

STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2010

New paragraph 9.3

During the course of 2011 a programme of work was conducted by a partnership of officers from the Board, NHS Lothian and Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership to identify further localities within the area where there may be overprovision of certain types of licensed premises. The Board have carefully considered over a series of meetings the outcome of this work in the report "Assessing the overprovision of Alcohol Licences in Edinburgh" and in supplementary analyses, and have accepted that there are localities (referred to as intermediate zones in the final report) exhibiting significant alcohol related health, crime and disorder problems. While these are not necessarily the localities with the highest number of licensed premises, the Board accepts that there is a generally high level of availability of alcohol within Edinburgh and in the view of the Board it is clear that a substantial number of individuals are travelling within the City to purchase alcohol from the large number of off-sales outlets available. There is therefore an argument that the entire area might be overprovided with certain types of licensed premises and that addressing individual localities within that area will be stigmatising to certain areas and ignore the mobility of consumers and therefore not advance the issue. The Board is aware that there is a view that the area for the assessment of overprovision cannot be the entire Board area and that the report 'Re-thinking alcohol licensing' published September 2011 incorporating thinking from an expert group on public health and licensing calls on the Scottish Government to amend current legislation to state that the locality for assessment of overprovision can be the entire Board area. The Board currently awaits the response of the Scottish Government to the recent report and will continue to monitor developments in this area. It is satisfied for the present that the terms of paragraphs 9.4 and 9.7 of this statement identify how the Board will deal with individual applications. However, the number of premises in the City whose operation includes off-sales, as highlighted by recent work, has persuaded the Board that it must consider the fine detail of any licence application or variation which would have the effect of increasing the present off-sales capacity within the area. In relation to any such application or variation the Board may well call for further reports to assist in its determination and in appropriate circumstances will expect applicants to demonstrate a willingness to initiate or participate in Community Alcohol Partnerships. Unless there are strong counter indications, any such application or variation will be viewed by the Board as likely to be inconsistent with one or more of the licensing objectives.