

# Policy and Sustainability Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 9 January 2024

## Night Time Co-ordinator

Executive/routine  
Wards

Routine  
All

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Policy and Sustainability Committee is asked to:
  - 1.1.1 Note the information provided on the approach to night time co-ordination in other cities;
  - 1.1.2 Note the options available for Edinburgh to introduce a Night Time Co-ordinator role; and
  - 1.1.3 Agree a preferred approach to introducing a Night Time Co-ordinator in Edinburgh.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Simon Porteous, Family and Household Support Service Manager

E-mail: [simon.porteous@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:simon.porteous@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 07769960956

## Night Time Co-ordinator

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report provides a response to Councillor Staniforth's [motion](#) of 24 November 2022 on the potential to introduce a Night Time Co-ordinator for the city and provides an update on the information gathered so far and on options for introducing a Night Time Co-ordinator in Edinburgh.

### 3. Background

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#### **The role of a Night Time Co-ordinator in Edinburgh**

- 3.1 The night time economy (NTE) is of critical importance to the prosperity of the city. The NTE covers a wide range of activity in towns and city centres across the UK taking place between the hours of 18:00 – 06:00 including retail, culture and leisure, transport and accommodation, but also activities that support these sectors (such as security and supply chains).
- 3.2 In addition, there are a number of sectors operating on a 24-hour basis (such as health and social care, logistics and manufacturing) therefore forming part of the wider NTE.
- 3.3 The Council recognises the value that these activities bring to the city's economy and wants to ensure that the positive benefits, particularly from the core sectors, are maximised and their growth is supported.

#### **Night Time Co-ordinators in other cities**

- 3.4 From understanding the role of Night Time Co-ordinators (also known as Advisers, Advisors or Czars) around the UK and Ireland, it is apparent that the arrangements for and responsibilities of these roles differ across the local authority areas where they have been introduced.
- 3.5 In Greater Manchester and the West Midlands the Night Time Adviser is a voluntary, part time, permanent role with both appointments in 2018 and 2023 made to individuals from the cultural events and hospitality sectors respectively. Both of these appointments report direct to the Mayor's office and act as a voice for the Night Time Industries sector, focusing on key priorities such as safety, transport, workforce and culture.

- 3.6 In London, the Night Time Czar is a full time, permanent role, with the appointment made in 2016. The Night Time Czar comes from a cultural events background, has an annual salary of £105,000 and reports direct to the Mayor’s office.
- 3.7 Bristol’s Night Time Adviser is a part time position, but salaried at £50,000 pro rata. The person appointed comes from a cultural events background.
- 3.8 More recently, in 2022 and 2023, there have been nine cities / towns in Ireland (Cork, Limerick, Galway, Kilkenny, Drogheda, Sligo, Bunclrana, Longford and Dublin) that have appointed Night Time advisers on a two-year full time basis salaried at €55,000 per year (circa £48,076.17 equivalent sterling). Appointments were from a range of hospitality and cultural event backgrounds.
- 3.9 A summary of these appointments and the remit they are responsible for is provided in the table below:

	<b>London</b>	<b>Greater Manchester</b>	<b>Bristol</b>	<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>Ireland</b>
Post title	Night Time Czar	Night Time Adviser	Night Time Adviser	Night Time Adviser	Night Time Adviser
Salaried role	✓	x	✓	x	✓
Voluntary role	x	✓	x	✓	x
Working hours	Full time	Part time	Part time	Part time	Full time
Priority Areas					
Safety	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Transport	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Diversity / Culture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Business Support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Events / International relations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Licensing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 Recognising the importance of the NTE to the city and understanding how other major cities support their NTE, a Night Time Co-ordinator could be beneficial for the city.
- 4.2 Such a role could involve:

- 4.2.1 Acting as advisor to the Council, Edinburgh Community Safety and Justice Partnership and partner organisations on the strategy required to support and create a prosperous and safe night-time economy that supports the city's growth ambitions;
- 4.2.2 Engaging stakeholders to understand the issues and opportunities in this sector and how they can be tackled to support sustainable growth;
- 4.2.3 Representing the night-time industries, both in representation to the Council and publicly, building a positive profile for the sector and how it contributes to the city's economy;
- 4.2.4 Actively lobby Government on legislative changes and policy development designed to support the NTE;
- 4.2.5 Establishing a NTE Forum – which could include representatives from the Council, Night Time Industries Association, Essential Edinburgh, Street Assist, Chamber of Commerce, Universities, Lothian Transport, Network Rail, Taxi Industry, Hospitality and Cultural venues, Police, Ambulance and Tourism and any other relevant organisations;
- 4.2.6 Extensive consultation with local communities in the process of developing ideas for the NTE. This can be done through stakeholder events in person, online or a mixture of different methods;
- 4.2.7 Reviewing existing funding structures at local and national level;
- 4.2.8 Highlighting challenges, opportunities and potential solutions - focusing on key thematic work streams such as Connectivity, Safety, Culture, Diversity, Tourism and Licensing;
- 4.2.9 Optimising and collating local data which will feed into the development of a comprehensive NTE Action Plan for the city; and
- 4.2.10 Supporting the Get Me Home Safely initiative and championing this with the NTE sector to ensure equity and consistency across the business community in Edinburgh.

