



Glasgow City Council
Local Licensing Forum

Item 3

8th September 2026

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 2026.

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 26th March 2026 in the Dunblane Hydro. 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 & The Croft
Nightclub – The Cathouse
Specialist Entertainment Venue – The Ferry
Late Night Venue – Howlin' Wolf
Heart of the Community – The Crystal Bell
Best Newcomer – The Crystal Bell
Innovation & Social Responsibility – Edmiston House
Independent Pub/Bar – Bag O' Nails
Best Hotel Bar – National Piping Centre

Table 1

Category	Premises
Best Nightclub	The Cathouse
Best Hotel Bar	The National Piping Centre
Best Specialist Entertainment Venue	The Ferry
Heart of the Community	The Crystal Bell
Innovation & Social Responsibility	Edmiston House

- 1.2 BBN Glasgow held its annual launch event at University of Strathclyde, Student's Union on 30th April 2026. The event was well attended, and to date 94 premises have applied to be part of BBN Glasgow for 2026. The assessment process is currently taking place and due to be completed for the end of September.
- 1.3 During the reporting period, BBN Glasgow organised 2 Training Seminars focusing on Hate Crime, Human Trafficking & BBN Scoring Booklet. On average each of the seminars was attended by 30 Licensed Premises, equating to 85 people in total.
- 1.4 Student Safety Short Life Working Group was set up via the City Alcohol Licensing & Drugs ADP Subgroup in 2025. The short life working group was 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. A comms plan is currently being developed with partners to ensure the information is reaching students across Glasgow. The information can be accessed via the following link [Students - Glasgow City Council](#)

- 1.5 A spreadsheet was shared by City Events & Alcohol Group outlining high footfall music events taking place in the city in 2026. These events are likely to have an impact on support services such as Glasgow Street Pastors, Street Aid. The 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.

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 2025 and 2026 are as follows:

NiteZone	Jan 25	Jan 26	Feb 25	Feb 26	Mar 25	Mar 26
Gordon/Hope Street	2038	3403	2618	4500	2779	2615*
Sauchiehall Street	971	1654	814	2439	712	2269
West George Street	1147	2048	2206	2038	2138	2038
NiteZone	Apr 25	Apr 26	May 25	May 26	June 25	June 26
Gordon/Hope Street	1839	2173*	1629	3120*	1112	2383*
Sauchiehall Street	743	1394	1351	2072	1071	1676
West George Street	1517	1830	1683	2066	1252	1642

* Union St fire in March – Gordon St rank relocated to Hope St.

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 helps reduce the likelihood of incidents occurring or escalating.

4. 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

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