

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 21 November 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Draft Night Time Economy Scrutiny Review Report

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the Safer Policy and Performance Board Scrutiny Review of the Night Time Economy for consideration by the Executive Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

1) comment on the findings of the Scrutiny Review (attached at Appendix 1); and

2) endorse the Scrutiny Review and consider the financial implications identified in section 5.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 This report (attached as Appendix 1) was commissioned by the Safer Policy and Performance Board. A scrutiny review working group was established with seven Members from the Board, Operational Director, Community Safety Manager, Commissioning Manager and Principal Policy Officer.

3.2 The report was commissioned because the night time economy brings many positive benefits to the borough, from job creation, spending in our local economy and provision of a diverse range of activities for local people, including restaurants, arts centre, ice rink, cinemas, etc. However, to continue the development of our thriving night time economy, it is important that it is accessible, safe, clean, well-managed and offers a range of activities to suit residents across a wide age range and attract visitors to the borough.

3.3 The scrutiny review was conducted through a number of means between November 2012 and August 2013, as follows:

- Monthly meetings of the scrutiny review topic group;

- Presentations by various key members of staff from the Council and partners (detail of the presentations can be found in Annex 2 contained within Appendix 1);
- Provision of information;
- Visit to the CCTV Control Room

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Existing policies are endorsed by the report.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The recommendations are highlighted within the Appendix of the Scrutiny Review Report. Due to budgetary constraints, the key priorities from the recommendations in the report have been identified here. These first four recommendations have potential funding requirements that would need to be investigated further:

- i) Area Forums to be consulted regarding the possibility of funding a pilot radio scheme for taxi operators in Halton;
- ii) Look to extend the wrist band scheme (used to identify over 18's, following age checks) at the Stadium and other establishments;
- iii) Investigate the possibility of working with food establishments in town centres and colour coding packaging from each business establishment, so that we could identify where the litter is from; and
- iv) Investigate options to provide additional CCTV monitoring capability at peak times, possibly by using police officers on restricted duties. Other options may be possible but required further consideration due to Data Protection and cost issues.

The last four recommendations are unlikely to require additional funding and could be undertaken within our current resources.

- v) Whilst Members recognised that it cannot be an enforceable condition through licensing, Members were keen for establishments to be encouraged to participate in the Pub Watch Scheme, which was recognised as best practice;
- vi) Investigate the possibility of developing a mandatory Code of Conduct for licensed premises;
- vii) The Night Time Economy Scrutiny Group recognised that we needed to build on the existing partnership approach, but we also needed to investigate potential ways to get local landlords and businesses on board to bring about change. A possible example was for landlords who were often best placed to identify vulnerable people who regularly drank to excess working with health care teams to help signpost individuals to services where appropriate; and

- viii) The Council was currently exploring the opportunity of a scheme to enforce Fixed Penalty Notices. As yet no decision had been made.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

N/A

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

N/A

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Elements of the Night Time Economy Scrutiny Review impact on this priority, for example, underage alcohol sales and alcohol reduction plan. Implementing a six-month report on test purchasing, along with the continued monitoring of underage sales will ensure our good performance is maintained.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The scrutiny review report and recommendations support the Council's strategic priority of a Safer Halton. Taking on board the recommendations from the report will be positive steps to improving all aspects of the Night Time Economy for the residents of Halton.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 The report and recommendations support the Council's strategic priority of a Safer Halton. Taking on board the recommendations from the report will be positive steps to improving the Night Time Economy for the residents of Halton.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 8.1 The implementation of the recommendations will help to improve the Night Time Economy for all residents within Halton.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None.