

1. What Boards see as the main challenges and opportunities to delivering public health objectives via the licensing system.

There are a number of challenges Boards face in connection with the public health licensing objective. The objective itself tends to be more of an abstract concept than some of the other objectives and can be difficult to translate to practical examples for decision making in regards both policy and individual applications, but especially the latter. With individual application in particular it is almost impossible for the Board to establish causality - ie that the operation of the particular premises that is the subject of the application will adversely affect the licensing objective.

Similarly, the concept of overprovision is one that caused the Board severe difficulties when deciding upon the Statement of Licensing Policy. Again, causality of harm in a particular geographical area can be very difficult, if not impossible to establish, particularly in the current climate when many residents commute and not all alcohol purchased in an area will necessarily be consumed in that area. The Board were also of the opinion that simply capping a number of premises within an area does not assist in ensuring that those premises are well run.

2. The Committee would welcome views from Boards on what role, if any, Boards could have in working with CPPs to advance public health objectives.

The Board have sought to establish and encourage positive working relationships with all relevant partners to ensure that the Board has all necessary information before it in order to make properly informed decisions. This will again be more relevant in matters of policy than individual applications. The slight caveat here would be that this kind of relationship should of course only be used to promote the licensing objectives and relate only to the sale of alcohol as licensing is not intended to be used to regulate other matters.

The Board has worked hard to establish and is keen to develop further a good working relationship with the Local Licensing Forum and this would possibly be an ideal means of Community Planning Partnerships increasing their exposure to the licensing regime.

3. The Committee would be interested in obtaining more information about LSOs in your area.

The Board share the opinion that the role of LSOs is vital in the efficient operation of the licensing system. Aberdeen City currently has 2 LSOs and there has been no change to this number since the inception of the role. There do not appear to be any issues being caused or matters going unresolved as a result of the current position but

given the size of the Board's area it is possible that additional resources in this role would be beneficial.

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