Glasgow City Council

Local Licensing Forum

Item 6

13th February 2024

Report by Executive Director Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

Contact: Lisé Fisher Ext: 37562

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 July and 31st December 2023.

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 Awards were held on Wednesday 1st November 2023 at the Grand Central Hotel, attended by BBN premises, partners and sponsors. 71 awards were presented this year which included 11 new premises to BBN Glasgow, this compares to 69 applications in 2022 of which 64 premises received awards.

1.2 Following the independent assessment of the premises, during the period July – Sept, and discussions with Licensing Standards Officers, premises were awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards. Additional Awards were given for the BBN Glasgow categories as illustrated in the Table 1 below. Table 2 provides a breakdown of Category and Award.

Table 1

Awards	
Bronze: - **0**	**4** – Glasgow Awards
Silver: - **10**	**8** – Overall Golds
Gold: - **61**	**1** – People's Choice

Table 2

Category	**Award**
Community Pub: -	3 Silver & 3 Golds
Community Pub with Food: -	4 Silver &10 Golds
Standard Premises: -	23 Golds
Restaurant: -	1 Silver & 1 Golds
Hotel Bar: -	2 Golds
Specialist Entertainment Venues: -	1 Silver & 9 Golds
Late Night Venue: –	1 Silver & 13 Golds

1.3 During the reporting period, BBN Glasgow organised 3 Training Seminars covering the topics, The BEN Charity, Sexual Assaults, Naloxone and Action Counter Terrorism (ACT). A total of 89 members of staff attended representing 48 venues.

1.4 During December 2023 BBN Glasgow was able to deliver the full Festive Initiative with the launch taking place on 22nd November at George Sq, along with partners, Police Scotland, British Transport Police and SGL. An enhanced service at the NiteZones was in place, from 1st December with GCC staff patrolling both Gordon Street, West George St and Sauchiehall Street. The Festive Initiative was operational on Friday & Saturday nights for 4 weekends between the hours of 23:00 – 03:00. The Festive Initiative was promoted via Facebook & Twitter throughout the festive period, with additional information provided regarding safe drinking, using licensed taxis, planning your night out etc.

1.5 BBN Glasgow also supported TRNSMT and other large scale events in the city through the co-ordination of voluntary sector support services in the city

centre. Information was gathered from a variety of support services and included, number of volunteers, hours / days operational, location within the city, single point of contact. This information was collated onto a single template and circulated to all support services, Police and Taxi Marshalls. A series of messaging detailing NiteZones and safety messages was also sent out via social media during the summer months.

1.6 In September 2023 BBN Glasgow attended the Freshers Festival in Platform over 2 days, along with colleagues from police Scotland Safer Communities Team. A number of student safety issues were promoted including: Alcohol & drugs; safer night out; sexual health; cyber security.

The estimated footfall over the 2 days was 8000 – 9000.

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. Worthy of note are the figs for August which reflect 2 weeks of the UCI World Championships, which resulted in the city centre ranks being closed for 2 weekends. During the Festive Initiative in December the ranks were operational between the hours of 23:00 – 05:00 with additional staff patrolling areas around Gordon Street, George Sq and Sauchiehall Street.

2.2 Statistics for the reporting period against the same period for 2023 and 2022 are as follows:

NiteZone	July-22	July-23	Aug-22	Aug-23	Sep-22	Sep-23
Albion Street	920	1138	867	626	705	366
Byres Road	1964	753	1558	666	1746	665
Gordon Street	7965	4941	6110	2589	5939	5672
Sauchiehall Street	2770	2675	2855	1528	3107	3496
Shawlands	699	352	434	293	514	393
West George Street	3934	3176	2944	806	2589	3752
NiteZone	**Oct-22**	**Oct-23**	**Nov-22**	**Nov-23**	**Dec-22**	**Dec-23**
Albion Street	993	0	882	0	1292	0
Byres Road	1664	531	1006	505	1216	2289
Gordon Street	6289	3985	4568	3376	4565	6228
Sauchiehall Street	4383	3391	3144	3357	2161	2516
Shawlands	801	374	542	279	561	452
West George Street	3047	2888	2398	2646	2998	3980

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. Appendix 1 outlines the services that they delivered in the city centre during between Aug – Dec 2023.

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.

Appendix 2 outlines the services they delivered in the city centre between July – Dec 2023.

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 29 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) has been carried out	N/A

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.

- 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