

**Report of** Chief Officer Community Safety : Simon Whitehead

**Report to** Licensing Committee

**Date:** 13th September 2011

**Subject:** Leeds City Centre Evening and Night time Economy Strategy and Action Plan

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

### Summary of main issues

1. This report highlights progress and provides an up-to-date position on implementation of the Leeds Evening and Night time Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2010.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to note the contents of this report and request timely updates in the future.

### Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an overview of the Leeds City Centre Evening and Night time Economy Strategy and Action Plan

### 2 Background information

- 2.1 The Strategy (see Appendix 1) and Action Plan (see Appendix 2) was produced in October 2010 following extensive information gathering and consultation with key partners and stakeholders.
- 2.2 It is owned; managed; and delivered by key partners through the City Centre Divisional Community Safety Partnership to ensure the ongoing effective and good management of Leeds city centre evening and night time economy.

2.3 The Strategy and Action Plan has been approved and noted by the Leeds City Centre Partnership Board and Safer Leeds Executive Board who are to receive timely updates on its implementation and progress.

2.4 The Strategy and actions address key themes of:

- policing; enforcement; and reassurance co-working
- welcoming and safe dispersal
- environment and cleansing
- planning
- business responsibilities and management

2.5 The Action Plan is an evolving document managed and monitored by the City Centre DCSP (Co Chaired by City Centre Manager Cath Follin and City Centre NPT Commander, Chief Inspector Vernon Francis). The DCSP meets quarterly and the plan is updated and considered at each meeting.

### 3 Main issues

3.1 Partnership working is key to the effective and good management of Leeds city centre night time economy – and is the basis of progressing the action plan. The following established partnerships are in place and are working effectively:

#### **BACIL (Business Against Crime in Leeds)**

BACIL is a proactive not for profit organisation that aims to reduce business crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder in Leeds city centre. It operates for the benefit of its members and the wider Leeds economy. It works with West Yorkshire Police, Leeds City Council, Leeds Retail Association, Leeds Hoteliers Association, national and independent local retailers, bars and clubs, Pubwatch, Leeds Chamber of Commerce, Safer Leeds and the entire BACIL membership.

BACIL carries out its operations with connections to crime initiatives locally, regionally and nationally to achieve its aims.

All members and partners have use of a high quality two way digital radio network .

BACIL acts as a centre for gathering, analysing and disseminating business crime intelligence from all partners to its members. It exchanges this information with its members, West Yorkshire Police, Safer Leeds, and other reputable partners. It uses the intelligence gathered to target criminal activity in order to make a positive impact on business crime reduction in Leeds city centre. In doing so, BACIL members help to make Leeds a safer place in which to live work and visit.

**City Centre Pubwatch** –engagement of licensees to address discuss and share information concerning all licensing related matters and encourage good practice and responsible management. Appropriate forum to address alcohol related anti social behaviour and violent crime. Meets bi monthly, with average attendance of 60 venues plus key partner organisations

**Licensing Enforcement Group** – meets monthly to agree actions relating to problematic premises which are on agencies radar/ City NPT Licensing matrix, plus identifies those premises which will be targeted for joint/multi-agency licensing visits, or any other action

deemed appropriate. Includes a statistical briefing on the past months city centre alcohol related violent crime for consideration and any appropriate agreed actions.

**Student Safety Partnership** – Led by Leeds University - monthly meeting of key partners to drive actions which address student related crime and disorder issues.

### **Operation Capitol 2 and Street Marshals**

Led by Chief Inspector Vernon Francis of City NPT since June 2010 on Friday and Saturday nights Operation Capital 2 (police operations around licensed premises) entered a new and exciting phase. From this date licensed venue door staff have been positioned on the streets as Street Marshals in the 3 Violent Crime Hot spots alongside Police Officers, PCSOs and Special Constables. The Marshals are funded solely by the Licensees.

The scheme is a recognition of the responsibility of licensees for the sale of alcohol and its sometimes violent consequences. The purpose of the scheme is early intervention and the ultimate goal is to significantly reduce violent crime by these preventative measures. This has been proven through a year on year 40% reduction in city centre alcohol related violent crime.

**Taxi Marshals** – these Marshals have been deployed in Leeds city centre on the run up to and including Christmas and New Year since 2005 – and this year over the Easter and Royal Wedding Bank Holiday weekends.

The key purpose of the initiative is to provide Taxi Marshalling at three designated points within Leeds City Centre (Leeds Train Station, The Calls and Albion St adjacent to Oceana night club) as part of a package of partnership measures to reduce alcohol related incidents of disorder in these hotspot areas and provide public reassurance. The Marshals (both male and female) are Security Industry Agency (SIA) registered, and are fully trained in their role.

The role of the Marshals is to manage taxi queues in these hotspot locations, where footfall of night revellers is high, as is the dependency on taxis to transport people on to their forward destinations. As well as ensuring crowds are managed as they wait and that customers are ferried into cabs smoothly and fairly, the Marshall are also able to protect the safety of taxi drivers and support the ongoing work of identifying rogue private hire operators ( which they report on to LCC licensing enforcement team) – working in partnership with licensed venues; West Yorkshire Police (WYP); British Transport Police (BTP) and Leeds City Council Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Enforcement Officers.

The provision has proved to be very popular with the public, partners, and venues, and resulted in a direct impact on the levels of alcohol related violent crime in the vicinity of their operation.

Due to the current financial constraints funding for provision this Christmas has not yet been secured. Work is continuing to take place with public and private sector partners to seek to sustain this initiative.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

Extensive consultation took place when the plan was being prepared and engagement is maintained through the various partnerships identified above.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

The plan seeks to ensure that the city is welcoming and safe for a diverse range of city centre users.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

The plan contributes to the Safer Leeds Partnership Plan

### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

Delivery of the action plan relies upon a range of partnership resources.

### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

No new implications arising from this report.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

Key risks associated with the action plan are considered by the City Centre Community Safety Partnership.

## **5 Conclusions**

Through effective partnership working the Evening Economy Strategy Action Plan is progressing well. The City Centre Community Safety Partnership is continuing to engage a range of partners and secure their support for delivery of different elements of the plan. This is against a backdrop of significant resource pressures for public and private partners involved.

## **6 Recommendations**

Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

## **7 Background documents**

- 7.1 Leeds City Centre Evening and Night time Economy Strategy and Action Plan October 2010