

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services

Council: 28 April 2010

Subject: Membership of West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To appoint and re-appoint members of West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 required each Council to establish a Local Licensing Forum for the area. The forums functions are to keep under review the operation of the licensing system within West Dunbartonshire, the exercise by West Dunbartonshire Licensing Board of its functions and giving advice and making recommendations to the Board.

The forum is to consist of between 5 and 20 members and it is for the Council to appoint members to the forum. In appointing members of the forum the Council must seek to ensure so far as possible that membership of the forum is representative of:-

- Holders of premises licenses and personal licenses
- The Chief Constable for the police area in which the forum area is situated
- Persons having functions relating to health, education or social work
- Young people
- Persons resident within the forums area

While the Council makes appointments to the forum, it is largely up to each individual forum to determine its own procedure. The constitution of West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum provides that members of the forum shall retire annually and are eligible for re-election for the following year.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The forum's AGM was held on 29 March 2010 and at that date the members of the forum who were appointed or reappointed were:-

Holders of Premises Licences and Personal Licences:-

Mr Michael McHugh, Licence Holder, Singers & Alexander's Bar
(Chairperson)

Mr Paul Smith, Managing Director, Castle Leisure Group

Mr Robert Sider, Depute Chief Executive, Clydebank Co-operative Society
(Secretary)

Mr Peter Gray, Licence Holder, The Ettrick
Ms Allana Wright, Tyne & Tay Taverns Limited
Mr James McDermid, Licence Holder, McDermids
Mr Ian McLean, Licence Holder & Chair of Dumbarton Pubwatch

Representative of the Chief Constable:-

Chief Superintendent Thomson, Strathclyde Police "L" Division

Persons having functions relating to Health, Education and Social Work:-

Mr John Stevenson, Section Head, Environmental Health
Ms Helen Weir – West Dunbartonshire Council Social Work Services
Dr Alison Wilding, West Dunbartonshire Community Health Partnership

Representative for Young People:-

Mr Michael Dolan – St. Columba's High School

Representative of Persons resident within the Forum's area:-

Ms Sheila Urquhart, Secretary of Dumbarton East and Central Community Council
Mr James Paisley, Treasurer of Parkhall and North Kilbowie Community Council

Representative of Members Clubs within the Forum's area:-

Mr Patrick O'Reilly, Representative of Dumbarton Associates Bowling Clubs

Chairman of the Licensing Board:-

Councillor Ronnie McColl

Licensing Standards Officers:-

Mr Peter Clyde, Licensing Standards Officer
Mr Lawrence Knighton, Licensing Standards Officer

The forum also agreed to seek a further representative of young persons. It was noted that the Scottish Government had set up a group representing young persons and enquiries would be made as to whether anyone within this group resided in the West Dunbartonshire area and was willing to serve.

3.2 Proposals

It was recommended that the persons detailed in the background section of the report be nominated as members of West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum. It is also recommended that the forum is given authority to appoint a further representative of young persons.

While the Local Licensing Forum reviews its membership each year, strictly speaking it is not necessary for the Council to formally reappoint members who are willing to continue to serve on the forum. Accordingly it is recommended that from now on only new appointments are reported to Council.

4. People Implications

4.1 There are no people or staffing implications for the Council in this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There are few if any risks of this report. The West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum is a healthy vibrant body which works well with the Licensing Board and other partners and makes a significant contribution to the development of liquor licensing policy in West Dunbartonshire. Recently representatives of West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum gave evidence to a committee of the Scottish Parliament on the terms of the new alcohol bill, the only licensing forum to do so. This is a measure of the high regard in which they are held nationally.

7. Equalities Impact

7.1 No significant issues were identified in a screening for potential equality impact of this report.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 requires the Council to appoint members of West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum. This report seeks Council approval of nominations and reappointments.

8.2 Council is recommended to approve the appointments to membership of West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum of those individuals detailed in the background section of this report.

8.3 Council is recommended to delegate authority to the West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum to appoint a further representative of young persons.

8.4 Council is recommended to agree that from now on only new appointments to West Dunbartonshire Local Licensing Forum need to be agreed by Council.

Joyce White
Director of Corporate Services

Date: 13 April 2010

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Appendices:

Background Papers:

Wards Affected: All