

## Committee Minutes

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# Joint Meeting of Edinburgh Licensing Forum and Edinburgh Licensing Board

Edinburgh, 24 October 2011

**Present Representing the Licensing Board:-** Councillors Thomas (Chair), Bridgman and Work.

**Present Representing the Licensing Forum –** John Loudon, Michael Baron, Gordon Hunter, Jim Sherval, Samuel Piacentini, Bill Strachan, John G Murphy, David Gould, Martin Rich, Ken Fairgrieve, Rosaleen Harley and Roland Reid (substituting for Stuart Blaik).

## 1 Overprovision

Councillor Thomas indicated that this was an important topic at the forefront of the Board's consideration. Councillor Thomas welcomed the views of the Licensing Forum on this issue. Discussion focused on the following areas:-

- The possibility of comparing figures on provision with similar comparator cities in the United Kingdom.
- Members of the Forum raised a possible situation of overprovision in regard to supermarkets selling alcohol.
- Board members were set to attend an away day in the near future which would also consider overprovision. A report on overprovision would be considered by the Board in November whereupon public consultation would follow where-upon the Licensing Forum could impart its views.
- The Forum intended to discuss overprovision at their next meeting with a view to making recommendations to the Board.

## Decision

To note the work undertaken on overprovision by Jim Sherval (NHS Lothian).

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## **2 Display of Non Alcoholic Beers/Wines in Supermarkets**

The Forum had recommended to the Licensing Board that they amended their policy statement to persuade supermarkets with off-sales premises licences to encourage people to buy non-alcoholic or low alcoholic products. They also recommended that the Board should amend their policy to encourage larger supermarkets to operate a separate individual display of non or low alcoholic beverages from the alcoholic beverages area. This would assist in making these products easier to locate and would promote in a positive way the ranges of non or low alcoholic beverages. Additionally, it would meet the objective of protecting and improving public health by encouraging people to buy those products as opposed to alcoholic ones.

Councillor Thomas explained that the Board had considered the Forum's recommendation on this subject and highlighted that many members felt that this policy change may even encourage increased alcoholic drinking and it was not something that the Board wished to implement.

### **Decision**

To note that the Board would not be taking forward the Forum's recommendation on the display of non alcoholic beverages and to await the Board's written reasons for not complying with the Forum's recommendations.

## **3 Clarification on Provision for Exchanging Information Between Both the Forum and the Board**

John Loudon requested guidance and clarification from the Board on how the Forum could assist the Board perform its functions.

Councillor Thomas indicated that the Board appreciated the views of the Forum and in particular the specialist knowledge that Forum members possessed. The Forum was most effective when acting as a check on the Board and scrutinising its policy.

### **Decision**

To note that the Board wished the Forum to continue to scrutinise the policy of the Board and make recommendations on alterations to that policy.

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#### **4 Discussion Items Raised by the Forum**

##### **Decision**

- 1) To note the discussion items raised by John Murphy.
- 2) To note that the Convener of the Licensing Board would attend a future meeting of the Licensing Forum.