- 4.3 A NTE Forum could also provide additional support to define and obtain buy-in for the NTE strategy for the city, ensuring alignment with other strategies (including the tourism and the economy strategies).

#### **Options for a Night Time Co-ordinator role**

- 4.4 There are three options available to support the creation of a Night Time Co-ordinator role in Edinburgh:
  - 4.4.1 Recognising the success of such roles in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands, a voluntary role could be created. This role could initially be advertised externally on a fixed term, expenses only, basis (e.g. for two years) to pilot how it would work in the city. Based on the experience of other cities, it is expected that it would be of most interest to people in the cultural events or hospitality sectors. The cost of expenses could be met from the Council's existing revenue budget;
  - 4.4.2 The Council could consider setting aside funding in the upcoming budget process to fund this post. Again, this could be funded initially on a temporary

basis to pilot how the role would work. A new job description would require to be developed and the post graded, however it is anticipated that the salary (including on-costs) would be in the region of £50,000 (pro rata depending on hours of work); or

- 4.4.3 To include this within proposals for the introduction of a Visitor Levy for Edinburgh. The salary costs are anticipated to be as set out in paragraph 4.4.2.

### **Get Me Home Safely**

- 4.5 Regulatory Committee noted the Get Me Home Safely motion and noted that the Licensing Board was looking at the issue of 'Get me home safely' as part of the consultation on the Licensing Board's statement of policy.
- 4.6 This consultation concluded in November 2023 and on 27 November 2023 the Board agreed a new statement of licensing policy.
- 4.7 Having considered the consultation responses and advice on the relevant legislation, including the limits of the Board's powers to regulate matters beyond the sale of alcohol, the Board agreed to add the following paragraph into the policy.

*The Statement of Licensing Policy, at paragraph 17.9 ("Issues to be considered"):*  
***whether customers and staff have adequate access to public transport when arriving at and leaving the premises, especially at night – this is something the Board received detailed representations on as part of its consultation.***

- 4.8 The Board is therefore encouraging this as good practice whilst recognising that determining a licence based on this is likely to be beyond the Board's powers to regulate the sale of alcohol.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Committee is asked to consider the options available to create a Night Time Co-ordinator role and to agree a preferred approach.
- 5.2 In the meantime, officers will continue conversations with key stakeholders within the NTE (including the Night Time Industries Association, Essential Edinburgh, Street Assist and Greater Manchester Local Authorities Night Time Adviser).

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 The potential cost of each of the options is set out in the main report. As noted, it is anticipated that expense costs could be contained within the Council's existing revenue budget. The cost of a salaried post would require to be met from either an additional allocation in the Council's budget or from any revenue generated from an Edinburgh Visitor Levy.

## 7. Equality and Poverty Impact

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- 7.1 An interim Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed. This will be updated with partners as conversations progress.

## 8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

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- 8.1 As a public body, the Council has statutory duties relating to climate emissions and biodiversity. The Council

*“must, in exercising its functions, act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets”*

(Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019), and

*“in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”*

(Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004)

- 8.2 The City of Edinburgh Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and committed to work towards a target of net zero emissions by 2030 for both city and corporate emissions and embedded this as a core priority of the Council Business Plan 2023-27. The Council also declared a Nature Emergency in 2023.

## 9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

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- 9.1 There are no direct risk, policy, compliance, governance or community impacts arising from this report as this it is updating on activity. A NTE strategy could emerge from the work of a Night Time Co-ordinator.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/6219/gmca-nte-blueprint-final.pdf>
- 10.2 <https://24hournation.com/resources/manchester-nighttime-economy-strategy-2022/>
- 10.3 <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/media/document/inclusion-in-the-evening-andnight-timeeconomy---task-group-report>
- 10.4 <https://www.portmangroup.org.uk/new-portman-group-report-encouraging-a-thriving-and-diverse-night-time-economy/>
- 10.5 <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2020/06/16/scotlands-night-time-economy-and-coronavirus-covid-19/>

## 11. Appendices

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None.