Item 6

10th September 2024

Glasgow City Council

Local Licensing Forum

Report by Executive Director Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

Contact: Lisé Fisher Ext:

Managing the Evening Economy Towards a Safer City Centre

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update on the recent developments of Best Bar None Glasgow initiatives facilitated and supported by the NRS City Centre Team.

The report highlights the 6 month period between 1st January and 30th June 2024.

Recommendations:

It is recommended the Forum note:

- All work has been supported by GCC NRS staff and enhanced by a multi-agency approach.
- That activities described in this report provide additional value and assistance to the City Centre Policing Plan, which provides an overall approach to crime and safety in the city centre

Ward No(s): Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ✓ consulted: Yes ☐ No ✓

1.0 Best Bar None Glasgow developments

1.1 Best Bar None National Awards Awards were held on Thursday 14th March 2024 in Stirling. BBN Glasgow premises that achieved overall Gold Awards were asked to apply to the National Awards for their appropriate category. The following premises were shortlisted in the following categories and the below table 1 shows which premises were successful in achieving a National Award.

Pub/Bar – The Crystal Palace
Nightclub – The Cathouse and The Garage
Specialist Entertainment Venue – Slay and University of Strathclyde Students Union
National Award – Best Newcomer – Slay
National Award – Heart of the Community – Armstrong's
National Award – Best in Scotland – Slay

Table 1

Category	Premises
Best Nightclub	The Cathouse Rock Club
Best Pub / Bar	The Crystal Palace
Best Specialist Entertainment Venue	SLAY
Best in Scotland	SLAY

1.2 BBN Glasgow held its annual launch event at University of Strathclyde, Student's Union on 24th April. The event was well attended, and 106 premises have applied to be part of BBN Glasgow for 2024. The assessment process is currently taking place and due to be completed for the end of September. A small Focus Group will be created to develop a specialist local Award for 2025 with the 850 Theme and a focus on live music in Glasgow.

1.3 During the reporting period, BBN Glasgow organised 2 Training Seminars focusing on the BBN Glasgow scoring booklet, assessment process and support available to all BBN Glasgow premises throughout the year as well as an input from Alcohol Focus Scotland. First Aid Training was also organised with 42 people attending.

1.4 Safer Nightlife Training was developed in 2023, in partnership with HSCP and SDF, to address substance related harms and associated mental health issues that may occur in late night venues. 6 premises participated in this training in March 2024 and a further session is planned Sept / Oct 2024.

1.5 A Short life Working Group - City Events and Alcohol met to discuss high footfall events taking place in the city which were likely to have an impact on support services such as Glasgow Street pastors, Street Aid etc. Purpose of this Group is to highlight key events and share info on the support services that operate in the city during these events. Sharing information such as key contacts, hours of operation, how many staff available etc. The key events

highlighted were Bellahouston Sessions, TRNSMT, Merchant City Festival, Pride.

2.0 City NiteZones

2.1 The NiteZones continue to contribute to the safe exit of patrons from the various locations across the city centre. The statistics continue to reflect challenges faced by premises and licensed taxis during this period and perhaps in the ways people socialise. Due to a cut in the funding received from the Glasgow City Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Shawlands BID, from May Byres Road and Shawlands Cross NiteZones no longer were staffed with Taxi Marshalls at the weekends.

2.2 Statistics for the reporting period against the same period for 2023 and 2024 are as follows:

NiteZone	Jan 23	Jan 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Mar 23	Mar 24
Albion Street	731	0	733	0	625	0
Byres Road	995	1374	925	1671	635	1618
Gordon Street	5141	2301	5436	2479	8137	4196
Sauchiehall Street	1984	1128	2549	1201	2109	1885
Shawlands	313	202	356	240	276	309
West George Street	1755	1374	2703	2425	2688	2031
NiteZone	**Apr 23**	**Apr 24**	**May 23**	**May 24**	**June 23**	**June 24**
Albion Street	791	0	676	0	796	0
Byres Road	687	1417	587	294	761	0
Gordon Street	5664	2572	4986	2251	5520	2863
Sauchiehall Street	2730	1682	2033	1561	3152	1656
Shawlands	376	201	290	30	458	0
West George Street	2987	1611	3239	2078	2796	3047

3.0 Voluntary Sector partners

3.1 Glasgow Street Pastors Association (GSP) are based within the Saint George's Tron Church of Scotland on Nelson Mandela Place, providing patrols and distribution of care and safety resources such as flip flops, hats gloves and blankets in the city centre and west end.
The street patrol teams (each pair) are linked into PSCCTV by the radio network for reassurance, support and operational assistance.

3.2 Glasgow Street Aid (GSA) provide an outreach service of volunteers from a medical background that can support vulnerable people in the city centre on Friday and Saturday evenings.

GSA have been operating in the city centre since January 2021 and are linked into PSCCTV by the radio network for reassurance, support and operational assistance.

4.0 Digital Radio Network

4.1 The Digital Radio Network continues to provide City Centre radio links that allow licenced premises to communicate directly with one another and with the Glasgow PSCCTV Operations Centre (GOC) at Eastgate. Radio calls can be overheard by other users of the system allowing assistance to be summoned, PSCCTV coverage to be provided or for persons ejected from one premises to be rejected from others thereby preventing disorder within licensed premises.

4.2 The GCC PSCCTV Operators liaise directly with the police via their airwaves radio and can relay important information to them regarding the nature of incidents and keep communication between premises reporting and the police updated in real time. Operators also record important images from when an incident is reported that may be used later for evidential purposes.

4.3 There are currently 32 premises users on the night time Digital Radio Network system, with a further 5 organisations who work with us in partnership in the city centre. All calls for assistance from licensed premises using the radio network are logged and actioned by PSCCTV officers at the Glasgow Operations Centre (GOC) in Eastgate (such as requesting attendance of police or street pastors for a vulnerable person/ incident). This early intervention approach help reduce the likelihood of incidents occurring or escalating.

4. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial:	All costs for BBN Glasgow and related activity derive from funding via Glasgow Alcohol and Drug Partnership.
Legal:	All activities are in compliance with the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Act 2010 as appropriate.
Personnel:	Three posts are held within Neighbourhoods and Sustainability (City Centre) Neighbourhood Liason Manager (City Centre), City Centre Co-ordinator, Alcohol and Drug Development Officer. Other GCC staff are available to assist with work as requested.
Procurement:	None

Council Strategic Plan: N/A

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25	N/A
What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?	No significant impact
Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.	N/A

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:	N/A
What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?	N/A
Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?	N/A

Privacy and Data Protection impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report	No
If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	N/A

has been carried out

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Forum note:

- All work has been supported by GCC NRS staff and enhanced by a multi-agency approach; and
- That activities described in this report provide additional value and assistance to the City Centre Policing Plan, which provides an overall approach to crime and safety in the City Centre.

George Gillespie
Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Sustainability