

**REPORT TO:** Licensing & Regulatory Committee  
Cabinet Member – Environmental  
Cabinet Member – Communities

**DATE:** 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010  
4<sup>th</sup> August 2010  
8 September 2010

**SUBJECT:** **BEST BAR NONE**

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Peter Moore  
Environmental & Technical Services Director

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Andrew Naisbitt  
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**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To inform the Cabinet Member – Environmental, Cabinet Member – Communities and the Licensing and Regulatory Committee of “Best Bar None” a strategic intervention to promote the four licensing objectives; prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance, public safety and the protection of children from harm.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

To inform the Cabinet Member – Environmental, Cabinet Member – Communities and Licensing and Regulatory Committee of the results of the Best Bar None “2009/10” and to seek endorsement for further similar interventions.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Cabinet Member – Environmental, Cabinet Member – Communities and Licensing and Regulatory Committee:

- a) Note the content of this report and
- b) Endorses the continued promotion of the “Best Bar None” Scheme.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** N/A

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Immediately following the expiry of the “call-in” period for this meeting.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

Enforcement of the Licensing Act is a statutory duty. The Best Bar None Scheme promotes four licensing objectives; prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance, public safety and the protection of children from harm and complements traditional law enforcement activity by consensual approach to help to deliver a safer night time economy.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** None - Best Bar None is a joint initiative commissioned by the Public Health Partnership Alcohol Related Crime Sub Group, Trading Standards Service and the Police and part funded by the Safer Stronger Communities Fund.

**Financial:**

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2008/ 2009 £</b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Funded by:	-	-	-	-
Sefton Capital Resources	-	-	-	-
Specific Capital Resources	-	-	-	-
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Funded by:	-	-	-	-
Sefton funded Resources, within existing budget	-	-	-	-
Funded from External Resources	-	-	-	-
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N				
How will the service be funded post expiry?	N/A			

**Legal:** Any legal implications as a result of this project will be reported separately.

**Risk Assessment** Enforcement of the Licensing Act is a statutory duty

**Asset Management** N/A

**Consultation Undertaken/Views**

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability		√	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People		√	

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

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## **Background**

1. The Cabinet Members will be aware that The Sefton Safer & Stronger Communities Partnership (SSCP) has been assigned the responsibility for the delivery of National Indicator 21 – “Dealing with local concerns about ASB and Crime by the Local Council and Police”
2. The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) will assess performance and prospects for delivery on the priority indicators. The CAA is a new framework through which the major public service inspectorates will together make independent assessments of how well people are being served by their local public services. Its focus is primarily on the prospects for better outcomes locally rather than the internal workings of individual organizations.
3. A key factor in satisfying NI21 is having baseline data which can inform intelligence led interventions and serve as a benchmark for assessing progress.

## **Best Bar None**

4. Best Bar None is a national award scheme which recognises and rewards well managed licensed premises. It is centred round the four licensing objectives; prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance, public safety and the protection of children from harm.
5. The scheme was developed by the Manchester City Centre Safe as part of its remit to address alcohol related crime. The aim was to enhance and complement traditional law enforcement activity by consensual approach to help to deliver a safer night time economy. Good operators were rewarded through Best Bar None; bad operators were similarly identified and tackled through targeted enforcement activity. Best Bar None has since been adopted by many towns and cities across the UK and is even now being taken up in parts of Europe, USA, New Zealand and Australia.
6. The objectives of Best Bar None are:
  - To reduce the risk of alcohol related harm, disorder and crime.
  - To establish a benchmark of good practice in licensed premises.
  - To identify and reward responsible operators and share their good practice with others.
  - To create consistency of standards throughout the UK with which to underpin the alcohol harm reduction strategy and the 2003 Licensing Act.
  - To improve the knowledge and skills of enforcement and regulation agencies, licensees and bar staff in order to deal effectively with issues relating to the management of licensed premises and to understand how this can reduce alcohol related crime and disorder, minimise the harmful effects of binge drinking, whilst improving profitability of an individual business and attractiveness of a general area.

