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| CABINET MEETING – 22 JUNE 2011 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I | |
| Title of Report: COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: ALCOHOL, VIOLENCE AND THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY | |
| Author(s): Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of City Services | |
| Purpose of Report: To set out the recommendations of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee following the Committee's review into Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy. | |
| Description of Decision: The Cabinet is requested to consider the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee's Policy Review Final Report and approve the recommendations contained within the report. To assist the Cabinet in its determination of either approving or rejecting the proposed recommendations of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee, attached as Appendix A is the proposed Action Plan for the implementation of these recommendations which has been prepared in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s). | |
| Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes | |
| If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework | |
| Suggested reason(s) for Decision: The recommendations and comments of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee reflect the findings of a detailed review of the service area. | |
| Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected: There are no alternative options recommended. | |
| Is this a "Key Decision" as defined in the Constitution? <div style="text-align: center;">Yes</div> Is it included in the Forward Plan? <div style="text-align: center;">Yes</div> | Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee |

**COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: ALCOHOL,
VIOLENCE AND THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY**

**REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet of the recommendations arising from the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee's review into alcohol, violence and the night time economy in the city.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendation)

- 2.1 The findings and recommendations of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee be accepted. However, where there are any recommendations which have financial implications, these will be outlined in the Service Directorate's response, attached as **Appendix A**.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 8 June 2010, agreed that a policy review be undertaken investigating alcohol, violence and the night time economy. An initial scoping document providing several options for detailed focus was presented to the Committee on 6 July 2010. A further report was presented at the 14 September 2010 meeting which added structure to the review and further focus on the subject area.
- 3.2 Alcohol related violence is an important issue for the city of Sunderland and alcohol-related crime and disorder and tackling violent crime were two of the Safer Sunderland Partnerships key strategic priorities for 2010/11. This is also an important issue at a national level with the recent introduction of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill proposing to introduce measures to address the issue of alcohol related violence.
- 3.3 Throughout the review the Committee were active in gathering evidence from a wide range of partners including the Police, Victim Support, Northumbria Probation Service, City Hospitals Sunderland and the Street Pastors. In addition, it conducted visits to the city centre to observe the night time economy. Members of the Committee also met with the local MP and considered best practice from other areas.

4 Key Points Arising from the Review

- 4.1 Several themes emerged during the evidence gathering for the policy review and the Committee was able to draw several conclusions from this;
- There is evidence to suggest that both pre loading and binge drinking are associated with increases in alcohol related violence.
 - Minimum pricing is also an issue that has been considered at a national level and a ban on sales of alcohol below the rate of duty plus VAT has been introduced. There are concerns about the links between alcohol, crime and disorder. Research has suggested introducing a minimum price may help to address this issue.
 - There are concerns about the impact of the current licensing hours regarding the policing of the night time economy and the drinking behaviour the opening hours promotes. Upcoming changes to the Licensing Act 2003 proposed in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill may offer opportunities for local authorities to have a greater role in tackling issues surrounding alcohol related violence.
 - There are a number of prevention and intervention activities being undertaken by the Safer Sunderland Partnership in order to tackle alcohol related violent crime. There are a number of schemes and initiatives that have been highlighted as being successful; these include the Taxi Marshal Scheme and the Street Pastors Scheme.
 - Alcohol treatment programmes are an important method of intervention as violent incidents are often associated with those who are drinking excessive amounts. The four tiered model that is used in Sunderland ranges from brief intervention activity to residential rehabilitation.
 - Information sharing and partnership working are important to ensure intervention work is targeted and that all intelligence is considered. Information about location and time of assaults, which can easily be collected in Emergency Departments though the Cardiff model can help police and local authorities target their resources much more effectively. There is also information collected by the Councils Neighbourhood Helpline which could contribute to enhanced intelligence.
 - A high visibility police presence is widely recognised as contributing to feelings of safety with the public and was also recognised as important by Licensees. There are a number of police operations that have been successful in addressing issues relating to the night time economy which have involved joint working between the police and local authority.

5. Response of the Directorate(s)

- 5.1 To assist the Cabinet in its determination of either approving or rejecting the proposed recommendations of the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee, attached as **Appendix A** is the proposed Action Plan for the implementation of these recommendations which has been prepared in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s).

