

## **REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE ORGANISATION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

**DATE OF MEETING: 19 JUNE 2018**

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: EVENING & NIGHT TIME ECONOMY COMMUNITY  
SAFETY REPORT**

**TOWN OR PARISH: ALL**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: HOWARD POTHECARY (COMMUNITY  
SAFETY MANAGER) & HARRY MILLS (COMMUNITY SAFETY  
ENGAGEMENT OFFICER), SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES  
SERVICE, NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL**

**KEY DECISION: NO**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- I. That the Panel notes the reduction and downward trend in crime and disorder during the Evening and Night Time Economy (ENTE) in Weston-super-Mare town centre and the range of joint work between the Council, Police and other partners which has contributed to this
- II. That the Panel notes that Weston-super-Mare has successfully renewed its Purple Flag status
- III. That the Panel notes that Weston-super-Mare is one of 33 Local Alcohol Action Areas in the country working with the Government and a wide range of representatives from health, the alcohol industry and night-time diversification specialists to develop ways to address problems caused by alcohol.
- IV. That the panel notes the success of the Council's Street Safe bus MAVIS and provides feedback on our plans for its future development.
- V. That the Panel considers and provides feedback on our future priorities and planned actions for continuing to improve the Weston-super-Mare ENTE.

### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides an opportunity for the Panel to review the work led by North Somerset Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Service in partnership with other agencies to improve the ENTE in Weston-super-Mare. The report sets out the impact of this work to date.

- 1.2 The report provides an opportunity for the Panel to feed into the future priorities and planned actions of the Multi-Agency ENTE steering group.

## **2. POLICY**

- 2.1 Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (subsequently amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) places a duty on a number of organisations (the Local Authority, Police Force, Probation Trust, Community Rehabilitation Company, Clinical Commissioning Group and Fire Service) to work together in a Community Safety Partnership to prevent and tackle crime and disorder. This includes specific requirements to reduce re-offending, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour. The People and Communities Board fulfils the role of Community Safety Partnership in North Somerset.
- 2.2 There is also a requirement for the Community Safety Partnership and Police and Crime Commissioner to have regard for each other's priorities. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset is represented on the North Somerset People and Communities Board. There has been joint work in developing both the North Somerset People and Communities Strategy and in developing the joint Police and Crime Plan.
- 2.3 The North Somerset People and Communities Strategy 2017-2020 under the Priority Theme 4 – *Enabling communities to thrive* includes the priorities:
  - building strong resilient communities
  - tackling crime types and locations where there are particular concerns (and opportunities)
  - supporting vulnerable victims
- 2.4 The North Somerset Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019 identifies the following three Priorities which include actions to improve the ENTE in Weston-super-Mare and to reduce the harm of alcohol misuse:
  - Prosperity and opportunity
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Quality places

## **3. DETAILS**

- 3.1 An in-depth piece of crime analysis in 2014 showed that despite accounting for only 3% of the North Somerset population, Weston-super-Mare town centre accounted for 37% of violent crime in North Somerset. Over half of the violent crime in Weston-super-Mare town centre could be attributed to the night-time economy. Equally, a quarter of all anti-social behaviour in North Somerset occurred in the town centre and had increased each year since 2010. By the end of 2013/14 there had been a 5% increase in ASB incidents in the town centre which followed on from a 3.5% increase in 2012/13.
- 3.2 In 2014 the Council's Safer and Stronger Communities Service initiated a multi-agency action plan to improve the Weston-super-Mare ENTE. This involved a range of partnership initiatives which focused on priority areas which both data and local organisations had identified. These included:

- A new ENTE multi-agency steering was setup to manage the ENTE action plan. This group continually grows and has participation from a wide range of organisations, local businesses and community groups.
- The identified priority work areas are:
  - Capturing all available partnership data and outcome monitoring
  - More Responsible Licensed Premises
  - Improved ENTE Perception and ENTE Communications
  - To improve ENTE safety and reduce vulnerability
  - To ensure WsM has an effective 'safe space' and multi-agency hub
  - To improve diversity of the ENTE
- A licensed premises 'traffic light' system has been developed which reflects the positive and negative impact of individual licensed premises within the local community. Factors which will be taken into account include premises' links to police recorded incidents and hospital attendances. Where negative factors are identified and premises achieve a 'red' traffic light rating, multi-agency intervention to improve the management of that establishment will intensify, including through a review of license conditions.
- Multi-Agency Nights of Action - these continue each pay-day weekend using MAVIS bus as hub for multi-agency officers. . High -profile joint premises checks are undertaken by the Local Authority and the Police and include Trading Standards, Food Safety, Licensing and Environmental Protection teams. This can include use of drugs itemiser, drugs dog, SIA checks and Trading standards dip-testing
- The Council's CCTV Control Room has direct radio links to licensed premises, Police, Street Wardens, Street Pastors and the MAVISbus to identify issues before they develop and help ensure resources are deployed effectively.
- A Safe Space and multi-agency hub 'MAVIS' bus - somewhere for vulnerable people to stay safe or receive treatment, somewhere for all agencies to work from and share information in the heart of town and also a highly visible deterrent to those looking to cause trouble
- 'Pinch points' identified and tackled including through targeting of resources and communications campaigns.
- Ongoing public engagement around feelings of safety and what they want in their ENTE
- Building of an ENTE performance and monitoring dashboard - The dashboard includes an ever-growing set of measures around
  - Reduction of ENTE related crime and disorder.
  - Reduced levels of alcohol abuse and harm.
  - Increased choice and balance of provision in the ENTE.
  - Increased use of the town centre after dark.
  - Improved perception of the WsM ENTE by residents and visitors.
  - Increased ENTE business prosperity and local benefit.
  - To widen consumer representation