- To raise public awareness of choosing to use well run licensed premises, thereby increasing public reassurance and the promotion of social inclusion and diversity of use.
  - To create a positive vehicle for all sectors of the night time economy to work together in partnership for the common good.
  - To improve the attractiveness and economic vitality of the awards area.
7. Best Bar None was initially introduced in Sefton through the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership (SSCP) by Merseyside Police in 2007 when Southport town centre pubs, clubs and bars were invited to apply. In 2008, the scheme was broadened to include all districts within the Borough, and 'The Willow Grove' in Southport was the overall winner. In early 2009, the SSCP invited the Council's Trading Standards Service to take over the management of the project
8. The 2009/10 Best Bar None competition was launched in Sefton in May 2009 and 13 applications were returned before the deadline on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. There were 3 applicants from Southport, 2 from Formby, 2 from Waterloo / Crosby and 1 from each of Hightown, Sefton Village, Maghull, Aintree, Bootle, and Thornton.
9. The application form served to guide the licensed premise through all the issues that should be considered in compiling and delivering an effective operating schedule and included:
- Security, security reviews
  - Managing capacity
  - Dealing with drunkenness
  - Dealing with drugs
  - Thefts and burglary
  - Disorder
  - First Aid
  - Event control
  - Glass collection and glass safety
  - Building safety and fire control
  - Noise control
  - Community engagement
  - Litter
  - Underage sales
10. The Premises were judged on the number of policies and procedures they had in place to ensure they met all the essential criteria applicable to their premise to be accredited under the scheme. The essential criteria are:
- Carrying out regular security reviews
  - A policy on searching patrons
  - Management and staff ensure drunkenness is managed on the premises
  - All staff receive training in relation to handling drunkenness
  - Policies in place to prevent the use and supply of drugs on the premise
  - Procedures in place if illegal drugs are discovered on the premises, including how to surrender any drugs to the police

- Toilet attendants/documentated toilet checks are carried out
  - A clear anti-theft strategy is in place
  - A lost property recording system is in place
  - Strategies in place for dealing with disorder/conflict
  - A policy in place to prevent overcrowding
  - A written accident recording system in place
  - Procedures are in place for building evacuations in the event of an emergency (fire, terrorism, power loss)
  - An effective glass collection policy is in place
  - An effective spillage and broken glass policy is in place
  - The police and any relevant agencies are notified of any special events that are not already included on the licence, which may impact on the neighbourhood to a much greater extent than normal trading practice
  - A written fire safety risk assessment in place, which has been completed and reviewed in the last 12 months
  - Staff receive documented training in fire safety procedures
  - Daily pre opening checks are carried out
  - Fire fighting and safety equipment is inspected/serviced annually
  - Processes, procedures and policies are in place to ensure noise disturbance from the operation of the premises and from customers is kept to a minimum
  - A dispersal policy is in place
  - Documented procedures are in place to minimise the risk of under 18s buying, consuming or being supplied with alcohol
  - A proof of age policy is in place
  - There is documentary evidence of staff training in relation to age/alcohol related offences
  - There are posters and other materials displaying warnings about underage drinking and stating that proof of age may be required
11. Applicants received additional bonus points for extra initiatives they have in place such as, providing a free taxi phone service, involvement in community initiatives, promotion of soft drinks to drivers.
12. Independent assessors verified the claims made by the premise during a comprehensive assessment visit. 11 premises, (2 withdrew at the assessment stage) underwent consistent, vigorous assessments by 2 independent assessors and all of them were accredited. This meant that they met all the essential criteria necessary to become a Best Bar None premise and display a commemorative plaque and use the BBN logo. This was twice the number of accredited premises compared to 2008.
13. The accredited premises were then put forward to the marking stage where they were marked and ranked according to their score comparing like for like. As all the applications were of a high standard, they were all put forward to the judging phase where a panel of judges examined the applications together with a comprehensive breakdown of the scores for each category.
14. The 2009/10 winners were announced at the Awards Ceremony on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at the Jospice Academy. All 11 premises received accreditation certificates and plaques to be displayed on their premises. In addition 5 premises were Highly Commended and they received a further plaque. The overall winner received a Winners Plaque and trophy together with free advertising on 3 hackney cabs which will also serve as advertising for next year's scheme. In addition the winner has been invited to a Parliamentary reception. All premises have also been listed on the tip seats of 10 further hackney cabs within the borough.

15. The 2009/10 awards were as follows:

**Overall Winner**

Barbacoa, 47-51 Merseyview, Waterloo,

**Highly Commended**

The Merton Inn, Merton Rd. Bootle,

The Royal Hotel, Marine Terrace, Waterloo,

The Willow Grove, 387-389 Lord St. Southport

The Royal, 59-63 Liverpool Rd, Formby

Maloneys- Scarisbrick Hotel, 239 Lord St. Southport

**Accredited**

The Pheasant, 20 Moss Lane, Hightown,

The Punchbowl, Lunt Rd, Sefton Village,

The Freshfield, 1 Massams Lane, Formby,

The Phoenix, 2-4 Coronation Walk, Southport

Sir Henry Segrave, 93 – 97 Lord Street, Southport

**The Way Forward**

16. The 2010/11 Best Bar None competition was launched at the beginning June when all the pubs, clubs and bars across Sefton were invited to apply. Offers of help in completing the forms and meeting the minimum requirements will again be advertised and new members will be encouraged to apply through personal visits and Pubwatch meetings. The closing date for applications is the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Assessment visits will take place during October and November. The judging will take place in December and the Awards Ceremony will be held in January, 2011.
17. Best Bar None is a well recognised scheme, supported by the government and the licensed retail industry, which is being successfully run in a number of local authorities. Such schemes serve to promote the local economy whilst tackling anti social behaviour, and act as a catalyst for joined-up thinking on a wide range of policies in the management of the night time economy.