



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

ALCOHOL ISSUES – DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Executive Summary

1. The EP Board has discussed the issues surrounding over consumption of alcohol on a number of occasions, but mainly from the perspective of over provision. This report recommends that the Board discusses options to additionally address education and culture, and to identify what the strategic policies and vision for alcohol in the city should be.
2. The consequences of over consumption of alcohol affect the city's tourism business and its ability to attract foreign students. It is linked to hate crime and anti-social behaviour, child protection, violence against women/men and placing adults at risk. It is estimated to cost NHS Lothian £23 million per annum and absence, ill-health and crime linked to alcohol all affect the city's businesses at the cost of £87 million per annum¹.
3. The Board is asked to discuss the questions raised in the main report below and to agree to use their organisations and groups, as well as the strategic partnerships and advisory groups, to contribute to a review of EADP's Alcohol Framework and the development of a strategic vision and plan for alcohol in the city.

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Recommendations

1. The Board is recommended to:
 - i. Discuss the areas detailed below.
 - ii. Agree to work through their organisations and representative groups to review EADP's Alcohol Framework and identify a strategic view for alcohol provision, consumption and education in the city, providing feedback to the secretariat by the end of October 2016 to allow a draft strategic vision to be discussed by the Board in December 2016.
 - iii. Ask strategic groups and advisory bodies to discuss the questions below and to provide their feedback to the secretariat by the end of October.

Main Report

2. The problems caused by excessive alcohol consumption have been discussed before and at the last EP Board it was agreed that dialogue should continue with the Licensing Board regarding the number of alcohol licenses being approved for the city. Whilst it is important that the Board's concerns regarding licensing be pursued,

¹ Alcohol Focus Scotland, Local Alcohol Profiles

we believe that there are other aspects regarding alcohol that the EP Board should discuss to enable a strategic approach to alcohol to be pursued. This is an area where partnership work could make a real difference. This paper is intended to stimulate discussion at the June EP Board meeting, with a view to agreeing areas for further work. In particular we recommend that the EP Board seeks further information about the implementation of EADP's Alcohol Framework from their own organisations, strategic partnerships and advisory groups (for example the Community Safety Partnership, EaRN, student bodies and the new advisory group on poverty and inequality) as well as the EADP itself.

3. Areas for discussion:

- a. A recent report to the Council's Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee noted that in the Edinburgh People Survey 51% of people asked felt that there was alcohol related disorder in the city centre. Do we consider this to be too high and how does it compare to other cities?
- b. Is the vision for Edinburgh to be the hen/stag capital of Europe or a cultural/heritage centre? Some argue that these are incompatible so which would best suit the city's businesses, and does the image created affect recruitment to the universities and college?
- c. Can we improve how we measure the impact of excessive alcohol consumption, including alcohol-related crime, on the city's businesses in terms of days off work as well as criminal activity and the costs to NHS Lothian?
- d. Can we review and improve our partnership approach to alcohol education which encourages employers and educational establishments to improve attitudes to alcohol? Perhaps using evidence and materials from NHS and Police sources?
- e. Should we consider an intensive city educational campaign that focuses on reducing alcohol consumption?
- f. Can we obtain better data on the amount of crime that is directly related to alcohol?
- g. Can we evidence the link between alcohol abuse and child protection issues, violence against women/men and adults at risk?
- h. Can we improve our understanding of the direct impact that alcohol has on the health system across primary, secondary and acute services?
- i. Can we better understand Edinburgh's local communities' perspectives on alcohol? Building on the community engagement on alcohol related harm in Leith.
- j. Can we identify the differential impact on different areas based on SIMD and on different groups, particularly those with protected characteristics? This needs to include domestic situations.
- k. Through the organisations and groups represented at the EP Board can we get feedback on the concerns, aspirations and vision of the community in relation to alcohol provision and consumption? This would build on the current consultation with the community in Leith on alcohol related harm.

- I. Can we then turn this into the community’s vision for alcohol in the city and then communicate this to the Licensing Forum and the Licensing Board?
4. We suggest that Board members discuss these points in June and agree to work with representatives from EADP and seek further information through their own organisations, strategic partnerships and advisory groups over the next five months to:
 - i. Review the Alcohol Framework.
 - ii. Contribute to the development of a strategic vision relating to alcohol.
5. This should be fed back to the secretariat by the end of October to allow the partnership as a whole to develop a strategic vision for the City and to support the development of subsequent licensing policy.

Relevance to:	Low		Medium		High
♦ Sustainability	1	2	3	4	5
♦ Equality	1	2	3	4	5
♦ Community Engagement	1	2	3	4	5
♦ Prevention	1	2	3	4	5
♦ Joint Resourcing	1	2	3	4	5

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