5.2 The Directorate welcomed the Scrutiny Committee's decision to focus its policy review on alcohol, violence and the night time economy in Sunderland. The review findings and the recommendations provide a basis for improving how as a city we deliver the strategic and operational approaches to tackling the main determinants alcohol related violence, with a particular focus on the night time economy.

5.3 Working with partners within the Safer Sunderland Partnership and other Directorates of the Council, the Directorate will be responsible for co-ordination of the delivery against the recommendations.

6. Reasons for Decision

6.1 The recommendations are intended to tackle alcohol related violence in the city centre.

7. Alternative Options

7.1 The recommendations will explore a range of potential options with the aim of ensuring a safe city centre for the residents of Sunderland.

8 Consultation

8.1 The findings in the report are the result of consultation and evidence gathering by the Scrutiny Committee. Consultation has been carried out with officers, partner organisations and licensees in Sunderland. A more detailed list can be found in section 11 of the Policy Review Final Report.

9. Background Papers

9.1 The following background papers were consulted or referred to in the preparation of the report:

- Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee Policy Review 2010/11: Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy

Appendix A

Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee

Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy: Policy Review recommendations 2010/11

| Recommendations for Sunderland City Council | | | | | |
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| Ref | Recommendation | Action | Owner | Due Date | Progress Commentary |
| (a) | That the Council continues to support applications for Drinking Banning Orders where resources allow and monitor opportunities for Drinking Banning Orders on conviction, as piloted by other local justice areas | <p>The Council's Legal Team to continue to work with Northumbria Police to support, where appropriate, applications for Drinking Banning Orders</p> <p>The Policy and Strategy (People and Neighbourhoods) Team to continue to monitor the effectiveness of the pilot Drinking Banning Orders on conviction scheme.</p> <p>The Policy and Strategy (People and Neighbourhoods) Team to consider applying for Drinking Banning Orders on Conviction as and when they are nationally rolled out.</p> | <p>Sunderland City Council's Solicitor Jim Wotherspoon</p> <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety (Leanne Davis)</p> <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety (Leanne Davis)</p> | <p>March 2012</p> <p>July 2011</p> <p>March 2011</p> | |
| (b) | That further promotion is undertaken with regard to the Best Bar None Scheme to enhance participation in the scheme | The 2011/12 Best Bar None Scheme to include a new category of 'Best Community Pub' for each of the Area Regeneration | Health Promotion Specialist / Associate Policy Lead for | May 2011 | |

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| | | <p>Framework Areas</p> <p>To launch Best Bar None via each of Sunderland's Pubwatch schemes to ensure greater promotion of the scheme throughout the City</p> <p>To update the Best Bar None Website to ensure that it accurately reflects the 2010/11 winners and promotes the 2011/12 scheme</p> | <p>Community Safety (Susan Goodchild/Leanne Davis)</p> <p>Police Neighbourhood Inspectors (Chief Inspector Sean McKenna)</p> <p>Health Promotion Specialist / Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety (Susan Goodchild/Leanne Davis)</p> | <p>November 2011</p> <p>November 2011</p> | |
| (c) | That information collected by the Council's Neighbourhood Helpline is shared with the Police and other appropriate partner agencies | <p>Daily reports from the safer communities survey to be shared with relevant council services for action</p> <p>To explore further capabilities of the Izuka system and find a way to obtain and extract socio demographic information which can be used for strategic planning of services to meet customer needs</p> <p>Officers from the Environmental Health and Trading Standards Sections will report the details of</p> | <p>Customer Services Staff</p> <p>Data Analysts/ Policy and Strategy (People and Neighbourhoods) Team / Customer Services Staff (Janet Collins)</p> <p>Trading Standards and Licensing</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2012</p> <p>Ongoing</p> | |

