

Report of: Corporate Director – Environment and Regeneration

Licensing Committee	Date: 25 April 2017	Ward(s): All
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SUBJECT: Annual Report – Late Night Levy – Year 2**1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the activities funded by the Late Night Levy between 1 November 2015 and 31 October 2016.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 Islington Council adopted the Late Night Levy to come into effect on 1st November 2014 and from that date any licence holder permitted sell alcohol after midnight is required to pay the levy. All income raised by the levy must fund activities that benefit the late night economy.
- 3.2 By law the council is required to give 70% of the income raised by the levy to the Metropolitan Police with remaining 30% retained by the council to fund activities that benefit the night time economy. In Islington, the Council and Metropolitan Police have agreed to pool levy income to fund Operation Nightsafe.
- 3.3 Operation Nightsafe has two distinct complementary strands
- The deployment of both a rapid response and intelligence led policing capability at night and day time follow up action
 - The provision of a street based patrolling service, operated by Parkguard, with capacity to support the licensed trade as well as providing police and medical support.

3.4 The overall aim of Operation Nightsafe is to support and promote the late night economy in Islington by:

- providing a safe, welcoming night time environment for residents, workers and visitors
- reducing late night alcohol related crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and nuisance
- minimising negative impacts on local residents.

3.5 The Late Night Levy Board, which meets four times per year, oversees the spending and administration of the levy and provides a forum for levy payers to give feedback on how resources funded by the levy are deployed. The Board also provides an opportunity for levy payers to engage with the council and police over the strategic approaches to managing the night time economy.

LATE NIGHT LEVY FUNDED ACTIVITIES

Operation Nightsafe – Police

3.6 The Late Night Levy funds:

- a dedicated police sergeant to act as a Night Time Economy Coordinator
- a dedicated police constable to work on operational night time activities, and lead on day time follow up and engagement activities

3.7 Night time policing is carried out by officers drawn from neighbourhood, emergency and special police constabulary teams. The Night Time Economy Coordinator is responsible for collating intelligence and using this information to task and brief officers prior to deployment ensuring that resources target hotspot areas, problem-solving activities and call response. The police utilise various tactics including high visibility pulse patrolling, visiting licenced premises, using of passive drugs dog, taxi-touting operations and CCTV targeted patrols. Funding the Night Time Economy sergeant has enabled capacity building resulting in improved consistency and effectiveness of policing the night-time economy particularly in relation to investigations, linking in with CID and reporting issues of concern for day time follow up by Police Licensing Officers.

3.8 During the day, the dedicate police officers focus on:

- preparing night time briefings
- working with licenced premises to promote and share best practice
- dealing with problematic premises using a range of tools from action planning to reviews
- briefing staff working in late night venues or matters that can reduce crime and improve criminal detection rates for example, crime scene preservation, best practice in door supervision management, providing witness statements, CCTV management

3.9 Key headline achievements for the Police in Year 2 are:

- Targeted deployment and briefing of dedicated police night time economy teams every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
- 102 arrests for various offences in the night time economy, including serious assaults, intent to supply drugs, sexual assault and public order
- Responded to 500 calls to 999 or 101 from licenced premises regarding violence, public order, drugs, weapons, theft
- Applied for and enforced 12 closure orders
- Called in 54 premises to the Licensing Officer Panel for action planning purposes
- Completed 245 licensing compliance inspections
- Reviewed 2253 night time economy crime reports relating to licenced venues and taking appropriate follow up action, including taking action to assist investigations and writing action plans

Alcohol Domestic Abuse Proactive Unit

- 3.10 Whilst outside the scope of the Late Night Levy the introduction of the Levy has resulted in the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime match funding the portion of the levy allocated to additional policing. The police have used this funding to recruit two additional police officers to work in Islington on alcohol related domestic violence.
- 3.11 In year 2 the team achieved the following:
- 291 arrests for domestic abuse suspects
 - 461 arrest enquiries
 - 469 victim welfare visits to provide individual action plans and multiagency care plans
 - 78 offenders processed

