



**Glasgow City Council**  
**Local Licensing Forum**

**Item 4**

**9th September 2025**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended the Forum note:

- All work has been supported by GCC NRS staff and enhanced by a multi-agency approach.
- Those 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 were held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 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 & Sir John Moore**  
**Nightclub – The Garage**  
**Specialist Entertainment Venue – University of Strathclyde Students Union**  
**Late Night Venue – Howlin' Wolf**  
**Heart of the Community – Lea Rig**  
**Best Newcomer – Singl-End**  
**Innovation & Social Responsibility – SWG3**  
**Independent Pub/Bar – Bag O' Nails**

Table 1

| <b>Category</b>                     | <b>Premises</b>                          |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Best Nightclub                      | The Garage                               |
| Best Pub / Bar                      | The Sir John Moore                       |
| Best Specialist Entertainment Venue | University of Strathclyde Students Union |
| Heart of the Community              | Lea Rig                                  |

- 1.2 BBN Glasgow held its annual launch event at University of Strathclyde, Student's Union on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The event was well attended, and 104 premises have applied to be part of BBN Glasgow for 2025. The assessment process is currently taking place and due to be completed for the end of September. A small Focus Group was 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 3 Training Seminars focusing on Hate Crime & Crime Stoppers, Digital Evidence Sharing Capability & Naloxone Training and Bystander Training. On average each of the seminars was attended by 26 Licensed Premises, equating to 93 people in total.
- 1.4 Student Safety Short Life Working Group has been set up via the City Alcohol Licensing & Drugs ADP Subgroup. The short life working group has been set up to provide safety information on a range of topics to students across the city, utilising University and College media platforms on an annual basis. The membership includes Glasgow City Council NRS, Scottish Drugs Forum, Police Scotland Safer Communities and Glasgow Council on Alcohol. We are currently making progress and have met with a number of Student Welfare Teams from Faculties across the city.

- 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 Summer Sessions, TRNSMT, Merchant City Festival, Pride, Queens Park Summer Sessions and Hampden Park Concerts. During this busy period of Music Events in and around the City we released and shared our social media messaging plan with 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 during this period, by licensed premises, reductions in funding, licensed taxis and perhaps in the ways people socialise.
- 2.2 Statistics for the reporting period against the same period for 2024 and 2025 are as follows:

| NiteZone           | Jan 24 | Jan 25 | Feb 24 | Feb 25 | Mar 24  | Mar 25  |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| Byres Road         | 1374   | 0      | 1671   | 0      | 1618    | 0       |
| Gordon Street      | 2301   | 2038   | 2479   | 2618   | 4196    | 2779    |
| Sauchiehall Street | 1128   | 971    | 1201   | 814    | 1885    | 712     |
| Shawlands          | 202    | 0      | 240    | 0      | 309     | 0       |
| West George Street | 1374   | 1147   | 2425   | 2206   | 2031    | 2138    |
| NiteZone           | Apr 24 | Apr 25 | May 24 | May 25 | June 24 | June 25 |
| Byres Road         | 1417   | 0      | 294    | 0      | 0       | 0       |
| Gordon Street      | 2572   | 1839   | 2251   | 1629   | 2863    | 1112    |
| Sauchiehall Street | 1682   | 743    | 1561   | 1351   | 1656    | 1071    |
| Shawlands          | 201    | 0      | 30     | 0      | 0       | 0       |
| West George Street | 1611   | 1517   | 2078   | 1683   | 3047    | 1252    |

## 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. (Awaiting data from 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. (Awaiting data from reporting period)

## 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.

## 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. |
| <i>Procurement:</i> | 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

## **6.0 Recommendations**

6.1 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**