

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA

Key Decisions

Title and Reference – PCC.352.2018

Late Night Levy Spend Review 2017/18 and Spend Proposal 2018/19

Report of Chief Superintendent Neil Hutchinson

Summary

The spend plan for 2017/18 was approved at Joint Business Meeting on 16 November 2017 and was based on a likely collection of £180,000. The final amount will be confirmed in December once all contributions have been collected. The City Council have advised that the final figure is still expected to be around £180,000.

Recommendation

To note the 2017/18 expenditure and approve the spend plan for 2018/19.

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

Signature



Date 15.11.18

Joint Business Meeting	15 November 2018
Late Night Levy Spend Review 2017/18 and Spend Proposal 2018/19	
Report of Chief Superintendent Neil Hutchison	
Author: Chief Inspector David Pickett, Central Area Command	

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update regarding use of the Late Night Levy spend for the year 2017/18 and provide the spend proposals for 2018/19.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the 2017/18 expenditure and approve the spend plan for 2018/19.

2. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In November 2013 Newcastle City Council became the first local authority in the country to introduce the Night Time Levy as permitted by Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 as a means of raising a contribution towards the cost of policing the late-night economy.
- 3.2 The sums received from the Levy (after deducting prescribed expenses) must be split between the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Council. The PCC is entitled to at least 70% of the proceeds.

USE OF LATE NIGHT LEVY IN 2017/18

- 3.3 The spend plan for 2017/18 was approved at Joint Business Meeting on 16th November 2017 and was based on a likely collection of £180,000. The final amount will be confirmed in December once all contributions have been collected. The City Council have advised that the final figure is still expected to be around £180,000.

3.3.1 SIA Taxi Marshals £38,000

The eight SIA staff have provided a presence at three designated ranks for a six hour period on a Saturday nights. This function was previously performed by Police Officers on overtime. Presence at these key ranks on a weekend is considered to be significant in reducing most serious violence and in providing safeguarding opportunities for vulnerable females.

3.3.2 Street Pastors £20,000

Joint working continues to be a key part of the safeguarding approach in the city.

3.3.3 CCTV to NCC £8,000

This is a contribution towards the CCTV system employed by Newcastle City Council and gives Northumbria police remote access to over 70 NCC cameras.

3.3.4 Safehaven £25,600

North East Ambulance Service, St Johns Ambulance and Northumbria Police resource a facility on St Nicolas Street where people with minor injuries can attend for treatment. This reduces demand on the ambulance service and A & E departments at their busiest times and reduces need for Police Officers to provide first aid.

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The Safehaven is used to address vulnerability issues where staff can safeguard individuals. A police officer is stationed at the Safe Haven for 8 hours on Friday and Saturday nights.

3.3.5 Alcohol Reception £20,000

The expenditure represents a part funding of the alcohol reception facility provided by NEAS.

3.3.6 NTE Resourcing £68,400

An additional 4 Police Officers have been working on a Friday and Saturday nights for a period of six hours.

		<u>2017/18 Levy Spend</u>
3.4	Taxi Marshals	£38,000
	Street Pastors	£20,000
	CCTV	£8,000
	Safe Haven	£25,600
	Alcohol Reception	£20,000
	NTE Resourcing	£68,400
	Total	£180,000