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| | | information received via the Council's Neighbourhood Helpline at the fortnightly meetings of the Council's Licensing Act Responsible Authorities Group (LARAG) which are attended by the Police and other relevant agencies | Manager (Tom Terrett) | | |
| (d) | That the council consider continuing supporting the Taxi Marshall Scheme | <p>The Safer Sunderland Partnership to agree a budget for the Taxi Marshall Scheme for 2011/12</p> <p>The Security and Emergency Services and Policy and Strategy (People and Neighbourhoods) Team to review the necessity of three nights cover (Friday / Saturday / Monday) for the Taxi Marshall Scheme</p> <p>The Security and Emergency Services pilot new hours for the Taxi Marshall Scheme</p> <p>The Safer Sunderland Partnership to consider it's budget to see if it can continue to support additional Taxi Marshall coverage for special occasions where there is expected additional visitors to the city (i.e. concerts at the Stadium of Light, bank holidays, etc)</p> <p>To consider where, and how,</p> | <p>Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety (Stuart Douglass)</p> <p>Assistant Security Officer / Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety (Steve Egland/Stuart Douglass)</p> <p>Assistant Security Officer (Steve Egland)</p> <p>Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety (Stuart Douglass)</p> <p>Assistant Security</p> | <p>April 2011</p> <p>July 2011</p> <p>July 2011</p> <p>July 2011</p> <p>December</p> | |

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| | | funding for the Scheme beyond March 12 can be secured | Officer (Steve Egland) | 2011 | |
| (e) | That changes in legislation regarding the Security Industry Authority are carefully monitored to ensure that the City of Sunderland responds effectively to these government proposals | Licensing Officers will monitor any Government announcements about the Security Industry Authority and report upon the responses planned to the Licensing Committee | Trading Standards and Licensing Manager (Tom Terrett) | Ongoing | |
| Recommendations for the Safer Sunderland Partnership | | | | | |
| (f) | That the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) continues to prioritise work to tackle alcohol related violence across the city and in the city centre particularly | <p>To consider relevant alcohol and violence data as part of the Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment and set priorities according to greatest need</p> <p>The Safer Sunderland Partnership's Alcohol Delivery and Violent Crime Delivery Groups to continue to work together to tackle alcohol related violence</p> <p>To conduct a time limited task and finish group to coordinate activity to increase the joint working between Sunderland City Council and Northumbria Police to tackle on and off licensed premises who inappropriately sell alcohol</p> <p>To undertake further analysis of alcohol related domestic violence and develop a SMART action plan</p> | <p>SSP Performance and Information Manager (Usha Jacob)</p> <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety (Leanne Davis)</p> <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety (Leanne Davis)</p> <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community</p> | <p>October 2011</p> <p>March 2012</p> <p>June 2011</p> <p>September 2011</p> | |

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| | | depending upon the outcomes from the analysis | Safety (Leanne Davis) | | |
| (g) | That the minimum dataset for the Cardiff Model, currently used by City Hospitals Sunderland for violence prevention, is reviewed to consider the inclusion of data in relation to pre loading and that the use of the model is expanded to utilise data from Walk In Centres | <p>To work with Balance (the North East of England's Alcohol Office) to consider the agreed common minimum dataset to potentially include additional data</p> <p>To work with the Cardiff Coordinator at City Hospitals Sunderland to agree and then introduce changes to the minimum dataset</p> <p>To work with Balance and NHS SoTW to introduce the use of the Cardiff Model within the Walk-In Centres through the training of reception staff and inclusion within the Walk-In Centres I.T. systems</p> | <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety (Leanne Davis)</p> <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety / Performance and Information Manager (Usha Jacob)</p> <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety / Performance and Information Manager (Leanne Davis/Usha Jacob)</p> | <p>August 2011</p> <p>September 2011</p> <p>August 2011</p> | |

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| (h) | To monitor the work of other local authorities with regard to introducing a minimum unit price for the sale of alcohol and to work with Balance, the North East Alcohol Office, who lobby / undertake campaigns on behalf of the North East authorities | To maintain links with Balance who are monitoring the effectiveness of introduction of minimum unit price trials and to present findings and recommendations to the Safer Sunderland Partnership, Licensing Committee and /or the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee | Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety / Balance (Leanne Davis) | December 2011 | |
| (i) | That the introduction of a voluntary agreement with licensed premises for a suitable closing hour be further explored | <p>To discuss the potential introduction of a voluntary agreement regarding opening hours with members of PubWatch</p> <p>To support licensed premises to reduce their trading hours, where appropriate</p> <p>To continue to monitor the progress of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill, which includes a review of the Licensing Act 2003, through Parliament and to highlight opportunities the Bill allows to the Licensing Committee, such as the introduction of Early Morning Restriction Orders as they become available</p> | <p>Northumbria Police (Chief Inspector Stuart McKenna)</p> <p>Trading Standards and Licensing Manager (Tom Terrett)</p> <p>Trading Standards and Licensing Manager (Tom Terrett)</p> | <p>June 2011</p> <p>September 2011</p> <p>December 2011</p> | |
| (j) | That the Partnership continues to raise awareness regarding the services of voluntary and | To confirm the budget available for marketing and communications work across the Safer Sunderland | Lead Policy Officer for Community | June 2011 | |

