

## **NIGHT TIME ECONOMY CRIME AND DISORDER – POSSIBLE INQUIRY: PAVING REPORT FOR COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 16 SEPTEMBER 2015**

### **1. SUGGESTION RECEIVED FROM SOUTH WALES POLICE :**

*'Violent crime associated with the late night economy remains one of the most significant demands for the police and arguably presents a challenge to the positive imagery of Cardiff as a vibrant late night economy. As a result we would welcome scrutiny applied to the licensing hearings that have been undertaken within the municipal year, in addition to a focus upon service delivery within the Late Night Economy. We are acutely aware of the budgetary constraints upon all partners and hope that there is no detrimental reduction in services provided to this area of business. As a result we would also welcome any scrutiny that could be afforded to the issue of having a sustainable service / operating model for the demands of the late night economy and major events in the Capital.'*

### **2. CONTEXT**

There is no standard definition for the night-time economy (NTE). For the purposes of this paving report, the night-time economy (NTE) is taken to be economic activity which occurs between the hours of 6pm to 6am and involves the sale of alcohol for consumption (e.g. bars, pubs and restaurants).

Cardiff Council has the city centre management team as a specific resource, as well as generic teams that work in the city centre, such as: licensing; events; street cleansing; and the partnerships team.

Cardiff Council has employed Mosaic Consultancy to explore the viability of establishing a Business Improvement District (BID) and to compare this with the Late Night Levy option. Theoretically, both of these can raise income that can be used to meet the costs of the Night Time Economy.

Previously CASSC has been concerned about reductions in the Council's city centre management team, including reductions in taxi marshalls, detailed during budget proposals scrutiny. Members received a briefing paper on this at their Committee meeting 3 September 2014.

### **3. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER – POLICE & CRIME REDUCTION PLAN 2014-17**

This includes the following priority areas that are relevant to the proposed area:

1. Crime reduction and prevention
2. Making it easier for the public to communicate with the Police
3. Making the public feel safer
4. Strong, swift response to anti-social behaviour
5. Putting victims at the heart of our work
6. Tackling violence against women and girls
7. Working with partners on violence and the causes of crime
8. Road safety
9. Fairness, equality, diversity and poverty
10. A more effective criminal justice system
11. Youth Justice opportunities (falls within CYP's remit)
12. Understanding and addressing the needs of older people

#### **4. NIGHT TIME ECONOMY CRIME AND DISORDER - BACKGROUND AND SCALE (ANALYSIS OF 2014/15 CRIME, ASB AND A&E ATTENDANCE DATA).**

For several years, the Council, Police and Health Board have worked together to collect and collate data regarding anti-social behaviour, criminal offences and A&E attendances, linked to the night time economy. The main findings from these show that there are higher rates of anti-social behaviour and criminal offences in the city centre, particularly at the peak times for the Night Time Economy (Friday and Saturday night into Sunday morning). There are also A&E attendances linked to assaults in the city centre during these peak periods. The figures demonstrate that there is a higher concentration of offences in the city centre area than is found across other wards. The figures also demonstrate that offences occur outside the saturation zone area, in the city centre.

#### **5. ISSUES RAISED**

The main issues raised by the Police in their original suggestion were: Licensing; resource reduction; and whether to use a BID or Late Night Levy. These were discussed further with the Police, licensing and city centre management officers and a summary is presented below along with other relevant findings from desk based research:

##### **a) Licencing**

###### South Wales Police

- Police suggested undertaking scrutiny applied to the licensing hearings that have been undertaken within the municipal year.
- Police expressed their view that there is a lack of cohesion with presenting evidence to licensing committee and they are seeking LA's support to represent them to look at wider picture in the area of Licencing.
- It was also suggested to ensure that licensed premises are effectively reviewed and all of the license requirements are enforced.

###### Wales Collaboration for Health and the Environment (WCHE)<sup>1</sup>

- Recently wrote to all Local Authority Chief Executives to recommend
  - using the licencing system to control alcohol activity, in particular that Health Boards help shape local authority Statements of Licencing Policy, and that they participate fully in licencing committees on key licencing applications.
  - A strengthened approach to data sharing, particularly the sharing of accident and emergency data with partners in order to both inform licencing objections, and to use to inform planning in the Night Time Economy.

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<sup>1</sup> An All Wales partnership group to promote public health, including local authority representatives, Directors of Public Health, Welsh Government and academics.

