



Glasgow City Council

Local Licensing Forum

Report by Executive Director Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability

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Item 6

10th February 2026

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 2025.

Recommendations:

It is recommended the Forum note:

- All work has been supported by GCC NRS staff and enhanced by a multi-agency approach.
- The activities that have been 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): 10

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 Thursday 20th November 2025 at the Grand Central Hotel, attended by BBN premises, partners and sponsors. 101 awards were presented this year; this compares to 102 premises receiving awards in 2024.

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	
	1 – Glasgow 850 Award
Bronze: - 1	4 – Glasgow Awards
Silver: - 5	8 – Overall Golds
Gold: - 95	1 – People's Choice

Table 2

Category	Award
Community Pub: -	5 Golds
Community Pub with Food: -	20 Golds
Standard Premises: -	1 Bronze, 5 Silver & 36 Golds
Restaurant: -	3 Golds
Hotel Bar: -	4 Golds
Specialist Entertainment Venues: -	10 Golds
Late Night Venue: -	17 Golds

1.3 During the reporting period, BBN Glasgow organised 2 Training Seminars covering the topics, Bystander, Spiking Awareness, Ask Angela and the Festive Initiative. A total of 64 members of staff attended representing 58 venues.

1.4 During December 2025 BBN Glasgow was able to deliver the full Festive Initiative. An enhanced service at the NiteZones was in place, from 5th December with GCC staff patrolling both Gordon Street, West George St and Sauchiehall Street. The Festive Initiative was operational on Friday & Saturday nights for 3 weekends between the hours of 23:00 – 05:00. The Festive Initiative was promoted on Social Media and shared with partners 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/October 2025 BBN Glasgow, along with colleagues from Police Scotland Safer Communities Team, Scottish Drugs Forum and Glasgow Council on Alcohol produced a new Interactive Student Safety Guide 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 Interactive Student Safety Guide was shared with all relevant partner agencies. We hope to continue this approach in 2026.

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 Square and Sauchiehall Street.

2.2 Statistics for the reporting period against the same period for 2024 and 2025 are as follows:

NiteZone	July-24	July-25	Aug-24	Aug-25	Sep-24	Sep-25
Gordon Street	1879	1240	2256	2190	1243	1671
Sauchiehall Street	1085	1043	850	1528	603	1308
West George Street	1935	1197	2542	2183	1184	1691
NiteZone	Oct-24	Oct-25	Nov-24	Nov-25	Dec-24	Dec-25
Gordon Street	1470	1589	1607	1236	4633	3112
Sauchiehall Street	604	1396	931	1028	1137	1456
West George Street	1141	1673	1579	1314	2029	2427

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.

3.3 Barnardo's Common Ground Outreach Service provide outreach teams as well as a safe space (Hub, Argyle St) for young people in the city centre on Fri and Sat evening from 6pm – 9pm.

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 to 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.
<i>Procurement:</i>	None
Council Strategic Plan:	N/A
Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:	
<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25</i>	N/A
<i>What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?</i>	No significant impact
<i>Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage.</i>	N/A
Climate Impacts:	
<i>Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions?</i>	N/A
<i>Please specify:</i>	
<i>What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?</i>	N/A
<i>Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?</i>	N/A
Privacy and Data Protection impacts:	
<i>Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report</i>	No
<i>If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out</i>	N/A

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Forum note:

- The work undertaken by BBN Glasgow 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.