

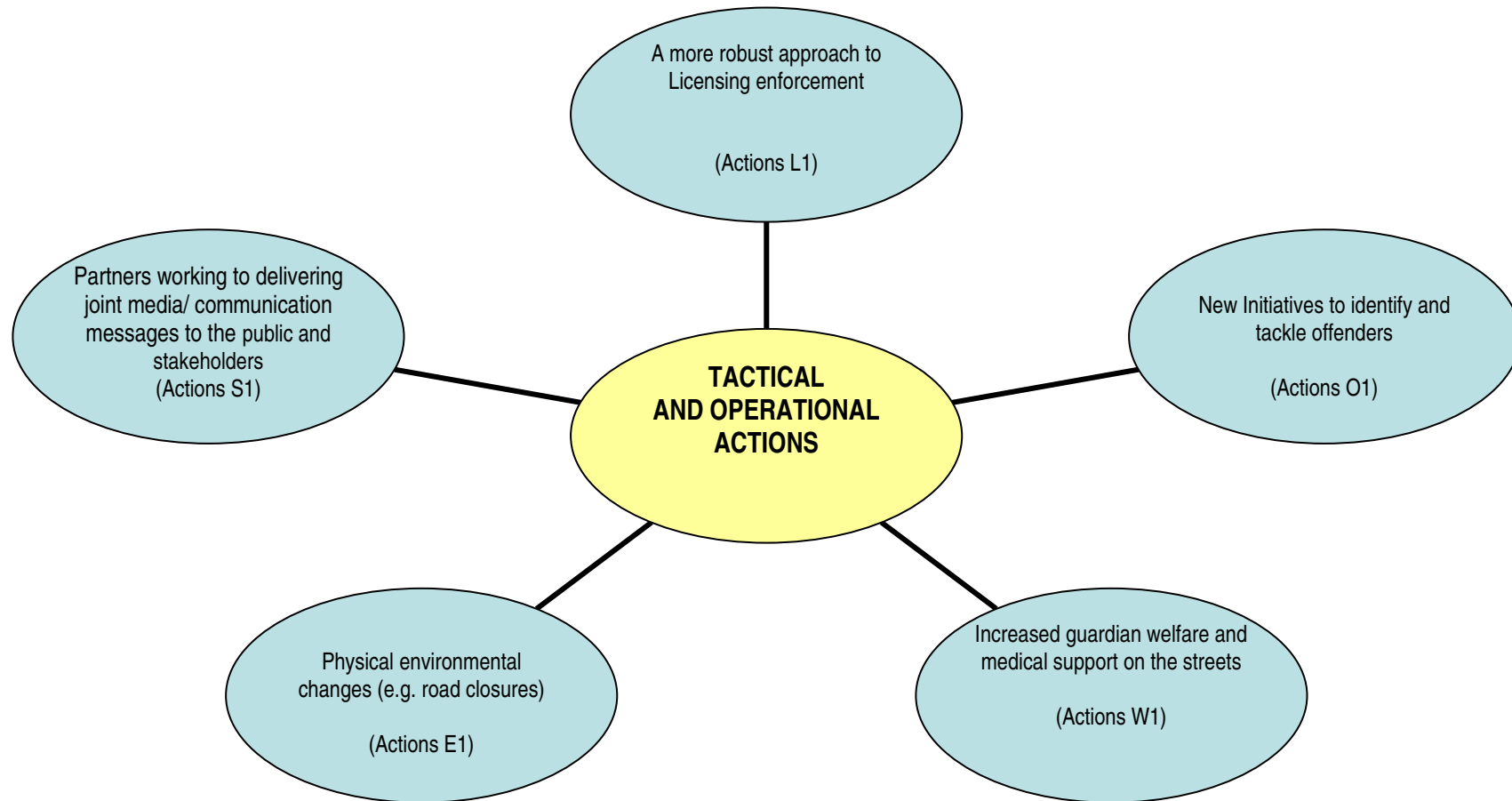
ITEM NO. 7

DECISION-MAKER	SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP
SUBJECT	REDUCING CRIME AND DISORDER IN THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY (NTE)
REPORT OF	LINDA HAITANA, SAFER COMMUNITIES MANAGER, AND CHIEF INSPECTOR ALISON SCOTT
MEETING DATE	23 DECEMBER 2009
1. RECOMMENDATIONS	
	(i) To consider and approve the actions already underway to reduce crime and disorder in the NTE and the proposed future actions – as detailed in Appx 1.
	(ii) To support requests to the Southampton Partnership (in due course) for re-investment of a portion of the reward money from achieving Stretch Target 5 back into actions to reduce crime in the NTE (through delivery of the Reducing Crime NTE Action Plan).
2. DETAIL	
2.1	This report is written by Linda Haitana and Chief Inspector Alison Scott as a summary of the current and future actions to reduce crime and disorder in the NTE. The full set of proposed actions which form the Reducing Crime in the NTE Action Plan have been considered and approved by the Tackling Alcohol Partnership sub-group on 23 rd October 2009.
2.2	The full Action Plan is derived from a detailed self-assessment of best practice based on an audit developed by local partners for this purpose. The audit which includes some 170 actions was produced by partners who have come together to form an NTE Task and Finish Group, reporting to the Tackling Alcohol Partnership. The Action Plan takes a deliberately narrow focus – it is neither an Alcohol Strategy nor a plan to manage the NTE in the widest sense.
2.3	Southampton hosts an estimated 28,000 visitors to the city centre each night on an average weekend. Most enjoy a positive experience, but this entertainment area – known as the Night Time Economy (NTE) – is also, by a large margin the biggest ‘hot spot’ for crime and disorder in the City. Violent crime comprises 23% of all crime in Southampton. Up to A quarter of all recorded incidents of violent crime occur on a Friday and Saturday night in the City Centre. Violence offences peak in line with the NTE peak operating and closing times (23:00 – 03:00). Levels of violent crime in Southampton are higher than our comparative cities especially ‘lower level’ violence which is commonly attributed to the NTE. Although all crime in the city is reducing (6% reduction at year end) and this includes most types of violent crime, an exception to the downward trend is lower level violence such as Common Assault which is increasing (increased by 10% at year end).
2.4	The expected outcomes from the Action Plan are detailed in the full plan but include a positive impact on the Safe City Partnership top priorities including in particular, reducing violent crime. The proposed target is to see a 5% reduction in violent crime by 2011.
2.5	The typical offender and victim profile is male aged 18 – 25 years. Most violence occurs on the street, near to licensed premises – only 9% of offences occur in a club or pub.

2.6	Alcohol-related crime has a significant impact on public services; Policing the NTE in peak times incurs a substantial part of the Southampton Police budget (around £500k per annum); injuries incurred in the NTE have an impact on the South Central Ambulance Service with 71% of Emergency Department admissions requiring immediate transport by ambulance coming from the City Centre; local hospital admissions to the Emergency Department are as a result of assault in the city centre between the hours of 18:00 and 09:00 are around 1,100 per annum with a big concentration on weekends.