Operation Nightsafe- Parkguard Night Safe Patrol Team

- 3.12 The Late Night Levy funds the Nightsafe Patrol Team, a four person, police accredited, street based tasking team provided by Parkguard. The team operates four nights per week, usually Thursdays to Sundays and covers the whole borough with locations of work being determined on a nightly basis by intelligence lead tasking, call response and police lead briefings. The Nightsafe Patrol provides:
- a rapid response to requests for assistance from licence holders paying the late night levy
 - an early intervention style of approach to minimise demands on the emergency services
 - medical and police support where needed
 - assistance to members of the public in need
 - enforcement action against offenders
 - high visibility patrols
- 3.13 The service is unique in that it has filled significant gaps in the management of the night time economy in Islington. The dedicated street based patrol team, resourced by 4 regular officers, provides an early intervention style approach by responding to low level, potential or emerging problems. By engaging with people on the street, supporting door staff dealing with difficult customers and providing a rapid response to licence holder requests for assistance the Nightsafe Patrol Officers interventions invariably prevent escalation requiring emergency services support.
- 3.14 Another gap filled by Nightsafe Patrol officers is their ability to help vulnerable people, many of whom are temporarily vulnerable due to the effects of alcohol. Typical activities have included providing welfare checks and personal safety advice, calling taxis, providing a temporary safe haven, first aid or medical assistance. One officer per shift is trained in first aid to 'first on the scene level' and their skills have been utilised on many occasions to assist a casualty until the ambulance service arrives.
- 3.15 Not only have the Nightsafe Patrol Officers developed a good working relationship with licence holders and their door staff, the team have acquired an excellent working knowledge of the night-time economy in Islington and made a significant contribution to information gathered by the police and Local Authority.
- 3.16 Appendix 1 contains Parkguard's comprehensive review of Operation Night Safe Patrols activities from 1 November 2015 to October 2016
- 3.17 Key headline achievements are:
- Health and welfare checks of 724 people found vulnerable due to excess alcohol or drug use resulting in ill health or incapacity
 - Assisted 536 members of the public in need and provided crime prevention advice to 157 people found in vulnerable positions
 - Provided medical assistance on 97 occasions preventing 77 ambulance callouts

- Dealt with 784 incidents involving violent or aggressive behaviour, the majority of which resulted in patrol officers using techniques to prevent escalation to violence or serious injury
- Generated 23 arrests ranging from public order, possession of class A drugs or offensive weapons to serious assault
- Requested or directed 675 people to disperse or leave an area and warned or advised 1235 about conduct
- Liaised on 2482 occasions with door staff/DPS/licence holders to provide support and advise on operational effectiveness
- Engaged with 107 taxi touts
- Responded to 175 calls for assistance from door staff/DPS/licence holders

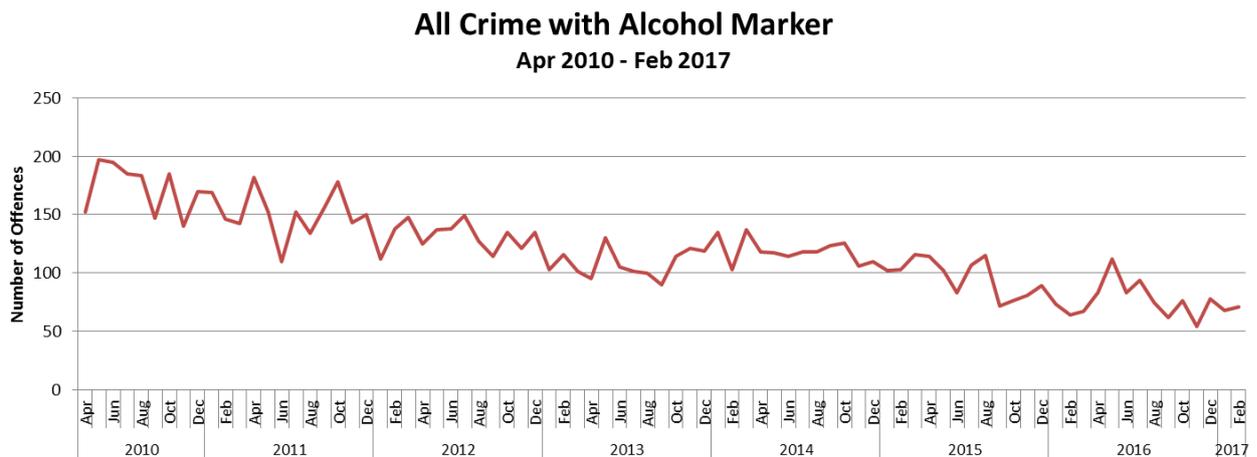
IMPACT ON ALCOHOL RELATED CRIME AND DISORDER

3.18 Islington's Community Safety Intelligence Team has examined the data for alcohol related crime and disorder for the second year of the Levy and compared this with the previous 12 months. The full report is attached as appendix 2