3.5 The total spend of £180,000 is fully in line with the plan agreed at JBM.

3. KEY OUTCOMES

- 4.1 Although there has been an overall increase in crime recorded in E6 (City Centre Area) from the previous period (+13.6%) the rise has been less obvious in the night time economy where the Levy is operating. During the period of 00.01 and 04.59 hours on a Saturday and Sunday there have been small increases in violent crime and violence against the person (+2%) while violence against the person with injury has reduced (-5%). This is believed to reflect the increased police presence in the city centre and partnership initiatives to reduce vulnerability and tackle crime causers.
- 4.2 Confidence in the policing and joint management of the city centre within the trade and businesses remains very high.
- 4.3 The Late Night Levy enables police and partners to work together to ensure that those people who come into the city centre are able to enjoy themselves in a safe and friendly environment.
- 4.4 Reassurance is provided by Police and partners engaging with individuals and groups enjoying the benefits of the city centre while also preventing incidents from occurring through high visibility patrols and early identification and intervention of potential issues by an appropriate resource.
- 4.5 The funding helps facilitate Police and partners to work together in identifying individuals who could be vulnerable for a variety of different reasons including age, circumstances and intoxication and ensures that actions are implemented to reduce any risk associated with those people.
- 4.6 The dedicated night time economy staff reduces demand on Officers working in outlying areas and means that they do not have to repeatedly respond to calls within the city centre.

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- 4.7 An evaluation into the effectiveness of the Levy was undertaken by Public Health in 2016. The report concluded that the inclusion of the Levy within the wider strategy employed by Newcastle's licensing authority to increase the quality, diversity and culture offered in the city centre has been invaluable in tailoring licensing applications and fostering relationships with new, desirable operators.

4. LATE NIGHT LEVY PROPOSALS FOR 2018/19

- 5.1 For 2018/19, the City Council have advised that they are forecasting income from the levy unchanged from 2017/18, and therefore the 70% contribution to the PCC is estimated to be £180,000.

- 5.2 The proposals for this levy (2018/19) are as follows:

SIA Taxi Marshals	£38,000
Street Pastors	£20,000
CCTV to NCC	£ 8,000
Safe Haven staffing	£25,600
Alcohol Reception	£20,000
NTE Resourcing	£68,400
Total	£180,000

- 5.3 Alcohol Reception - £20,000 has been incorporated into the spend plan and represents a part funding of the alcohol reception facility provided by NEAS.
- 5.4 Saf haven staffing – equates to the cost of one officer, eight hour shift for two nights per week (Friday & Saturday).
- 5.5 Street Pastors – Joint working with the scheme continues to be a key part of the safeguarding approach in the city.
- 5.6 NTE resourcing equates to the cost of an average of 4 officers per night (Friday and Saturday) working a six hour shift.

5. CONSIDERATIONS

Report Exemption	Non-exempt
Consultation	Finance, CDD and NCC
Resource	No
There are no resource implications.	
Equality	No
An Equality Impact Assessment is not required.	
Legal	No
There are no legal implications.	
Risk	No
There are no identified risks.	

Communication	No
Communication is not required.	
Evaluation	No

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An evaluation is not required.

Appendix 1 to Spending Proposal to JBM for Late Night Levy 2018/19

7.11.2018

1.0 Purpose of the report.

The purpose of this report is to provide contextual background to the use of the night time levy in support of Central command's strategy for managing risk and demand related to the Newcastle Night Time Economy (NTE).

2.0 Context

The NTE in Newcastle city centre is a thriving environment comprising bars, restaurants and night clubs. The licensing landscape is shifting away from the vertical drinking and restaurant split toward an emerging business model of a hybrid, high end cocktail or real ale bar with a food offering. This is supported by the application of the LA statement of licensing policy and our interventions as a responsible authority to uphold the licensing objectives. Newcastle is a nationally recognised NTE leisure venue attracting travelling groups of revellers from across the UK as well local residents and a large student population.

Newcastle City Council and NE1 Business Improvement District work closely with Central Command to develop the cities approach to Licencing and capital programmes in NTE areas as part of their long term strategy for development of the city.

3.0 Licencing Strategy and the Late Night Levy

"Safe, Sensible and Social in Newcastle-upon-Tyne (2008-2018)" was the city's first alcohol strategy. These include specific criteria within the Licensing Statement 2013-18, targeted action in Cumulative Impact Zones, and the introduction of a late-night levy (LNL). The Night Time Levy was introduced by Newcastle City Council on 1st November 2013 with the introduction of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (PRSRA) 2011 which permitted LAs powers to apply additional charges to suppliers who sell alcohol late at night (between midnight and 6am), when acute alcohol-related harms are at their peak. This charge is intended to support the additional enforcement costs incurred from the NTE and is set according to rateable value subject to the particular premises size and scale.

