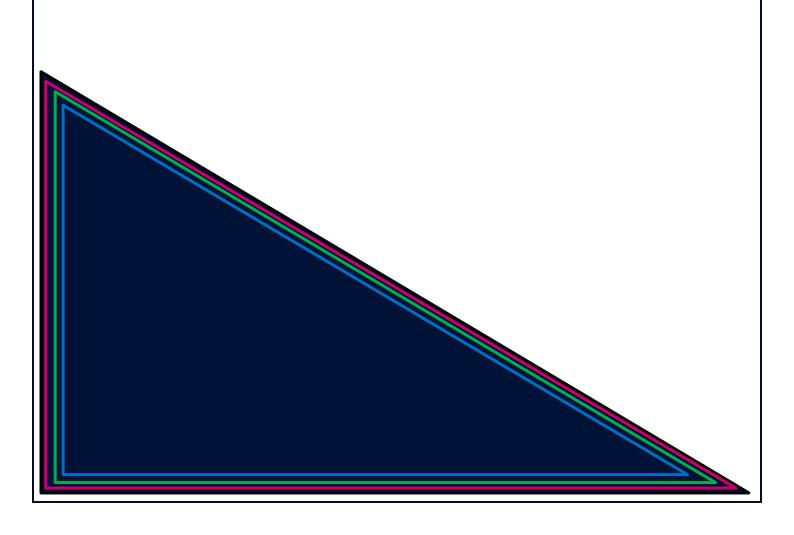
PART THREE: SUPPLEMENTARY POLICIES



SUPPLEMENTARY POLICY 1 - CONTEXT AND PROFILE

Profile of Aberdeenshire¹

Profile

- 1.1 Aberdeenshire is a predominately rural area in North East Scotland and includes the Cairngorm mountains, rich agricultural lowlands and varied coastal landscapes. (its overall area of 6,339 square kilometres represents 8% of Scotland's overall territory); traditionally economically dependent upon the primary sectors (Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing) and related processing industries. Over the past 50 years, the development of the oil and gas industry and associated service sector has repositioned Aberdeenshire's economic focus, which in future will increasingly turn towards energy transition. The tourism industry also brings in significant investment to the area and this is well supported by the authority, local businesses and communities throughout Aberdeenshire. In 2021 Aberdeenshire's population was estimated at 262,690(which was approximately 5% of Scotland's total population).
- 1.2 The Aberdeenshire Licensing Board intends to carry out work to develop local alcohol profiles for the main settlements in Aberdeenshire to supplement the information contained within this Supplementary Policy and **Supplementary Policy 3** and support the annual functions statement published by the Board each year.

Banff and Buchan

1.3 Banff and Buchan's main settlements are Fraserburgh, Banff and Macduff. Fraserburgh has approximately 4.8% of the population of Aberdeenshire with Banff having 1.52% and Macduff having 1.4% respectively. The economy remains largely based on fishing and agriculture and at present the Area is eligible for European Funding due to its high dependency upon these traditional economic sectors. In recent years, major investment has taken place to upgrade port facilities at Macduff and Fraserburgh. Fraserburgh continues to be a key centre for fish landings and processing, and Macduff is a major boat building and repair centre in the North East. The area faces economic difficulties and is a recognised area of urban deprivation. The Area does, however, have a palpable sense of history and highly marketable tourism assets in its spectacular coastline, attractive coastal villages and visitor attractions.

Buchan

1.4 Buchan's main settlements are Peterhead and Mintlaw. Mintlaw has approximately having 1.1% of the population of Aberdeenshire with Peterhead having 7.3% respectively. Peterhead is the largest town in Aberdeenshire; the principal white fish landing port in Europe; and a major oil industry service centre. Peterhead Port Authority's all-weather deepwater quay (Smith Embankment) and its ancillary facilities support both offshore oil & gas and renewable operations and is expected to also attract business from the offshore decommissioning sector. Equally important is the nearby gas terminal at St. Fergus and the Peterhead Power Station. The future of the energy and engineering sectors although in a state of change remains vibrant and Peterhead's role at the top of the Energetica corridor sets the tone for realising future potential. Inland, the area is dependent upon agriculture although there has been a minor decline in rural services.

1.5

¹ Further information towns in Aberdeenshire can be found at http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/town-profiles

Formartine

1.6 Formartine's main settlements are Turriff, Ellon, and Old Meldrum. Turriff has approximately 1.8% of Aberdeenshire's population with Old Meldrum having 1.2% and Ellon having 3.9% respectively. Formartine has experienced rapid population growth. Lying at the heart of the Energetica corridor, this growth is likely to continue as this industry develops. By contrast, the area around Turriff retains a strong dependency on the traditional agricultural economy. Formartine has experienced rapid population growth, particularly around Ellon and Oldmeldrum and in the south east where development has spread from Aberdeen City. The population is getting older and the population of children has also increased. Lying at the heart of the Energetica Corridor employment and economic activity is set to continue to grow alongside the development of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route and the dualling of the A90 between Balmedie and Tipperty. Formartine has a spectacular environment with protected characteristics and fantastic recreational and visitor attractions.