2.7	The NTE is a positive feature of Southampton's cultural and leisure offer but can also provide a negative image of the city which is likely to then impact on public perceptions of safety. The recent Place Survey identified that only 26% of local residents thought the Police and Council are tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, and perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour as a problem also featured as a big concern for local people. While part of the factors influencing these perceptions will no doubt relate to local neighbourhood issues, the image of the city centre may also be a factor. It is estimated that two-thirds of people using the NTE are Southampton residents so their experience of the city centre at night will penetrate public perception. It should also be noted in this context that nationally, it is estimated less than a fifth of all alcohol-related incidents are reported.
2.8	Although Southampton can demonstrate examples of good practice in this area – from taxi marshals to the Cumulative Impact Policy (licensing), in recent months a significant range of new developments have been delivered and a pro-active shift in approach to tackle this issue is underway. These emerging actions and proposed future actions have been pulled together into the Reducing Crime and Disorder in the NTE Action Plan.
2.9	<p>The framework for actions is designed to establish a coherent partnership approach that delivers improvements in 5 keys areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a more robust approach to Licensing enforcement - new initiatives to identify and tackle offenders - increased guardian welfare and medical support on the streets - physical environmental changes - partners working to deliver joint media/communication messages to the public and stakeholders <p>The diagram in appendix 1 seeks to illustrate the framework for actions and then provides the 'headline' actions. Much of this work is already underway.</p>
2.10	There is a 2 year resource plan (2009/10 and 2010/11) to deliver the operational actions comprising of a mix of external funding and partner contributions plus, private sector sponsorship and contributions as well as substantial support from the third sector (already secured). However, year 3 (2011/12) and some of the strategic actions would require additional funding. It is proposed that the reward money (circa £550k) anticipated as a result of achieving the Stretch Target (5) – Reducing presentations to the Emergency Department as a result of assault - could (at least in part) be used to sustain the actions in this area. However, there is currently no guarantee of re-investment of the reward monies from Stretch Targets into the areas from which the target originates. It is recommended that the SCP begin to affirm re-investment in the NTE when the opportunity arises. In the meantime, partners are asked to continue to give this area of work top priority to sustain the effort and commitment – including officer