## Licencing

- Licencing officers highlighted that there is a new Draft Policy that is going to Full Council in November for approval, aiming to be published in January 2016. The Policy states that the Local Health Board (UHB – Cardiff and Vale University Health Board) is also a ‘responsible authority’ and recognises that the UHB holds valuable information relevant to the licencing objectives.
- Licencing officers confirmed that there is data sharing practice in place. There is a partnership between Cardiff Council, Licensees Forum and South Wales Police Licencing Section which monitors licencing and crime and disorder activities within the city centre. The scheme utilises data from the police Crime incident Database and the Heath Hospital Accident and Emergency Unit data which proactively identifies pubs and clubs with issues at an early stage thus enabling interventions to rectify practice.
- Licencing officers confirmed that the team is dealing with 1,400 licenced premises and they do not feel that there is currently a high level of issues in this area.
- The licencing team liaise with the Police on a regular basis and they all attend the Responsible Authority Meetings with the Police.

## **b) Resources reduction**

### South Wales Police

- The Police highlighted recent reductions in the City Centre Management Team with further budget reductions to be implemented during 2015/16
- The Police highlighted their concerns about the impact of reductions on partnership working and increases in crime and disorder issues, particularly as this is coupled with increased demand from extra city centre capacity
- The Policed would welcome any scrutiny that could be afforded to the issue of having a sustainable service / operating model to meet the demands of the late night economy and major events in the Capital.

### Known reductions

- Budget cuts include: removal of one full-time NTE officer; reducing number of Taxi Marshals from 10 staff to 7 and reducing coverage, with removal of the management of the rank outside Howells and reduction in hours to 2200-0400 cover; and reducing mobility buggies from 2 to 1.
- Alcohol Treatment Centre grant is due to cease at the end of 2015/16
- Sustainability plans required for Cardiff After Dark initiative, ATC and Street Pastors
- Senior licencing officers being reduced from 2 to 1 and licencing enforcement officers from 6 to 4, as part of Regional Regulatory Services process.

**c) Business Improvement District and Late Night Levy comparison.**

- Cardiff Council is committed to exploring introduction of BID and has employed Mosaic consultancy to undertake viability work. The Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee is scrutinising the Cardiff Business Improvement District at their Committee meeting on 10 September 2015.
- Some of the monies generated by a BID could be spent on the Night Time Economy but the decision would lie with the businesses who establish the BID.
- The Police would prefer to see a Late Night Levy introduced in Cardiff, which they think would direct more money into tackling Night Time Economy crime and disorder issues. They mentioned having a Service Level Agreement to ensure that the monies raised in Cardiff stayed in Cardiff; technically, 70% of the monies raised by a Late Night Levy are ring fenced for the relevant Police Force and there is concern that this money could be spent across South Wales Police area otherwise. The current practise in Newcastle shows that it is feasible to have a SLA for a Late Night Levy.
- Mosaic consultancy has been asked to undertake a comparison of the BID and Late Night Levy.
- Late Night Levy was also reviewed by Licencing Committee on 6 August 2013 and 2 December 2014. The report identified possible advantages and disadvantages and the report was noted.

**6. TASK GROUP MEMBER SUGGESTIONS**

Councillors McGarry, Lomax and Sanders considered the issues outlined in this paper, along with more detailed information, at their meeting on 4 September 2015 and agreed to make the following suggestions to Committee for discussion, amendment and agreement:

- a. To hold an Inquiry, provisionally titled '*How to reduce crime and disorder in the Night Time Economy in a time of austerity.*'
- b. To invite the following stakeholders to give evidence to the Inquiry:
  - i. relevant Cardiff Council Cabinet Members and officers, including those with responsibility for Economic Development, City Centre Management, Taxi Marshalling, Events, Licensing, Partnership Working and Community Safety;
  - ii. relevant South Wales Police officers, including those with responsibility for partnership working, city centre policing and licensing.
  - iii. relevant Police and Crime Commissioner officers, including those working on identifying good practice in tackling violent crime re the Night Time Economy;
  - iv. relevant Health Board officers, including Professor Sheppard, Abigail Harries and the lead officer for the Alcohol Treatment Centre;
  - v. representatives from city centre businesses, including the licensing forum, business forum and taxi forum;
  - vi. representatives from third sector organisations working in the Night Time, including Street Pastors; and
  - vii. other relevant witnesses, such as Mosaic Consultancy and Radio Net.
- c. To task Scrutiny Officers to fully scope the above and bring back to Committee on 7 October 2015 for final discussion, amendment and agreement.