As per the PRSRA Act 2011, the net amount raised through this LNL is shared on a 70:30 split between the Northumbria PCC and the LA. Government regulation requires these funds be directed into activities that specifically address crime and disorder; public safety; public nuisance and street cleansing in connection with the supply of alcohol between midnight and 6am.

Newcastle LA and Northumbria Police have a range of partnership activities connected to the management of the NTE that are funded through the LNL. These include: taxi marshalling, CCTV improvements, Street Pastors, street cleaning, enforcement initiatives, personal safety initiatives. These public services have a range of potential benefits for patrons of the NTE as well as the wider community in Newcastle.

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Newcastle City Council undertook a review of its licensing policy in 2017 to better understand the positive and negative impacts of alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment on the City. To inform Newcastle City Council's licensing strategy over the next 5 years consultation was undertaken with responsible authorities including Northumbria Police, representatives of premises licence holders, businesses, residents, elected members, Safe Newcastle, NE1, trade associations, licencing law firms and volunteers (Street Pastors). This process was completed and the updated policy included an expansion of existing Cumulative Impact and Special Stress Areas and specific guidance around Good Practice & Protocols. The revised five year Policy was released on 1st May 2018. The Policy encourages "place setting" across the city, promoting diversity and quality in the offer, encouraging applications for restaurants and predominantly seated venues which do not adversely impact on crime and disorder (licensing objectives) in contrast to those that predominantly offer vertical drinking.

The Cumulative Impact Areas (CIA) and Special Policies acknowledges the clear positive relationship between increased outlet density and a detrimental effect on the licensing objectives (crime and disorder). This shows an association with an increase in alcohol consumption, together with increased alcohol-related crime and violence. Newcastle currently have nine CIAs and one Special Stress Area (City Centre) across Newcastle. Applications with the CIAs or SSA triggers the Special Policies (1 or 2) to be engaged. These state that applications will normally be refused unless the applicant can demonstrate why the operation of the premises will not add to the cumulative impact.

As a responsible authority the force assess the impact (licensing objectives) of an application made under the 2003 Act and engage with businesses, the local community and statutory and voluntary partners regarding licensing matters. The force lead (Chief Inspector City centre) played a key role in developing the Statement of Licensing Policy issued by Newcastle City Council.

For the first time NCC Licencing policy incorporates a Licensed Premises Drugs Protocol devised by Northumbria Police and agreed by all agencies to assist licensees, operators, and their staff and contractors, to take a zero tolerance approach to drug use or supply on licensed premises. It provides guidance to those working in the night time economy as to the action they should take if they find drugs on the premises, or they suspect that drugs are being used or supplied on or near to their licensed premises. The protocol confirms the expectation of Northumbria Police and the other responsible authorities. It confirms when and how they should contact the police to report an incident and what action the police will take.

Work has commenced in Newcastle on the formation of a Promoter Protocol to professionalise and licence their role in the NTE. The Newcastle City Council Statement of Licensing Policy for 2018 -2023 includes a comment acknowledging the emergence of promoters their influence across the City, and once complete will be supplementary to the wider policy.

The role of promoters within the night time economy and their network of influence over activity within licenced premises is major factor in the nature and tone of events occurring in the city. Their ability to target and monopolise a particular customer

profile in large numbers for weekly themed nights is attractive to licence holders operating in a competitive business environment. Some promotion staff are employed directly by venues but regularly nights are controlled by an increasing number of external promoters who each command significant leverage over promotional advertising, music genre and clientele entering licensed venues. The role of external promoters is not controlled under the Licensing Act.

The City centre CI has developed an engagement plan with premises owners and promoter to disseminate key messages and encourage a voluntary transfer of information about planned events and promotional activity on licenced premises. This enables development of a timeline identifying particularly high stress nights and also prompts professional conversations with event organisers and the trade to influence the look and feel of the event, ensure marketing is responsible and measures are implemented to safeguard the public.