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| | community sector organisations that support victims of violent crime, in particular alcohol related crimes | <p>Partnership priority areas</p> <p>To ensure that the Safer Sunderland Partnership's Marketing and Communications Delivery Plan includes the promotion of services available to victims of crime</p> <p>To continue to promote the support available for victims of alcohol related crime in hot spot areas across the city, including Sunderland Royal Hospital</p> | <p>Safety / External Communications Manager (Stuart Douglass/Jane Peverley)</p> <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety (Julie Smith)</p> <p>Accident and Emergency Consultant Lead (Dr Kate Lambert)</p> | <p>June 2011</p> <p>Ongoing</p> | |
| (k) | That the Partnership provides support to the Street Pastors Scheme | <p>To confirm the level of financial support to be given to the Sunderland Street Pastor Scheme in 2011-12</p> <p>To provide marketing and communications support to help the Street Pastors promote the community safety outcomes of the scheme</p> <p>To provide data on changes in violent crime in the city centre to help the Street Pastor scheme monitor its impact</p> <p>To assist the Street Pastor</p> | <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety (Julie Smith)</p> <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety (Julie Smith)</p> <p>Northumbria Police</p> <p>Associate Policy</p> | <p>July 2011</p> <p>Throughout 2011-12</p> <p>Quarterly throughout 2011-12</p> <p>Throughout</p> | |

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| | | <p>Scheme in accessing relevant training and support for new volunteers</p> <p>To assist the Street Pastor Co-ordination in identifying and accessing other revenue streams e.g. by providing guidance and co-writing funding applications</p> | <p>Lead for Community Safety (Julie Smith)</p> <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety (Julie Smith)</p> | <p>2011-12</p> <p>Throughout 2011-12</p> | |
| (1) | That partnership working between the Police and the Council is further strengthened through a co-ordinated approach to tackle violent crime in the city centre | <p>To continue to undertake a partnership strategic intelligence assessment to identify priority issues requiring partners involvement to resolve</p> <p>Representatives from Sunderland City Council and Northumbria Police to continue to support the Safer Sunderland Partnership's Violent Crime Delivery Group</p> <p>The Safer Sunderland Partnership's Task and Finish Group on Alcohol and Licensing to develop and implement a comprehensive action plan to address alcohol related violence</p> | <p>SSP Performance and Information Manager (Usha Jacobs)</p> <p>Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety / Northumbria Police Violent Crime Lead Associate (Stuart Douglass / Chief Inspector Stuart McKenna)</p> <p>Associate Policy Lead for Community Safety (Leanne Davis)</p> | <p>October 11</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>July 2011</p> | |

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| | | The Council and Police to agree a joint operations plan to tackle the most problematic premises in the city centre | Northumbria Police Violent Crime Lead / Trading Standards and Licensing Manager (Chief Inspector Sean McKenna / Tom Terrett) | July 2011 | |
| (m) | That referral pathways for alcohol treatment services are developed further to allow more people to access these services | <p>To undertake a review of the current alcohol treatment provision to ensure it is fit for purpose, recommendations for improvement to be offered to the Safer Sunderland Partnership and the Prevention and Staying Healthy Board in Sunderland TPCT</p> <p>To re-commission the alcohol (and drug) treatment system to ensure it is fit for purpose, easily accessible and embeds a recovery based model of treatment</p> | <p>Commissioning Officer (Safer Communities Team / Public Health) (Nicola Grainger)</p> <p>Commissioning Manager (Safer Communities Team / Public Health) (Ben Seale)</p> | <p>July 2011</p> <p>April 2012</p> | |