

**MINUTES of MEETING of LOCAL LICENSING FORUM held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD on THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2015**

Present:

Decision

The Forum noted the position.

4. REVIEW OF REPORT TO LICENSING BOARD

The Forum considered a report which had been presented to the Argyll and Bute Council Licensing Board on 23 June 2015. The report provided details of the evidence collated from relevant agencies as well as surveys conducted with the public and licensees, in order that the Board may consider options and arrangements in relation to the required statutory consultation.

The report highlighted that the Board's Statement of Licensing Policy 2013 – 2016 included a section dealing with overprovision; ...

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Consultation – emerging findings; and
Discussion topics.

Decision

The Forum noted the presentation.

7. FACILITATED DISCUSSION ON KEY ISSUES

Ian Clark, Iconic Consulting invited members to discuss the issue of overprovision in Argyll and Bute.

During discussion the Forum debated the;

differing types of overprovision policies in place throughout Scotland;
differing age populations within each community identified for consultation;
role of tourism and the availability of licensed premises; and
availability of alcohol in supermarkets.

Decision

The Forum noted the position.

8. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The Forum commented on and raised a number of queries in relation to overprovision in Argyll and Bute including;

why the statistics circulated did not include the range of premises where alcohol could be purchased;
the availability of on line purchase of alcohol;
the diversity in population age within ulations

overprovision; that legislation did not provide for the Licensing Board to impose particular operating hours on off sale premises; suggested increasing alcohol awareness through education and prevention; and put forward that there should be a limit to the amount of alcohol permitted to be bought at a retail outlet at any one time.

Decision

The Forum noted the position and the comments raised.

Calum Maclachlainn left the meeting at this point.

9. NEXT STEPS

The Forum discussed the way forward and their recommendation to the Licensing Board on overprovision in the Argyll and Bute Council area.

It was noted that the Consultation process was due to conclude at the end of October 2015 and that the findings would be reported to the next meeting of the Licensing Board being held on 17 November 2015.

The report would summarise the views gathered during the consultation process, including those of the LLF and any decision taken on overprovision in Argyll and Bute would be as determined by the Licensing Board.

The Chair thanked Ian Clark and Lorraine Simpson for their presentation and their work in relation to the consultation.

Decision

The Forum;

- (i) agreed to recommend that the Licensing Board note the concerns of the Forum in relation to overprovision of off sale premises, along with the sale and availability of cheap alcohol;
- (ii) noted that the comments made and issues raised during the meeting had been taken cognisance of by Ian Clark, Iconic Consulting and would form part of the findings of the consultation process;and
- (iii) agreed that the Council's licensing standards newsletter be emailed to members of the Forum for their information.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Discussion took place on the date and timing of the next meeting of the Forum.

Decision

The Forum agreed that a joint meeting with the Licensing Board be arranged to take place in December 2015 and that this date would be circulated in due course.