	time – to deliver the actions herein.
2.11	The Council is currently undertaking a Scrutiny Inquiry into the NTE. Although the Inquiry is taking a wide view of the NTE – including for example the economic, employment, leisure and culture elements, safety is also a factor. Consequently, the Safe City Partnership is encouraged to submit proposed actions to that inquiry. Hence the Executive is asked to agree the broad actions in Appendix 1 for submission to the Inquiry. In particular it is noted that the top strategic issue requiring further partnership agreement is on the key public messages and communications in order to balance the positive promotion of the city’s nightlife with hard-hitting messages about crime and safety.
3. RESOURCES/JOINT COMMISSIONING IMPLICATIONS	
3.1	Resource plan in place made up of a wide mix of funding streams, including contributions from partners. Future funding is sought from the reward funding linked to Stretch Target 5.
4. IMPACT ACROSS THE (PMG, SUB-GROUPS)	
4.1	Particular links to TAP, which is leading the area of work
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Framework and headline actions for Reducing Crime on the NTE action plan.
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APPENDIX 1 – Framework for Actions to reduce crime and disorder in the Night Time Economy



ITEM NO. 7

Headline Actions

S1	There needs to be clear and consistent partnership agreement on the approach (to tackling this issue), the vision for the NTE and communications (key messages).
S1	Partners agree and deliver a media strategy that promotes a vibrant NTE and delivers key messages to targeted audiences with a view to changing behaviours.
S1	Complete a more detailed longer-term financial plan and seek re-investment of the reward funding attached to Stretch target 5 to the NTE.
S1	Continue the NTE Task and Finish Group to oversee delivery of this Action Plan to include co-ordination, evaluation and monitoring of new initiatives as well as securing funding. Also to establish a 'Dashboard' of performance measures for this issue.
S1	Partners keep records of where individuals arrested or assisted had their last drink.
O1	Partnership delivery of the Yellow Card scheme and Covaid pilot – identify and tackle offenders, include a media campaign around zero tolerance of offenders
O1	Police and SCC support for early intervention by taking a robust position on enviro-crime and low level ASB in the early evening to 'set the tone' for the night.
O1	Continue False ID scheme to reduce under-age drinking.
O1	Appoint a Night Time Economy Manager to be located in Streets Ahead, reporting to a partnership steering group, with responsibility for forging relationships between licensees and partners and to significantly contribute to delivery of this Action Plan. Short-term funding secured.
O1	Police make more use of restrictive bail conditions such as not entering the city centre after 10.30 pm.
O1	Police lead multi-agency joint tasking process and greater use of shared partnership data.
O1	Police provide refresher training/briefings for officers and relevant partner agencies in the widest use of enforcement powers relevant to the NTE – to include closure powers and ASB powers.
L1	Partners agree to take a more robust and joint approach to problem premises and areas with a view to using powers to seek review and more robust 'traffic light' monitoring of premises.
L1	Partners and Licensees work together to build on the Licensing (radio) Link – increasing membership and strengthening joint working
L1	Partners will seek to establish a voluntary charter or compact with licensed premises
L1	Partners and premises seek to develop no or low-alcohol sales promotions.
L1	NTE Manager, Licensing and Police deliver the Best Bar None scheme in 2010.
L1	Establish a dedicated City Centre Business Crime Reduction Group to provide a voice for business and licensed premises.
W1	Continue support to the Street Pastors.
W1	Deliver the ICE Bus project – welfare and medical support delivered by SCC and South Central Ambulance Service.

W1	Improve information sharing between partners including use of live data and begin joint-tasking and co-ordination on peak nights to include representative of all services operating at night e.g. Street Pastors, ICE supervisor, NTE Manager, Licensing Officers etc.
E1	Evidence consideration of S17 of the Crime and Disorder Act (impact assessments) and 'design out crime' considerations as part of new developments in the city centre.
E1	Review and maximise CCTV support NTE developments.
E1	Consider establishing public toilet facilities in the NTE area to reduce risk to safety and ASB – no funding is identified for this - an options appraisal would be required.
E1	Selective Road closures in peak times e.g. Above Bar to reduce congestion & support policing of crowded spaces
E1	Pilot use of spot light in hot spot location at closing time to encourage rapid dispersal.
E1	Maximise signage and messaging e.g. bigger signs about DPPO, use of matrix messaging.
E1	Review partnership working with street cleansing and other related SCC Services to share data & maximise opportunities for improving the environment.