

REPORT TO: LICENSING BOARD - 23RD SEPTEMBER 2010

REPORT ON: BOTTLE MARKING SCHEME

REPORT BY: CLERK TO THE LICENSING BOARD

REPORT NO: 573-2010

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Members of the Board of a request from Dundee Licensing Forum to introduce a "Bottle Marking Scheme" in the Board's area in order to assist with tracing the sources of alcohol consumed by children and young persons and to seek the Board's approval to enter into discussions with relevant agencies to produce details as to how such a scheme can be implemented and to include the proposal in the Board's current policy consultation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board:-

- 2.1 - supports in principle the adoption of a "Bottle Marking Scheme" in its area;
- 2.2 - remits to the Clerk to enter into discussions with all relevant agencies to draw up a specific proposal for such a scheme, to investigate funding for this and to report back to the Board; and
- 2.3 - seeks the views of the statutory consultees on the Board's 2011-2014 Statement of Licensing Policy on the inclusion of a "Bottle Marking Scheme" in the policy itself.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising directly as a result of the implementation of the recommendations of this report. However, there will be costs associated with the actual introduction of a "Bottle Marking Scheme", but these will not be known until a specific proposal has been formulated. A further report would be submitted to the Board detailing any such costs at that time.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 The Members of the Board will be all too familiar with the issue of under-age sales from off-licence premises and the associated problems of crime and disorder. In this regard, Dundee Licensing Forum has requested the Board to consider the introduction of a "Bottle Marking Scheme" in Dundee, which would assist in the identification of premises selling alcohol to children and young persons. A copy of the Forum's request is attached at APPENDIX I to this report.
- 4.2 The Forum's request to consider this proposal is inspired by a bottle marking scheme operated in the area of East Ayrshire Licensing Board which was introduced in 2007. This involved supplying off-sale licensees with ultra-violet marker pens and requesting them to inscribe certain brands of alcohol (including tonic wines, cider, alcopops and fizzy wines) with a four-digit code which would be unique to their premises. Thereafter, examination of any alcohol seized from children and young persons could potentially identify the premises which supplied it. Police Officers were issued with ultra-violet light key fobs to enable them to read the reference number on the bottles. Particular premises were identified to participate in a pilot scheme to assess its effectiveness. The scheme has been a success and is still in use today.

- 4.3 To introduce a similar scheme in Dundee would help to promote the five licensing objectives in the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005. It is also advisable that a pilot be introduced first to test its effectiveness as in East Ayrshire, targeted at areas where it is known that there are problems at the moment with children and young persons obtaining alcohol. Consideration could be given to including this in the on-going review of the Board's Statement of Licensing Policy for 2011-2014 and it is suggested that the views of statutory consultees be sought in that regard. If the Board is happy to approve a scheme in principle, the Clerk will undertake discussions with relevant agencies such as Tayside Police and the Community Safety Partnership, who have already (through the Licensing Forum) indicated a willingness to assist the Board to establish a pilot scheme. Thereafter, a more detailed report can be submitted to the Board as regards implementation, including details as to how it might be funded.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Finance, the Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards, the DUNCAN Project Co-ordinator, the Chief Constable and Dundee Licensing Forum have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

Patricia McIlquham
Clerk to the Licensing Board

Date: 13th September 2010

APPENDIX I

DUNDEE LICENSING FORUM

SUPPORT SERVICES

- 6 JUL 2010

RECEIVED

Secretary to Dundee Licensing Forum
Mrs Anne Singleton
21 City Square
DUNDEE
DD1 3BY

Tel: (01382) 434816

Our Ref: AMS/DCS
Your Ref:

Clerk to the Licensing Board

Dear Madam

Meeting of Dundee Licensing Forum of 8th June 2010

I enclose for your information a copy of the minute of meeting of the Dundee Licensing Forum of 8th June 2010.

In particular, I would draw to your attention Article VII of the minute, recommending to the Licensing Board that they implement a Bottle Marking Scheme by way of a pilot scheme to operate within a specific area of Dundee. The Police and Community Safety representatives on the Forum would be happy to assist in identifying a "hot-spot" area.

I also enclose for your information the agenda note which was submitted to the Forum which provides more detailed information about the scheme.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully



Secretary to Dundee Licensing Forum

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(d) MINIMUM PRICING OF ALCOHOL

On a reference to Article X of the minute, it was noted that Tesco had now indicated its support for minimum pricing.

It was agreed that the Chairman should produce a document to facilitate discussion among Forums about measures to reduce alcohol related harm, including minimum pricing. In the first instance this document would be circulated to the Dundee Forum members for comment.

V COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS - FEEDBACK

John Hosie circulated a paper showing the Dundee Partnership Community Engagement Model. The next step would be for named people and contact details to be circulated. He confirmed that alcohol misuse had been clearly identified as a city wide issue and efforts were being made to engage with communities to address the problems. Vered Hopkins advised of the ADPT's involvement. Again it was stressed that it was essential for the Forum to be clear on the purpose of any consultation.

It was suggested that any consultation be "piggybacked" on existing events, utilising Leisure and Communities staff. It was noted that a meeting of the ADPT would take place the following week which would help identify in more detail issues of concern.

VI REVIEW OF DUNDEE LICENSING BOARD POLICY 2007-2010

There was submitted a briefing paper prepared by Dr Kirsty Licence and Carole Robertson advising of the finding of an initial assessment of the existing Board Policy.

The Forum approved the recommendations in the paper and agreed to:-

- further work being undertaken;
- support the review of the Licensing Board Policy to date; and
- seek a wider range of views to help inform their consultation response to the new Board policy.

VII BOTTLE MARKING SCHEME

Hamish Tait advised the Forum of a bottle marking initiative which had been launched in Strathclyde by a partnership including the Ayrshire Licensing Board, the Alcohol and Drug Action Team and Trading Standards, in response to increasing concern in respect of underage drinking and the clear links with levels of violence and disorder within local communities, particularly at weekends.

The scheme was initially intended to run for a limited period but due to its success was still active at present. Other areas had since introduced similar schemes. The extent of the initiative could be limited to a relatively small area or extended to cover a whole town and could target specific types of alcohol which might be problematic to one region.

The Police and Community Safety Partnership strongly support the introduction of such an initiative.

The Forum agreed to recommend to the Licensing Board that they should implement a pilot scheme to operate within a specific area of Dundee. The Police and Community Safety Partnership could help the Board identify an appropriate area.