

Report of Head of Elections, Licensing and Registration

Report to Licensing Committee

Date: 7th March 2017

Subject: Leeds City Centre Evening & Night Time Economy

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	City & Hunslet	
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. This report provides the Licensing Committee with the work presently underway between all partner agencies and stakeholders in the evening & nighttime economy.

Recommendations

2. That Licensing Committee considers the information from partner agencies.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To present to the Licensing Committee an update of the partnership working within the evening and night time economy and the work underway to reduce crime and anti social behaviour, in particular within those areas identified by as red zones within the city Centre Cumulative Impact Policy.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In November 2016 Members of the Licensing Committee were presented with the annual review of the cumulative impact areas for the City Centre.
- 2.2 Members were concerned to hear that the West Yorkshire Police crime statistics for the preceding 12 months demonstrated that violent crime and theft had increased significantly in the red zone areas of the city centre and continued to be problematic.
- 2.3 Furthermore Licensing Members have joined the West Yorkshire Police during Operation Capital on Saturday evenings. The Members witnessed the vibrancy of the City Centre in to the early hours of Sunday morning, and the effective partnership working, but also identified the high demands on police resources.
- 2.4 Members requested that a letter be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) setting out the Licensing Committee's concerns. A copy of that same letter together with the response received from the PCC is attached at appendix A.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 Over recent months all partners have been in dialogue with the aspiration to improve resources within the night time economy, reduce crime and anti social behaviour and improve the visitor experience of Leeds.
- 3.2 Representatives from partner agencies, including the West Yorkshire Police, LeedsBID, Purple Flag, BACIL (Business Against Crime in Leeds), LCC City Centre Management and Community Safety, will be present to provide Members with an overview and update of the work underway.
- 3.3 The City has recently been awarded Purple Flag status for the management of the evening and night-time economy. Purple Flag is a town and city centre award – similar to the Blue Flag for beaches – which aims to raise the standard and broaden the appeal of town and city centres between the hours of 17:00 & 05:00. Areas awarded the Purple Flag are recognised for providing a vibrant and diverse mix of dining, entertainment and culture while promoting the safety and wellbeing of visitors and local residents. A Purple Flag factsheet may be found at appendix B of this report.
- 3.4 Members will hear of the actions arising from the Purple Flag assessment that are now being taken forward.

- 3.5 Operation Capital has been reviewed and new policing schedules are now in place to provide additional resources during the key times of the evening and night time economy.
- 3.6 Partner agencies were invited to an event hosted by the West Yorkshire Police to discuss how collective partnership working may be maximised, and what additionality or potential can be brought to the City and to inform the Operation Capital Partnership Delivery Plan going forward.
- 3.7 A number of key themes emerged at the event, including transport/highways, and street marshalling. The West Yorkshire Police will now be considering all actions and liaising with the relevant partners and stakeholders
- 3.8 Subsequent to this meetings have been held between the West Yorkshire Police Licensing Section, LCC Entertainment Licensing, BACIL (Business Against Crime in Leeds), and the operators of venues from the Call Lane/Lower Briggate, and Albion Street/and Woodhouse Lane areas. The purposes of these meetings were to identify options for improving and managing an effective street marshalling scheme.
- 3.9 Members will hear from the West Yorkshire Police and BACIL how this is being progressed.
- 3.10 Attached for Members attention at appendix C is an overview of the City Centre Community Safety related partnerships. The City Centre Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meets quarterly and is co-chaired by the City Centre Chief Inspector & City Centre Manager. The CSP works to Safer Leeds priorities and the strategy and action plan is to be updated as a result of Purple Flag and the review of Operation Capital.
- 3.11 Finally, Members will be aware that Entertainment Licensing hosts 6 weekly meetings of the Licensing Enforcement Group, again bringing together the designated responsible authorities and key partners. This provides a means for agencies to share information and agree combined and consistent approach in respect of specific problem premises.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 There are no implications for consultation and engagement. This report is for information purposes.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 There are no implications for equality and diversity, cohesion and integration.

4.3 Council Priorities and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The licensing regime contributes to the following Best Council Plan 2015-20 outcomes:

- Improve the quality of life for our residents, particularly for those who are vulnerable or in poverty;
- Be safe and feel safe
- Make it easier for people to do business with us.

4.3.2 The licensing regime is linked to the Best Council Plan objectives:

- Supporting communities and tackling poverty, and
- Becoming a more efficient and enterprising council
- Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth
- Building a child friendly city

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 There are no implications for resources and value for money.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no legal implications, and this report is not subject to access to information and call in requirements.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 This report is to provide Members with an overview of the work presently underway within the evening and night time economy to improve resources, reduce crime and ante-social behavior.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Licensing Committee considers the information from partner agencies.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 There are no unpublished background documents that relate to this matter.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.