

Corporate Scotland and Infrastructure Implementation Group

Tuesday 3rd September 2008, 14:00 – 16:30, Victoria Quay

Present

Iain Herbert, Scottish Tourism Forum (Chair)
Mairi Caldwell, Scottish Government (Secretariat)
Richard Arnott, Tourism Unit, Scottish Government
Bill Carcas, Scotland's Best B&Bs
Eva McDiarmid, ASVA
Jeanette Wilson, BHHPA
Marjory Rodger, CPT
Stuart Mackinnon, FSB
Sandy McMillan, SLAED
James Fowle, COSLA
Ruth Greig, STF

Apologies

David Smythe, ASSC
Iain Limond, JAC Travel
Joanne Orr, Scottish Museums
Riddell Graham, VisitScotland

<p>1. <i>Welcome and Apologies</i></p> <p>Iain Herbert, asked attendees to introduce themselves. Apologies are listed above.</p>	
<p>2. <i>Minutes of last meeting</i></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved without amendment.</p>	
<p>3. <i>Matters arising</i></p> <p>Iain Herbert reported that at the last Monitoring Group meeting, the Chairs of the individual TFFC implementation groups had expressed concern about progress in achieving TFFC strategy targets and the level of industry engagement in the process of implementation. The EET Committee report had also provided the impetus to look again at the strategy. As a result he had offered to draft a refresh of the tourism strategy taking into account the view of the Chairs and those of his industry members. The revised document which aims to engage the wider tourism industry suggest that there be one strategic group, and four sub groups to take forward work on marketing, investment, skills and infrastructure and transport. Sustainability would become an overarching aim and the STP would continue. Analysis of business plans developed by SG, local Government DMOs and ATPs would be necessary to identify a Tourism Business Plan with more measurable targets. Industry would be seen to be leading the strategy and delivery framework taking real ownership.</p>	
<p>4. <i>Impact of Fire Regulations</i></p>	

The Scottish Tourist Forum has been receiving a lot of mail from smaller B & Bs and Guest Houses about inconsistency in the interpretation of the Fire Regulations by Fire Safety Officers. Bill Carcas did not think that many B & Bs in Dumfries and Galloway had yet been visited. Those that had complained that they were asked to assess the risk of fire, but Fire Officers were then strictly enforcing the regulations. Some did not also mention to B & B owners that building warrants were required for fire doors, and the timescales to implement measures were often very short. Bill also highlighted the possible insurance implications of not complying with Fire Officers' recommendations, and then a death occurs. Reports from others indicates that in the Borders' Fire Officers were taking a low-key approach, Central Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway were being very strict with some threats voiced to taking owners to court. James Fowlie said he would feed back complaints to the network of Fire Officers. Although the guidance says that changes should not require excessive expenditure there is a lack of consistency in the way this is applied. Newer self-catering establishments would meet Building Requirements for fires safety but some felt it was unnecessary to demand the same requirement in all self-catering units. Stuart MacKinnon suggested that we should try and find out what the Firemaster's brief was when visiting a B & B establishment.

5. Update on travel and transport information

Marjory Rodger of CPT gave the group an update on linkage of travel information to the Visitscotland.com website through Travelline. This means that a tourist can find out how to reach an attraction by public transport. She reported also that a National Transport Strategy Implementation Group had been established and asked Iain Herbert to represent tourism on the group. She had created a document aligning the Bus Action Plan and COSLA actions together. CPT and COSLA were working together on Citizenship cards for the under-18's – these could be used as SMART cards for public transport. A national multi-modal thru-ticketing scheme was also in the pipeline but had been delayed because of setting standards in the 'back offices'. Transport Scotland would fund this operation. Thru-ticketing represents an opportunity for day-trippers and concessionary travellers, but only throughout Scotland. Consultation on thru-ticketing has just been completed – but this is not at the stage of being something which could be incorporated into a Tourism Pass for attractions. Marjory thought that eventually they would like to have a pass similar to the Octopus card.

6. Demonstration of Traffic Scotland and Travelline information systems – see attached Powerpoint presentation from Peter Cullen of Transport Scotland.

The Journey Planner in a Box software will be launched at the CPT conference at Gleneagles Hotel on 29 September. In the longer term Peter hoped that these publicly-funded websites would be integrated with commercial Satnav systems.

7. Update on impact of Licensing regulations

Iain asked if members were still receiving complaints about the impacts of

the licensing regulations. FSB reported that some retailers were redesigning premises to fit with the new regulations while ASVA noted that some attractions were ceasing to sell alcohol, particularly some Historic Scotland sites. The SWA were worried about the viability of Gordon and MacPhail's miniature bottling activity. STF reported that around 40% fewer licences were being applied for in some rural areas. ASVA were also worried about the potential costs/impacts of the new alcohol proposals for some alcohol retailers – social responsibility fee?

NEXT MEETING

Iain Herbert suggested that a meeting of the group be held once the refreshed strategy had been adopted by the TFFC Monitoring Group.

<p>the licensing regulations. FSB reported that some retailers were redesigning premises to fit with the new regulations while ASVA noted that some attractions were ceasing to sell alcohol, particularly some Historic Scotland sites. The SWA were worried about the viability of Gordon and MacPhail's miniature bottling activity. STF reported that around 40% fewer licences were being applied for in some rural areas. ASVA were also worried about the potential costs/impacts of the new alcohol proposals for some alcohol retailers – social responsibility fee?</p>	
<p>NEXT MEETING</p>	
<p>Iain Herbert suggested that a meeting of the group be held once the refreshed strategy had been adopted by the TFFC Monitoring Group.</p>	