4.0 Tactical activity in support of the NTE strategy

There are several police led operations of note which complement the activities funded by the Night Time Levy.

1. **NTE deployment plan** – Central command redeploy four Patrol officers from outer areas of the Command to high visibility foot patrol on Friday and Saturday nights. Briefings are created using up to date intelligence and shared with staff and key partners.
2. **Operation Cloak** – An ongoing operation whereby plain clothes officers are deployed in the NTE to detect predatory behaviour. This follows analysis of serious sexual violence in the city and revealed a pattern of sober lone males targeting vulnerable drunk females in the NTE at closing time. The operation complements other initiatives to create a safer night time economy such as the “Shout Up” campaign devised by Newcastle City Council in partnership with Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland and aims to:
 - Help victims report sexual violence or harassment and make it the responsibility of everyone in the venue.
 - Heighten awareness of sexual violence, with the hope that it can be prevented.
 - Encourage pub, club and bar-goers to consider their moral responsibility and approach to harassment.
 - Encourage venues and drinkers to understand the impact of sexual violence and harassment on patrons, the venue and the wider night-time economy.

The scheme is promoted through Ambassador Venues (Tup Tup Palace, Flares, Madame Koo, Floritas and House of Smith) on Collingwood Street to heighten awareness, encourage patron and staff to take responsibility for

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reporting, intervening and taking positive action in preventing sexual violence and harassment in venues and the wider night-time economy.

3. **Fresher's period** – During the Fresher period 16,500 new students arrive in the city. Northumbria Police are the only force in the country to present mandatory welcome talks to Freshers regarding vulnerability, crime prevention, and sexual consent. There has been full engagement with the universities' Fresher's programme organisers to ensure responsible events in the NTE. Northumbria Police works closely with university security staff, including operations designed to protect the most vulnerable such as, a funded taxi service and wristband identification of students to assist in people returning home safely. In 2017 and 2018 a Joint Engagement Group (JEG) was conducted as part of the planning for the students arrival . Members of the trade joined statutory partners, private security companies, promoters and private licensing solicitors to develop plans to safeguard students participating in promoted events in the City. During these discussions attendees were addressed and reminded that they remain responsible for all activities on their premises when promotions take place. It was emphasised that action will be taken against the Licence Holders and all other persons responsible for the management and operation of the premises in the event that it is required whether or not the event in question has been "promoted" and run by an external party.
4. **Drug Supply operations** - Operations targeting OCGs supplying drugs to the student population disrupted several OCG in late 2017, early 2018 charging members and seizing large quantities of drugs and cash. One OCG showed evidence of county line activity. Successful disruption of the OCGs was followed up by agreeing amendments to university drugs policy to strengthen their capabilities in this regard (tiered approach from counselling support to sanctions).
5. **Operation Arrow** – Dedicated officers work with a funded member of LA staff to provide diversion, support and intervention among the street community (homeless, beggars, drug use, violent crime/asb). Arrow staff are embedded with the CCMG (Common Case Management Group) which sits each week to discuss strategy to mitigate risk / harm. The group is chaired by public health and the attendee list includes harm reduction, housing, NHS, and others with a view to quick time interventions. This forum also allows police to share information, influence activity and progress injunction applications when individuals are failing to engage or are contributing to criminality.
6. **Op Spear** – A high visibility operation using a restricted officer in the Council CCTV room under the authority of a RIPA targeting in two dedicated foot patrol officers to disrupt ASB / Criminality in prominent City Centre locations. This has resulted in a significant uplift in targeted stop search and arrest activity and is well supported by business and NE1 who have direct contact with the officer in the control room.
7. **Operation Doncaster** - In July 2017 Northumbria Police commenced Operation Doncaster, a covert police investigation into the supply of