Garioch

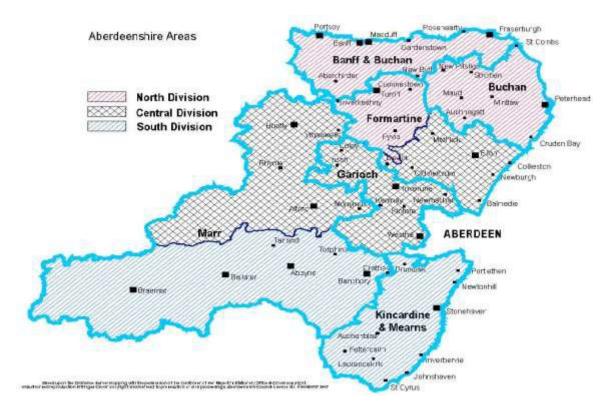
1.7 Garioch's main settlements are Inverurie, Kintore, Kemnay and Westhill. Inverurie has approximately 5.7% of Aberdeenshire's population, Kintore has 1.8%, with Kemnay having 1.5% and Westhill having 4.5% respectively. Many of the Communities in Garioch have experienced rapid population growth in recent years and the population is expected to grow further by nearly 12% over the next decade – by far the fastest projected growth rate in Aberdeenshire. The Area's age profile has a higher representation of younger age groups than Aberdeenshire generally and an increasing ageing population. Inverurie, Westhill and Kintore are important work destinations also having a significant beneficial impact on the local economy.

Marr

1.8 Marr's main settlements are Huntly, Aboyne, Alford and Banchory. Huntly has approximately 1.7% of Aberdeenshire's population, Aboyne has 1.1%, Alford has 0.98% and Banchory has 2.8% respectively. With nearly half of Aberdeenshire's landmass but only 15% of its people, Marr is the most sparsely populated area with an average of only 12 people per square kilometre. To the west is the spectacular mountain environment of the Cairngorms, part of the Cairngorms National Park. Marr's economy revolves around tourism, forestry and agriculture. There are over 30 towns and villages, with a significantly higher number of even smaller settlements in Marr. Some settlements are very scattered but all have their own identity and characteristics. Marr's spectacular scenery, natural and national heritage, and Royal connections ensures the area, particularly Deeside, sustains a well-developed tourism industry based on heritage, natural resources and outdoor activities. The Forestry Commission and agriculture contribute to the local economy as well as health, wellbeing and tourism, through the provision of recreational facilities and production of high quality local foodproduce.

Kincardine & Mearns

1.9 Kincardine & Mearn's main settlements are Stonehaven, Portlethen and Laurencekirk. Stonehaven has approximately 4.2% of Aberdeenshire's population, Portlethen has 3.3% and Laurencekirk 1.2% respectively. Kincardine & Mearns is the most southern of six administrative areas within Aberdeenshire representing 12% of the whole Aberdeenshire area and is defined by 59 km of coastline to the east and the foothills of the Grampian Mountains to the west. The area itself is very diverse; in the north proximity to Aberdeen has encouraged considerable development of population and industry, the southern part contains the rich farmland of the Mearns and a series of attractive former fishing villages.



What is the role of the Board?

- 1.10 The role of the Board is to determine policy as well as the administration, consideration and determination of licensing applications in line with the provisions contained within the 2005 Act for Aberdeenshire.
- 1.11 Whilst the Act is silent in terms of how members of the Board should exercise their functions separately from their role as councillors, the Board requires to be an independent and impartial tribunal in terms of Article 6 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms ("ECHR"), which was incorporated into UK domestic law by the Human Rights Act 1998. Board Members also take account of the terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct published by the Standards Commission for Scotland which sets out the need to ensure that there is a proper and fair hearing for all regulatory decision-making, including liquor licensing, and that there is no suggestion of pre-judging or bias in the consideration of any applications before the Board. Accordingly, Board Members may declare an interest and not participate in the consideration of any licensing matter in respect of which they have had any prior involvement either personally or in their capacity as a Councillor if they felt such prior involvement would compromise their impartiality.
- 1.12 The Board will carry out all functions under the Act with a view to promoting the five Licensing Objectives
- 1.13 The Board has 10 members with a quorum of 5 and is supported by a Clerk, Depute Clerks, paralegals as well as Administrative Support Staff.
- 1.14 The Clerk is Karen Wiles, Head of Legal and Governance, Business Services, Aberdeenshire Council, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB.

1.15 The Depute Clerks are as follows:

Fiona M. Stewart
Jill Joss
Lynsey Kimmitt
Lauren Cowie
Amanda de Candia

1.16 The current members are:

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Ms Dawn Black (Vice-Convenor)

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Board Members may also be contacted by writing to them: c/o Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen, AB16 5GB

PLEASE NOTE THAT CANVASSING OF BOARD MEMBERS IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION IS AN OFFENCE.

1.17 Details of the meetings held by the Board can be found here²²³.

The Local Licensing Forum

1.18 Each Council (Not licensing Board) **must** establish a Local Licensing Forum for their Area. The role of the Forum is to represent the views of the community as a whole and not individuals or organisations. The role of the Forum is to advise the Licensing Boards on general matters of policy and not individual cases.

THE ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

A.1 On 18th of January 2018 Aberdeenshire Council appointed the Aberdeenshire Local Licensing Forum.

The terms of reference of the Forum are as follows:

- (a) To keep under review
 - (i) The operation of the 2005 Act in Aberdeenshire, and
 - (ii) In particular, the exercise by the Aberdeenshire Licensing Board of its functions, and

Give such advice and make such recommendation to the Board in relation to those matters as the Forum considers appropriate.

² https://committees.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/committees.aspx?commid=516

- (b) To consider the implications of relevant local data and statistics provided to the Forum by Police Scotland and the local Health Board;
- (c) To meet the Board at least once per year; and
- (d) To advise the Board on any matters of policy and other areas of concern.
- A.2 The Forum folded due to lack of interest in meetings and as a result of the Covid Pandemic.
- A.3 As part of the policy review, consultation will take place to assess interest in reestablishing the Licensing Forum and the Licensing Policy will be updated accordingly.

²⁴ http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/licensing/alcohol/forums/local-forums/

²⁵ http://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/licensing/alcohol/forums/local-forums/

