



Glasgow City Council

Local Licensing Forum

Report by Executive Director Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

Item 6

18th February 2025

Contact: Lisé Fisher

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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 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 Awards were held on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at the Grand Central Hotel, attended by BBN premises, partners and sponsors. 106 premises and a total of 117 awards presented this year which included 43 new premises to BBN Glasgow, this compares to 71 applications in 2023 of which 71 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: - 3	4 – Glasgow Awards
Silver: - 19	9 – Overall Golds
Gold: - 84	1 – People’s Choice

Table 2

Category	Award
Community Pub: -	1 Silver & 5 Golds
Community Pub with Food: -	1 Silver & 17 Golds
Standard Premises: -	3 Bronze, 11 Silver & 37 Golds
Restaurant: -	2 Golds
Hotel Bar: -	1 Silver & 2 Golds
Specialist Entertainment Venues: -	11 Golds
Late Night Venue: –	5 Silver & 10 Golds

- 1.3 During the reporting period, BBN Glasgow organised 2 Training Seminars covering the topics, BBN National Scoring Booklet, Alcohol Focus Scotland, Bystander and Festive Initiative. A total of 48 members of staff attended representing 47 venues.
- 1.4 During December 2024 BBN Glasgow was able to deliver the full Festive Initiative with the launch taking place on 28th November at George Sq, along with partners, Police Scotland, British Transport Police and SGL. An enhanced service at the NiteZones was in place, from 29th November 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 – 05:00. 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 2024 BBN Glasgow, along with colleagues from police Scotland Safer Communities Team produced a new Student Safety Booklet and attended a number of Freshers Events. A number of student safety issues were promoted including, Alcohol & drugs; safer night out; sexual health; cyber security. The new Student Safety Booklet was shared with all relevant partner agencies.

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. 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 2024 are as follows:

NiteZone	July-23	July-24	Aug-23	Aug-24	Sep-23	Sep-24
Albion Street	1138	0	626	0	366	0
Byres Road	753	0	666	0	665	0
Gordon Street	4941	1879	2589	2256	5672	1243
Sauchiehall Street	2675	1085	1528	850	3496	603
Shawlands	352	0	293	0	393	0
West George Street	3176	1935	806	2542	3752	1184
NiteZone	Oct-23	Oct-24	Nov-23	Nov-24	Dec-23	Dec-24
Albion Street	0	0	0	0	0	0
Byres Road	531	0	505	0	2289	0
Gordon Street	3985	1470	3376	1607	6228	4633
Sauchiehall Street	3391	604	3357	931	2516	1137
Shawlands	374	0	279	0	452	0
West George Street	2888	1141	2646	1579	3980	2029

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. *Awaiting on data for the reporting period.*

- 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 1 outlines the services they delivered in the city centre between July – Dec 2024.

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.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	All costs for BBN Glasgow and related activity derive from funding via Glasgow Alcohol and Drug Partnership.
<i>Legal:</i>	All activities are in compliance with the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Alcohol etc. (Scotland) Act 2010 as appropriate.
<i>Personnel:</i>	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