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controlled drugs by staff and promoters employed/contracted to work for licensed premises in the City Centre. The operation identified significant issues at several licenced premises with drugs being supplied by door staff, promoters and drug dealers on the licensed premises. Evidence gathered under Operation Doncaster resulted in the arrest of thirty four individuals. Closure Notices were issued to several premises (Floritas, Madame Koo, House of Smith and Empress). Orders against the premises were subsequently granted in Magistrates Court effectively closing the premises over the busy Xmas and New Year period. Licensing review proceeding were taken against the premises with the Licensing Committee issuing a further one month suspension. Further review proceedings were instigated by the Chief Constable in respect of Yolo and Science Bar in respect of Op Doncaster. Licensing review proceedings taken against the premises secured changes to how they are managed (structure, staff, scanners etc.), which has to date improved their operation, preventing future issues (less violent crimes) and encouraging responsible management of licenced premises across the City. Disclosure was made to the City Centre Pub Watch in respect 28 individuals arrested as part of the enquiry into drug supply on licensed premises resulted in exclusions from premises in the City Centre. Suspensions were also secured in respect individuals employed as door staff on licensed premises following disclosure to the Security Industry Authority due to their role in the supplying/facilitation the supply of class A drugs in city centre bars.

8. **Alcohol TP operations** - Police cadets are deployed to test the effectiveness of licensee's ability to uphold licensing objectives. This is being expanded to consider hotel and taxi operations and incorporate CSE protocols.
9. **Vulnerability Training** – There is a rolling programme of enhanced safeguarding training for police officers and door supervisors. The training scheme is now adopted as best practice nationally was implemented to improve awareness of vulnerability and spot the signs when someone may require extra assistance. Refreshed training is delivered to Central officers in the lead up to the festive season and forms part of a continuous programme of training delivered to the trade, hotels, taxi drivers and door staff. This is now being expanded to takeaways with work progressing to develop communication with this element of the NTE. National BBC News have covered our delivery of Safeguarding and Vulnerability (Sanctuary) training to SIA Staff and employees for NTE partners (bars, restaurants, hotels).
10. **Prevent** - Following terror attacks in Manchester and London, all NTE plans were reviewed to ensure that deployments adequately protect the crowded areas of the city. All hotels, door staff and NTE partners have received North East Counter Terror Unit training to ensure all agencies and partners understand expectations should such an incident occur in Newcastle. Briefings developed and delivered to door staff across the city centre on a Friday nights. Brief highlights banned individuals (Pubwatch), emerging trends and crimes over the previous week, CT advice and is supplement with regular face to face engagement throughout the night and supported with the

pubwatch radio system and Police/Council CCTV coverage staffed from Gateshead Police Station.

11. **Taxi Licensing** – Following a pilot using police officers working in partnership with Gateshead and Newcastle LA to share information on Licensed drivers both councils have agreed to fund staff to carry out this role. Once recruited Taxi Licencing staff will review and collate police incidents to identify where it may be appropriate to disclose these under Sec 31 DPA to the LA for consideration of suspension/revocation of licenses. Markers are added to all drivers to track the activities of operators flag up concerns and provide committee with full disclosure. This ensures drivers who provide a risk to the public have their licence revoked or suspended and the enhanced disclosure and context provided at Committee (every fortnight) ensure new applications and renewals (every three years) are properly scrutinised. Taxi Operation in Central involving motor patrols (Op Dragoon) and Taxi licensing are coordinated and planned at regular points throughout the year. NPT/Licensing carrying out supplementary checks at taxis ranks in the City Centre.

5.0 Additional partnership funding relevant to policing of issues related to the NTE

Both Newcastle and Northumbria Universities fund full time University liaison officers and deployment of officers on Operation Oak managing issues related to student house parties. The University contributions are in two parts: PEX46 is £43,200 split 50/50 between them to fund a Student liaison officer post and £16,000 for Op Oak. PEX43 is £48,000 split 50/50 to cover the overtime relating to fresher week and other student operations.

The RVI hospital fund deployment of an officer in A and E on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights to prevent conflict. PEX38 - £34,350.

The Gate funds additional officers at weekend on the on NTE footprint at that location. PEX54 £45,886

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