harms in Glasgow City from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde which concluded as follows:

- The Local Licensing Forum (LLF) should note with concern the ongoing very high rates of alcohol health harms throughout much of Glasgow City, including but not only in areas designated as over provided;
- There is currently no basis upon which to rescind the overprovided designation of any of the above current thirteen areas; and
- The LLF should continue to monitor and scrutinise the extent to which the Licensing Board effectively implements its approach to overprovision.

Given the above considerations and subject to further discussion the Sub-group concluded that all current designated overprovision localities should remain and at present do not recommend any other localities as being areas of potential concern without further evidence from Police and health statistics to support further recommendations.