

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **EAST AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM - 25 OCTOBER 2016**

### **JOINT WEST OF SCOTLAND LICENSING FORUM EVENT - 20 OCTOBER 2016**

#### **Report by Chair of the Licensing Forum**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of the report is to (i) advise the Licensing Forum of the outcome of the Joint West of Scotland Licensing Forum meeting held on 20 October 2016; and (ii) seek authority to take forward the recommendations arising thereon.

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. The first Joint West of Scotland Licensing Forum meeting was hosted by East Ayrshire Council on 9 December 2014.
3. The outcome of that event was that the participating authorities had agreed to take it in turn to host a West of Scotland event, however, the next participating authority Dumfries and Galloway Council, had been unable to take this forward.
4. Noting the above position, the Chair felt that there were issues common to all Licensing Forums which it was felt would benefit from having been raised with the Scottish Government.
5. It was therefore agreed that East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum host a further event with a representative from the Scottish Government in attendance to discuss the role of Forums.

#### **EVENT**

6. On the day the event was attended by 23 members representing seven Local Authority areas, namely:- East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and West Dunbarton.
7. Also in attendance were Peter Reid, Licensing Team Leader, Scottish Government and Linda Bowie, Alcohol Focus Scotland who each gave a presentation to the Forum members.

#### **CONCLUSION**

8. Following discussion, those present agreed that Forums were not working in the way in which they were set up in legislation and they had no real influence on the Licensing Board. It was therefore agreed that the re-establishment of a National Forum would be beneficial as this would act as a sounding board for Licensing Forums to exchange best practice ideas and discuss the way forward.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**9.** It is recommended that the Forum:-

- (i) notes the success of the Joint Meeting;
- (ii) remits to the Chief Governance Officer to compile a report on the outcome of today's meeting and thereafter send it to all Scottish Local Forums asking (a) do they want to establish a National Forum; (b) what do they think should be the terms of reference and remit of a National Forum; (c) how the National Forum would be funded; and (d) who would organise a National Forum; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

David Mitchell  
Chief Governance Officer

21 October 2017  
CB/SC

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL**

Members wishing further information should contact Christine Baillie, Democratic Services Team Leader on Tel No (01563) 576129.

**Implementation Officer: Christine Baillie, Democratic Services Team Leader**