3.19 Key headline statistics are:

- 21% reduction in alcohol related crime compared with the previous 12 month period
- A reduction in Night Time Economy Antisocial Behaviour calls to both the Police and Council

3.20 The chart shows the long term trend for all crime which has an alcohol related feature



4. Implications

4.1 **Financial implications:**
1 Nov 2015 to 31 Oct 2016

Income

Levy Payments received from 316 Licence holders	£354,289
Surplus to be carried over from 2014/15	£24,278
TOTAL	<u>£378,567</u>

Expenditure

Local Authority Administrative costs (waivered)	£0
Nightsafe Operation Police and Parkguard expenditure	<u>£369,026</u>

Surplus

Surplus to be carried over to Year 3	<u>£9,541</u>
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Comments

The small surplus in income carried over from year 1 has been used to meet the year 2 deficit, however we hope to reduce this deficit over the next month as we currently have a further 15-20 premises with invoicing issues that our Finance Team need to resolve. When resolved, this should bring in another £15,000 - £20,000 of levy income for year 2.

Overall, there has been a reduction in the number of premises liable to pay the levy, the reasons for this reduction being:

- Minor variations (to remove permission to sell alcohol beyond midnight) 13
- No longer trading (surrendered or suspended licences) 8

Going forward into year 3 new financial processes have been put in place to monitor income and expenditure to achieve a balanced budget for Year 3.

4.2 Legal Implications:

4.2.1 The council agreed to adopt the Late Night Levy in accordance with s125 (2) Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 on 27 February 2014 and gave notice that it would take effect from 1st November 2014.

4.2.2 The Act requires that the net levy revenue must be split between the council and the relevant police and crime commissioner. The council must pay at least 70% of the net levy revenue to the police. The council can deduct the costs it incurs in connection with the administration, collection and enforcement of the levy, prior to the levy revenue being apportioned. The police can then allocate their share of the levy back to the council to support local initiatives. On 7 October 2014, the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime agreed to the council retaining the 70% share and using the levy to fund additional policing and police accredited patrol services.

4.2.3 The Late Night Levy will apply indefinitely until the council decides that the levy will cease to apply in its area.

4.2.4 The Home Office Amended Guidance on the Late Night Levy provides that licensing authorities may wish to review the requirements for the levy at appropriate intervals. The council on 27 February 2014 decided that an annual review of the operation and effect of the levy should be prepared and the outcome of the review should be reported to the Licensing Committee.

4.3 Environmental Implications

The Late Night Levy funds a street based patrol service with the capacity to deal with medical emergencies prior to handover to the Ambulance Service. This early intervention style approach reduces the risk of late night alcohol related crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour, which in turn minimises the threat on the environment and promotes community well-being.

The Patrol Service uses one vehicle to allow for rapid response to incidents in any part of the borough as well as the storage of medical and other equipment necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the service during the night.

In being awarded the contract under the council's procurement process, the service provider has demonstrated best practice in the management of vehicles to minimise impact on the environment.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

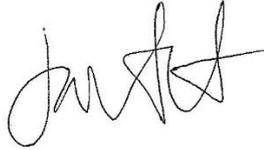
The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

A Residents Impact Screening Assessment (RIA) was completed on 13 February 2014 and this did not identify any negative equality impacts for any protected characteristic or any human rights or safeguarding risks.

5. Reasons for the recommendations / decision:

- 5.1 This report covers the second year of operating the Late Night Levy. It includes details of income and expenditure relating to the Levy and the positive results achieved with it.

Signed by:



12 April 2017

Service Director (Public Protection)

Date

Appendices

- Parkguard Annual Report (Not exempt)
- Community Safety Intelligence Team – Alcohol Related Crime Statistics (Not exempt)

Background papers:

- None

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