These measures are reviewed and used to inform future actions at every ENTE Steering group

- A hard-hitting new behaviour change communication campaign in town centre/transport hubs/on social media/in pubs/bars. These included eye-catching graphics and messages, developed in partnership with Weston College students aimed at making under 25's think about how their night could end up if they do not drink responsibly.
- 'Alive after 5 Weston' was launched in summer 2015 and has continued to provide family based entertainments and alternative events to attract different demographics into the town centre between 5pm and 8pm.

3.3 Current performance information shows the impact of this work including:

- In 2017/18, overall crime and disorder in the Weston-super-Mare ENTE fell for a third consecutive year
- Since MAVISbus deployment there has been a downward trend in alcohol related attendances and admissions at A&E (measured prior to changes at Weston General Hospital)
- No 'red traffic light' licensed premises are on an urgent action plan for improvement in the Purple Flag area (there is only one 'amber traffic light' premises)

3.4 The work done to improve the Weston-super-Mare ENTE has been recognised by achieving Purple Flag status in 2015 which has been successfully renewed in each of the past two years. We are also one of 33 Local Alcohol Action Areas in the country. This means that we are part of a network of Local Authority areas sharing best practice. It also means we are being supported by the Home Office and a wide range of representatives from health, the alcohol industry and night-time diversification specialists to address persistent crime and disorder issues in the night-time economy and promote a vibrant night-time economy.

3.5 Key priorities in our ENTE action plan for 2018/19 are:

- Developing the use of the MAVISbus in both the ENTE and outside of the ENTE by increasing the usage for community events across North Somerset and setting up a sponsorship scheme where local business can sponsor the MAVISbus.
- The Purple Flag Accreditation of late night venues scheme (similar to Best Bar None) which is aimed primarily at promoting responsible management and operation of alcohol licensed premises.
- Ongoing feedback into the town centre regeneration – this provides an opportunity to help re-shape the night-time economy with new family-orientated leisure facilities in the town centre
- A first and in-depth communications strategy aimed at providing a structured approach to both improving perceptions of the town after dark including awareness of our Purple Flag status and what this means but also positively influencing the behaviour of those who use it

- New diversification events e.g. the evening street food market planned for Friday 24 August. This will also include working in partnership with Weston College Students Union to put on events utilising the new Italian Gardens shared space. Events will include live music and dance shows.
- New targeted vulnerability campaigns
  - Implementation of an initiative intended to improve sexual behaviours in the ENTE. The ENTE multi-agency steering group working in partnership with Pub Watch, the local acute hospital Trust (Weston Area Health NHS Trust), Weston College, local schools and taxi companies to implement a range of initiatives.
  - A project which commenced in January 2018 and is aimed at finding out about the level and nature of hate crime in the ENTE and is being led by North Somerset Council, Weston College, Avon and Somerset Police and local hate crime charity Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI)
  - Training package for ENTE venues staff around how to respond to major incidents

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with key stakeholders including through the town centre PACT (Partners and Communities Together)
- 4.2 An annual Evening & Night Time Economy survey is released every year to gather feedback and perceptions from North Somerset residents on what they think about Weston's Evening & Night Time Economy.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The activities referred to within the report are accommodated within existing approved budgets and resources.

#### **6. LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This work is undertaken in line with the Council's responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) and subsequent amendments.
- 6.2 A range of enforcement powers are available to the Council and Police to support the aims of the work described in this report.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 There is a risk that positive opportunities to develop and reshape the night-time economy are negatively affected by crime and disorder. This risk is being mitigated by targeted crime prevention and reduction measures.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Being safe and feeling safe affect some communities disproportionately (including those with protected characteristics). For example, some members of the community are more at risk of being the victim of crime – particularly some types of crime

## **9. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 This report sets out key work areas, which contribute to corporate priorities.

## **10 OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 1.0.1 A range of options have been considered in terms of the most effective interventions to improve the ENTE. This includes through engagement with the national Purple Flag and Local Alcohol Action Area schemes. Improving community safety within the ENTE is a critical element of achieving overall regeneration objectives.

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None