

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM – 1 JUNE 2005

VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFF-SALES LICENCE HOLDERS

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise the Forum of the proposed use of identifiable carrier bags to be provided to off-sales licence holders in Dalmellington, Dalrymple, Patna, Mauchline and Galston as per paragraph 7 of the Code (attached)

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Licensing Board meeting on 12th October 2004, members approved a report which invited consideration of a Draft Code of Conduct for off-sales premises within East Ayrshire. Following a consultation exercise it was proposed to roll out the use of identifiable carrier bags in the following areas: Dalmellington, Dalrymple, Patna, Mauchline and Galston. Each off sales premises in those areas will be provided with 1000 carrier bags of one identifiable coloured band (to include the text – R U 18 – East Ayrshire Community Safety Partnership and East Ayrshire Licensing Board).

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The identifiable carrier bags will be provided to all premises in the above areas together with appropriate instructions as to how these should be utilised by operators. License holders will be asked to complete and return a signed copy of the Code of Conduct to the Licensing Section.
- 3.2 Once the individual licence holders have signed their acceptance of the Code of Conduct they will be asked to use these bags when selling alcohol, whether on its own, or along with mixed purchases, but only to the extent necessary to convey the alcohol which has been purchased.
- 3.3 When these supplies run out a decision will then be taken in conjunction with the Police, the Community Safety Partnership and any other relevant agency as to whether it is necessary or appropriate to continue with the operation of the scheme in any particular area, in which case supplies of bags will be renewed, or whether to move on and target another area.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The cost of implementing this initiative will be met from Anti- Social Behaviour Funding.

5. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Nil

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. It is intended that the Code of Conduct be used as a tool to improve communication and co-operation between all relevant parties and assist in addressing the issue of underage drinking.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1. The Forum is invited to note the contents of this report

W Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/AW

17 May 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. For further information please contact John Crawford, Head of Protective Services, 01563 576111 john.crawford@east-ayrshire.gov.uk
2. Implementation Officer – Ann Williams

**DRAFT VOLUNTARY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
OFF-SALES LICENCE HOLDERS**

1. Licence holders must operate a 'no proof no sale policy' in respect of any customer believed to be under the age of 21.
2. Licence holders will only accept passports, driving licences or the national Young Scot card, any other PASS accredited Identity card and any national identity card which may be issued in the future by central government.
3. Licence holders will undertake appropriate formal training and will ensure the adequate provision of training to all staff members concerned in the sale or supply of alcohol.
4. Licence holders will maintain detailed records of all requests made for proof of age, and will make these available for inspection on request by either Police or officers from other appropriate agencies.
5. Licence holders will exercise due diligence not just in respect of refusing sales to persons under the age of 18, but also to anyone whom they reasonably suspect to be acting as a third party agent in the attempted purchase of alcohol for consumption by persons under the age of 18.
6. Licence holders will undertake to display on their premises any cautionary, promotional or education material which may from time to time be issued through the Licensing Board, whether acting on its own or in conjunction with the East Ayrshire Community Safety Partnership or other partner agencies.
7. Licence holders will be expected to use any identifiable carrier bags which may from time to time be supplied to them by the Licensing Board in order to assist in identifying the source of sales to persons under the age of 18.
8. Licence holders will not support or devise promotions of products which are recognised to be of particular attraction to young persons, or any other initiatives which might reasonably be considered irresponsible, in so far as they focus on younger persons or encourage excessive consumption generally, or for any other reason.
9. Licence holders will take all reasonable and practical steps available to them to promote best practice and adherence to this Code at all times both in respect of their own premises and any others within their locality, including full co-operation with the Licensing Board, Strathclyde Police and other relevant regulatory agencies.