

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Licensing	21 October 2013
<b>Subject:</b> Joint action by the City Police, City Corporation Licensing Service and London Fire Brigade	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> <b>Director of Markets and Consumer Protection</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>At your Committee in July 2013 your Chairman requested that a report be produced concerning the joint night time inspections being undertaken by the responsible authorities over the last year. This report indicates the issues being raised during these inspections in three main areas of the licensing objectives; public safety, crime and disorder and public nuisance. It then notes how information is shared and used in the new Traffic Light Assessment Scheme introduced this year.</p>	

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. At the July meeting of your Committee the Chairman suggested that the good work being undertaken jointly by City Police, City Corporation Licensing Service in occasional combined night time visits to City licensed premises should be the subject of a brief report.
2. The aim of this report is to inform you of the type of work undertaken and matters found during the inspections.

### **Current Position**

3. The responsible authorities, London Fire Brigade, City Police, Licensing Service and Environmental Health have initiated a series of late night enforcement visits to test compliance of the City night time entertainment economy with the various legislative regimes they administer but focussing on the promotion of the four licensing objectives required of premises operating under Licensing Act 2003.
4. The visits have mainly been undertaken on Friday nights on 20 December 2012, 1 March, 5 July, 6 September as well as Saturday 1 June and Thursday September 18. It is anticipated that the next joint visit will be on Friday before Christmas, December 20 2013.

5. The London Fire Brigade are mainly concerned with aspects of public safety. They have found a number of problems on these visits including the blocking of fire escapes with delivered goods and storage of explosive LPG canisters next to the escape routes. In addition, problems with fire alarm systems, staff unaware of management plans for evacuation and unsafe use of candles has been discovered in City premises. The normal action is requiring rectification at time of visit for urgent matters or, more usually the issue of a Notice of Deficiency for re-inspection to confirm the matter has been adequately resolved.
6. The City Police Licensing Team provide support for the visits ensuring fast access to other members of the joint inspection and are primarily concerned with issues of crime and disorder as well as the other licensing objectives. Typical matters found on these visits have been concerned with the controlled arrival, queuing/external drinking and particularly dispersal of large numbers of patrons from premises. The Police also have raised concerns on these visits regarding the interaction of traffic with pedestrians on dispersal for safety and particularly measures taken to reduce incidents of violence, theft and prevent serving of persons who have already consumed sufficient alcohol.
7. The Environmental Health Officer role in the joint inspection is primarily concerned with prevention of public nuisance to neighbours which is usually a noise matter and related to music from the premises or, as with City Police, linked to dispersal arrangements or arrangements/conditions for external consumption of alcohol. Issues of waste being deposited external to premises have been a regular problem noted during these visits. In addition problems with Food Hygiene, Pest control and Health and Safety, particularly in kitchen areas are noted, management spoken to as appropriate and then passed for the Environmental Health Food Team for re-inspection and confirmation of improvements. Where the Licensing Service is aware of problems with specific premises licence conditions these are also checked on the visits. Problems found on these inspections include the permitting of drinks being taken outside and the storage/use of tables and chairs after permitted hours in the licence.
8. Where concerns have been raised on the joint night time visits a return visit is made by one of the responsible authorities to the premises to see what action is being taken to rectify matters. On occasion this may include asking the appropriate level of management to attend the Public protection Office to meet City Police and/or Public Protection Officers and discuss an action plan to address items of concern.

9. All matters found by the various authorities on these inspections are now collated by the City Licensing Service. They are scored using the Traffic Light Assessment Scheme launched alongside the Code of Good Practice for Licensed Premises. This, dependent on points allocated then indicates the necessary action depending on the severity of what has been found.
10. The City Licensing Service host the City Licensing Liaison Partnership in a monthly meeting of the responsible authorities, including City Police, London Fire Brigade , as well as officers from Safer City Partnership and various sections of Department of Built Environment at Walbrook Wharf. The meeting is to share information on licensing matters and uses the scoring system from the Traffic Light Scheme to indicate where problems are arising and suggest future joint inspection areas and premises.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

11. The joint inspections fit with one of the City Corporation's three aims of the Corporate Plan 2013 – 2017 in that it seeks to evolve a service 'to provide modern, efficient and high quality local services and policing within the Square Mile for workers, residents and visitors with a view to delivering sustainable outcomes'. It also meets one of the five key policy priorities KPP2 in that it seeks to 'maintain the quality of our services whilst (reducing our expenditure and) improving our efficiency'

### **Implications**

12. The work undertaken in applying the proposals is expected to remain within the existing budgets of Markets and Consumer Protection Department.

### **Conclusion**

13. The joint visits and enforcement action undertaken at night appears to be a very useful adjunct to normal day time inspection testing the management control of premises when business is at its height. It is anticipated that the authorities involved will continue to carry out this work in 2014.

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