

# Leeds City Centre Evening and Night-Time Economy

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Report of: Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory

Report to: Licensing Committee

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## Brief summary

Within the Leeds city centre there are 463 licensed premises operating during the evening and night-time economy.

The Statement of Licensing Policy sets a Cumulative Impact Assessment for the City Centre, with the areas of Woodhouse Lane and Lower Briggate/Call Lane designated as 'red zones' due to the density of licensed premises and associated crime, disorder and/or nuisance.

There is no single organisation that has responsibility for the city centre, however, the Safer Leeds: City Centre Partnership facilitates partnership collaboration, coordination, and communications in relation to community safety, support businesses within the evening and night-time economy and to improve the visitor experience.

## Recommendations

For Licensing Committee to note the presentation which provides an overview of the partnership working and schemes within the City Centre night-time economy.

### What is this report about?

- 1 Premises providing regulated entertainment, provision of alcohol and late-night refreshment are licensed under the Licensing Act 2003.
- 2 The following provides a breakdown of licensed premises in the City Centre trading beyond 20:00 by type:

On Licence – Primary Use (bars & pubs etc)	228
On Licence - Secondary Use (Restaurants, Hotels etc)	171
Community Premises (With Alcohol)	1
Off Licences	39
Entertainment Only Premises	2
Late Night Refreshment (hot food after 23:00)	22

- 3 At the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 23rd January 2024, Members approved the City Centre Cumulative Impact Assessment following a review informed by police information and statistics showing the heightened incidents of crime, disorder and/or nuisance within the peak hours of 23:00 and 03:00 (Woodhouse Lane) and 23:00 until 04:00 (Call Lane/lower Briggate). Both of these areas are designated as upper-red and lower-red zones where new premises licence applications during the stated peak hours shall be discouraged and attract representation.
- 4 The report attracted Member questions concerning the management of the city centre evening and night-time economy.
- 5 No single organisation has overall responsibility for the management of the City Centre, but there are a host of statutory services, professional agencies, 3<sup>rd</sup> party organisations, charities, educational representatives, the licence trade, and elected members, who work together and have a vested interest in providing a welcoming, safe, vibrant, and attractive city centre.
- 6 Safer Leeds is the city's statutory Community Safety Partnership, responsible for tackling crime, and disorder; and has a strong record of partnership working, which was embedded as part of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legal enhancements.
- 7 The Safer, Stronger Communities City Plan: 2021-2024, which can be viewed by clicking on [SSC CityPlan FinalDraft.pdf \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#) (currently being refreshed) has an overall outcome of... *'We want people in Leeds to be safe and feel safe, in their homes on the streets and the places they go'*. With three shared priorities:
  1. Keep people safe from harm (victim)
  2. Prevent and reduce offending, and (offender)
  3. Create safer and stronger communities (location)
- 8 The Safer Leeds: City Centre Partnership Board, brings together all relevant partners who may action or contribute to these priorities, including 'adding value' to statutory requirements through an early intervention/ prevention approach. Listed here are some examples of the activity developed and deployed specific to presenting city centre evening and night-time economy challenges:
  - The community safety #NightSafeLeeds thematic operations were re-established. This multi-agency response has targeted work on anti-social behaviour, mobile phone theft, taxi licensing enforcement, underage drinking, spiking, missing children, hate crime, drug supply, sexual harassment, and violence ~ using the Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforcement approach on-street and in-premises.
  - Increased operational connectivity between licensed premises, Business Against Crime in Leeds (BACIL), Safer Leeds LeedsWatch and ASB Teams, and the local City Neighbourhood Policing Team.
  - Introduction of Night Marshals, Women's Night Safe Space, and relaunch of the Ask for Angela scheme, through funding secured from the Safer Street Fund.
  - Several schemes have also been tested including a 'Sober Up Space' a 'Safe Space for Young People' at risk at transport hubs.
  - Enhanced partnership activity at the weekend/ key seasonal events, through West Yorkshire Police-led Operational Capital, Jemlock and Spotlight.
  - Launch (Sept 2023) of the WalkSafe app pilot, to help people to plan safer journeys, and identifies licensed premises who have adopted the Ask for Angela and other safety initiatives.

- 9 Members are invited to receive a presentation from the Head of Community Safety Services, Safer, Stronger Communities Team, including an overview of the partnership working to date, outline of challenges faced, and opportunities moving forward, specifically to the City Centre evening and night-time economy, and to answer any questions of the Members.

**What impact will this proposal have?**

- 10 This proposal should bring no impact.

**How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?**

- Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

**What consultation and engagement has taken place?**

Wards affected: Hunslet & Riverside, Little London & Woodhouse

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

**What are the resource implications?**

- 11 This report bears no resource implications.

**What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

- 12 New premises licence applications shall be considered against the Statement of Licensing Policy and relevant Cumulative Impact Assessment, in particular those in the 'red zones' of the City Centre.

**What are the legal implications?**

- 13 This report bears no legal implications.

**Background papers**

- 14 None