

Corporate Scotland and Infrastructure Implementation Group

Thursday 8 November 2007, Scottish Government (Victoria Quay), Edinburgh

Present

Iain Herbert, Scottish Tourism Forum (Chair)
Marjory Rodger, Confederation of Passenger Transport
Penny George, Scottish Government (Secretariat)
Richard Arnott, Head of Tourism, Scottish Government
Janet Hood, BII
Bill Carcas, Scotland's Best B&Bs
Eva McDiarmid, ASVA
David Smythe, ASSC
Jeanette Wilson, BHHPA
Joanne Orr, Scottish Museums
Mary Mitchell, Perth College
Eddie Brogan, Scottish Enterprise

Johann MacDougall, Scottish Government (Fire Safety)

Apologies

Ian Kelly
John Loudon
Iain Limond
John Brown
Julie Hepburn

<p>1. <i>Welcome and Apologies</i></p> <p>Iain Herbert, new Chief Executive of the Scottish Tourism Forum, introduced himself to the group and outlined his strong background in tourism, and his enthusiasm for chairing the CSI implementation group. He thanked Marjory Rodger for her work as interim Chair.</p> <p>Apologies were given as listed above.</p>	
<p>2. <i>Minutes of Last Meeting</i></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2007 were accepted as a true record.</p>	
<p>3. <i>Update on Fire Safety Legislation</i></p> <p>Johann MacDougall of the Government's Fire Branch attended the meeting to give an update on the new fire safety legislation and how it is likely to impact on the tourism sector. Johann's update paper is to be distributed with these minutes.</p> <p>Overall, the group's response was positive, and a couple of people commented that they were very pleased that earlier concerns raised by</p>	

<p>industry representatives had been addressed.</p> <p>The group were pleased to hear of the planned workshops on the new fire safety legislation which will take place throughout Scotland over the next few months, and will be free of charge. These workshops should help people whose businesses will now fall under the legislation to interpret what is required of them, and lessen the 'fear factor' associated with such new requirements. Janet Hood suggested that perhaps the workshops could be combined with her planned workshops on fire, licensing and food safety legislation. JH and JM to discuss.</p> <p>The query was raised of what would happen if the workshops were oversubscribed and business owners couldn't get spaces. JM replied that if this was to occur, there would be a case for going back to the Minister for Community Safety and requesting funding for further workshops.</p> <p>JM also informed the group of the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives, whose advisers can come to a business and provide general advice on health and safety, and fire safety, free of charge. (www.healthyworkinglives.com)</p> <p>Some people expressed their disappointment at never having had sight of the black Fire Safety booklet that Johann referred to. Johann explained that this had been distributed to a large number of businesses around Scotland, using the same database as had been used during the introduction of the smoking ban last year. Inevitably though, not all businesses were included and some have not received the booklet. Johann informed members that it is still available from Blackwell's Bookshop free of charge (ph 0131 622 8222), and that any one individual can request up to 50 copies. The booklet is also downloadable from the internet (www.infoscotland.com/firelaw - click on 'general guidance').</p> <p>JM had referred to the upcoming fire safety guidance relating to places of entertainment and assembly. The group asked for clarification on how these were defined. JM explained that the term incorporated a wide range of venues, including theatres, cinemas, pubs, circuses, village halls, churches. She went on to explain that in the case of e.g. a village hall, responsibility for fire safety may be shared between the dutyholder for the venue, and the person hiring it for an event.</p>	<p>JH and JM to discuss possible combining workshop dates.</p>
<p>4. <i>Update on Executive targets and actions from TFFC</i></p> <p>The group briefly discussed the document Penny had drawn together and sent round in August 07 with updates on each of the CSI group's actions and targets from the TFFC.</p> <p>Richard Arnott provided a further brief update on the housing related target, by saying that the Government has just launched a consultation called 'Firm Foundations' on affordable housing. This can be seen at: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/10/30153156/0 and is open until 25 January 2008 should anyone wish to respond.</p> <p>Janet Hood raised an issue in relation to Action 30, about rural filling stations being licensed premises and the difficulties they face under the</p>	<p>JH to submit question on rural filling stations to RA for</p>

<p>new licensing legislation. JH to submit question to RA for consideration with licensing colleagues.</p>	<p>consideration and response.</p>
<p>5. <i>Case studies on Licensing and planning Regulations</i></p> <p>A number of queries were raised about the new licensing legislation, and how it may potentially impact heavily on the tourism and hospitality sector. Marjory Rodger made the suggestion of writing to the Enterprise, Energy and Tourism Committee to raise these issues, following the announcement of Tavish Scott's inquiry into tourism.</p> <p>Iain Herbert proposed that the STF pull together a working group to focus on case studies for licensing and other pertinent regulatory issues. The group agreed this was an excellent idea.</p> <p>Bill Carcas commented that the tourism industry must be consulted when legislation such as licensing or fire safety is changing, and that this communication has been lacking up until now. It was agreed that this is one of the key roles of the CSI group, to be a 'radar' for upcoming issues and to work together to encourage people to 'think tourism'.</p> <p>JH had tabled a query that had been raised at the Parliament's Justice Committee concerning the detail required and the cost impact of preparing plans to accompany licence applications. RA circulated a copy of a letter sent in response to the Committee by the SG Licensing Team. JH still had concerns and would raise them directly with the Licensing Team</p>	<p>IH to establish working group for licensing and other case studies.</p>
<p>6. <i>Update on CSI Action Plan</i></p> <p>A draft action plan was tabled, in the new format agreed by the TFFC Chairs.</p> <p>MR offered to submit updates on the transport-related items.</p> <p>IH and RA reminded the group that the existing targets and actions as allocated from the TFFC are not by any means an exhaustive list, and that if members feel there are other issues or areas not covered in this list, they should feel welcome to bring them up at meetings or directly with Government colleagues, or with Iain as chair.</p> <p>There was some confusion (understandably!) over the numbering reference system employed in the action plan grid. This refers directly back to the targets and actions numbering from the original list. To be attached again for ease of reference.</p>	<p>MR to submit transport updates.</p>
<p>7. <i>Next Steps</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the main next step would be the focus groups that IH is to draw together to take individual industry issues forward. IH proposed to contact all members individually in the next few weeks to discuss these task groups.</p>	<p>IH to contact each member to discuss task groups.</p>
<p>8. <i>AOB</i></p> <p>David Smythe raised a query about the 'Rome 1' European legislation,</p>	<p>RA to clarify</p>

which relates to the law of contract. Richard Arnott is taking legal advice on this legislation and whether it will have any significant implications for Scottish tourism.	position.
9. <i>Date of Next Meeting</i> The date for the next meeting will be set after the smaller task groups have had a chance to make some progress on issues.	