

INVERCLYDE LICENSING BOARD

THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2013 AT 10.00 A.M.

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Brennan, Campbell-Sturgess, Loughran, McEleny, Shepherd and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Ahlfeld presided.

In attendance: Mr James Douglas and Fiona Denver (for Clerk to the Board).

Apologies: Provost Moran; John Cushnaghan, Licensing Standards Officer; Ms Andrina Hunter (Community Health & Care Partnership).

Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest intimated.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT

The Chair addressed the Board advising today's meeting is a continuation of consideration of the Review of the Licensing Board Policy Statement and the two items to be discussed were Overprovision and the Curfew.

Overprovision

The Chair proceeded to ask each Councillor in turn their view on an Overprovision Policy. Each Councillor intimated their opinion and a discussion followed.

Mr Douglas advised the Board of the content of responses received with regard to overprovision including CHCP, the Licensing Forum data zones and Police Scotland Anti- Social Behaviour Report. The common theme was that there existed far too many Off Sales premises in Inverclyde, and that off sales premises were responsible for the majority of alcohol sold within Inverclyde. The Police had identified the area comprising the Town Centre and stretching out to Forsyth Street in the West and Baker Street in the East as the main 'hot spot' of anti-social behaviour caused by excessive alcohol consumption. It was however highlighted that statistics also showed that there were areas of Inverclyde where there are little or no Off Sales premises which have a high level of crime and disorder and health related issues linked to alcohol.

Following a full discussion, the Board decided that Greenock Town Centre be regarded as being an area of Overprovision. The area identified incorporates Greenock Town Centre from Broomhill Street, Drumfrochar Road, Lynedoch Street, Hope Street, Dellingburn Street, Regent Street, Rue End Street, Dalrymple Street, Container Way, Clarence Street, Hood Street, Dalrymple Street, Grey Place, Patrick Street, Union Street, Nelson Street, Newton Street, Roxburgh Street, Duncan Street, Wellington Street, Mount Pleasant Street, Prospecthill Street, Broomhill Street. A map was produced showing the area.

Although the area of overprovision related to licensed premises in general, the Board wished a statement to be inserted into the Policy that clearly identified off-sales premises as posing the greatest concern. The Board stated it would still invite applications for on-sales premises within this area, although any applicant would still have to be aware that an overprovision of licensed premises had been identified. There would be a presumption against the grant of an off-sales licence within this area.

Curfew

The Chair again sought each Councillor's view in turn on the existing Midnight Curfew. Each Councillor intimated their opinion and a discussion followed.

The Chair noted the majority of Councillors intimated the Curfew creates a safer and secure environment as well as public safety and assists in the management of licensed premises.

It was unanimously agreed the curfew remains in place.