Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill

West Dunbartonshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership

West Dunbartonshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership have considered the above call for written evidence and indeed the subsequent submission made on behalf of the West Dunbartonshire Community Health and Care Partnership, West Dunbartonshire Council, West Dunbartonshire Licensing Board and West Dunbartonshire Licensing Forum.

While the ADP fully support the content and detailed information contained within that submission the ADP are of the opinion that the impact that the misuse of alcohol has on the social and economic regeneration of West Dunbartonshire and the rest of Scotland is such that a separate response from the ADP is appropriate.

I will not re-repeat the evidence provided within the aforementioned communication but will re-affirm that the problems associated with the misuse of alcohol by and on the population of West Dunbartonshire will continue to be of an unacceptably high level unless significant steps are taken to reduce to the overall consumption of alcohol.

The numbers of hospital discharges and alcohol related deaths are only part of the problem. Incidences of domestic violence or violent crimes fuelled by alcohol, the number of failed relationships, un-sustained tenancies, levels of unemployment and costs to employers through alcohol related sickness are only a few of the other socio economical impacts that alcohol has on the population of West Dunbartonshire.

Whilst, there is national evidence which demonstrates that the availability of alcohol, particularly in relation to unit cost has an effect on the amount of alcohol consumed it is clear that the cost of alcohol is only one of many ways in which we can tackle the unhealthy relationship Scotland has with alcohol.

This will not be achieved by the work of ADP’s alone, neither will it be achieved solely through legislative changes; it is only by working in partnership that we can hope to change the drinking habits of the population of areas like West Dunbartonshire and indeed Scotland as a whole.

With this in mind I write on behalf of the West Dunbartonshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership to indicate our support of the Alcohol (Minimum Pricing) (Scotland) Bill as part of a co-ordinated programme of action across national and local governments and in partnership with the every community in Scotland.

The ADP would want to encourage continued close working relationships between Scottish Government and other partners in providing a holistic range of options, including the establishment of minimum pricing, that are needed to address the broad and complex problems associated with the misuse of alcohol.

R Keith Redpath, Chair
West Dunbartonshire ADP
12 December 2011