

## **Housing and Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Panel Review Terms of Reference**

### **1. Title of the review**

- 1.1 Experiences of extended nightclub hours

### **2. Objectives of the review**

- 2.1 To consider contributions from a range of stakeholders including the general public, the police, businesses and any other interested parties in order to assess the impact of having extended nightclub hours past 2am on Fridays and Saturdays.
- 2.2 To submit the Panel's considered views on this subject to the Council Executive to assist in the formulation of a new licensing policy for Bath & North East Somerset.

### **3. Scope**

- 3.1 The scope of this review follows from its objectives, i.e. the focus is on the impact of having extended nightclub hours past 2pm on Fridays and Saturdays.
- 3.2 This review will not be making a **decision** on policy on nightclub hours.
- 3.3 This review will not be seeking views on wider licensing issues. The Council is developing a new licensing policy and there will be consultation as a part of this which will be an opportunity to comment on subjects beyond the scope of this particular review.

### **4. Background information**

- 4.1 In March 1998 the Council's Housing and Public Protection (HPP) Committee established a general policy that places of public entertainment should not be licensed after 2 am.
- 4.2 In December 1998 the Licensing Sub Committee granted permission for Moonjuice, a Midsomer Norton nightclub, to stay open until 4 am on Saturdays only and Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.
- 4.3 In January 1999 the HPP Committee agreed the Environmental and Consumer Services Service Plan (1999-2000) which included a key action to "develop proposals in consultation with interested parties to extend nightclub opening hours on a trial basis".
- 4.4 In December 1999, a report was presented to the HPP Committee regarding the introduction of a trial for extending nightclub hours. The trial was limited to 9 nightclubs within the centre of Bath, the University of Bath and Moonjuice in Midsomer Norton. The committee resolved to suspend the general policy,

that the trial be limited to the 11 nightclubs, the clubs had to comply with 10 additional conditions, that a monitoring group be established (Nightclub Hours Advisory Group), the trial to be for a period of 12 months, the permitted hours will be 24 hours and the permitted opening times limited to Friday and Saturday nights.

- 4.5 In September 2000, a report was presented to the HPP Committee providing an update on the trial of extended opening hours. At that time three nightclubs in Bath were participating in the trial and were opening until 3:30/4:00 am.
- 4.6 In November 2000 the Licensing Sub Committee granted the Pavilion, Bath permission to open until 4:00 am on no more than 6 occasions in a year and no more than one per month.
- 4.7 In May 2001, a report was presented to the HPP Committee presenting the findings and recommendations of the Nightclub Hours Advisory Group. The committee resolved:-
  - 4.7.1 That unlimited permitted hours for public entertainment on Friday nights and Saturday nights be agreed subject to the standard terms, conditions and restrictions applied to public entertainment licences plus specific additional conditions.
  - 4.7.2 That the issue of extended hours beyond 2 am Fridays be reviewed in summer 2002.
  - 4.7.3 That the impact of 24 hour opening be reviewed in summer 2003; and
  - 4.7.4 That the principal of widening the debate into developing a holistic and inclusive approach to late night violent crime be endorsed and Avon and Somerset Constabulary, the Community Safety Partnership and other interested groups and individuals be invited to work together on a strategy and action plan to deliver a tangible reduction in such violent crime.
- 4.8 Of the 11 nightclubs invited to participate in the trial, four took the opportunity to do so, three within the city centre (Cadillac's, Moles and Babylon) and one at the University of Bath. Those clubs remained open until 3 am or 4 am on Friday and/or Saturday nights.
- 4.9 Since the trial Cadillac's, Moles and the University have continued to open until 4 am.
- 4.10 In December 2002 an Executive Member decision was made to delay, until summer 2003, consideration of unlimited nightclub hours for Thursday nights.
- 4.11 The review of the impact of the 24 hour opening is now due and as part of the review process the Overview and Scrutiny panel are inviting interested parties to present their views at a special meeting to be held at the Guildhall, Bath on the 3rd October 2003. The views of the participants will be collated and presented to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Safety for consideration.

## 5. Constraints

- 5.1 This review will complete in November 2003
- 5.2 This review must be managed within the Panel's budget
- 5.3 This "mini" review will be carried out in accordance with the Bath & North East Somerset Council Overview and Scrutiny project management processes.
- 5.4 Joe Duncan will be available at up to 2 days per week.

## 6. Project Team

Chair of Panel:	Cllr Chris Watt
Service Lead:	Howard Nowell (Head of Environmental & Consumer Services)
Project Manager:	Joe Duncan (Corporate Performance Projects Manager)
Democratic Services:	Kirsty Denley (Committee Administrator)

## 7. Outline Plan

August / September	Press release inviting general public comments.
11 <sup>th</sup> September	Panel agree terms of reference
	Publicity for the review aimed at hearing the views of younger people and club users who might not pick up on the review through normal channels: Bath Chronicle, <a href="http://www.bathnes.gov.uk">www.bathnes.gov.uk</a> , etc.
	Invitations to comment sent to a range of selected stakeholders – see section 8 below.
3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Panel consider written submissions
	Panel hear from and question invited contributors
6 <sup>th</sup> November	Panel finalise their comments for passing to Council Executive

## 8. Contributors

- 8.1 A first list to be invited to attend and/or send submissions to the meeting.
- Federation of Bath Residents Associations
  - Bath Police
  - Students Unions x 2
  - Bath Nightclub Association
  - Bath Chamber of Commerce
  - Norton Radstock Chamber of Commerce
  - Norton Radstock Town Council
  - Moonjuice (nightclub in Midsomer Norton)
  - Licensing Consultants x 2
  - Bath & NE Somerset Council Environmental Protection Team
  - Bath & NE Somerset Council Environmental Monitoring & Licensing Manager
  - Bath Taxi Drivers Association

- Doorsafe
- Chair of Licensing Magistrates
- Bath Taxi companies x 2

8.2 A second list of contributors to be invited to send written submissions if they wish. These are grouped as follows:

**A) Hotels and restaurants**

Letters sent to:

- Hotels & Restaurants Association
- Conference Cabinet
- Independent Guest House Association
- Bath Restaurateurs Association

**B) Residents Associations**

Letters sent to:

- Chairman and Secretary of Residents Association members of Federation of Bath Residents Associations
- Chairmen (no Secretaries) of Minerva Court; Snowhill; Foxhill; Chairman & Secretary of Beech Avenue Residents Associations in Bath
- Chairman and Secretary of Tintagel Close Residents Association, Keynsham

**C) Others on the secondary list**

Letters sent to:

- First Bus
- Fire Brigade
- Bath Bar Charter
- Licensed Victuallers Association
- Bath & NE Somerset Council Planning Officer
- Bath & NE Somerset Council Economic Development Officer
- Bath & NE Somerset Council Community Safety Officer
- Bath & NE Somerset Council CCTV Officer
- Bath & NE Somerset Council Head of Direct Services
- Avon Ambulance Service
- Bath & NE Somerset Council Primary Care Trust - A & E
- Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases