

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

---

meeting date: TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2022  
title: REBUILDING THE UK'S NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY  
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: STEPHEN BARKER, SOLICITOR

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of amendments to the principal issues considered at a training webinar attended by the Council's licensing enforcement officer on Rebuilding the UK's Night-time Economy: Recovering from Covid-19 and Creating a Safe, Diverse, Thriving Night-time Economy.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives }
  - Corporate Priorities }
  - Other Considerations }
- The Council aims to be a well managed authority to make peoples lives safer and healthier and to support business.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 A half day virtual round table by way of a training exercise was organised by the Public Policy Exchange to consider developments in the night-time economy since the pandemic, and possible developments in the future. The event was held on 4 August 2022 and heard from Members and officers at a number of metropolitan and city authorities and others involved in the regulation and promotion of the night-time economy. The smallest authority from which a contributor attended was Exeter City council, where the BID manager gave a presentation.

2.2 Whilst many aspects of the presentation were geared towards and more relevant to large towns and cities, attendance was useful in becoming aware of trends and possible initiatives with regard to the night-time economy.

## 3 ISSUES

3.1 Highlighted Factors:

- The night-time economy is defined as events and businesses operating between 6pm and 6am and should include shops, supermarkets, cinemas as well as licensed premises.
- Research shows that only about 4.3% of crime at night is alcohol related, but licensed premises get the brunt of criticism for night-time crime.
- People have been going out earlier in the evening and returning home earlier.
- Footfall is estimated to be 10-15% lower than before Covid-19.
- There has been an increase in people going for a 'blended' night out, in that they will take in a meal or a film, or go shopping, before going for a drink, rather than solely going out to drink.

- In many places the night-time economy brings more into an area than the daytime economy, with it being stated that some such areas are vibrant and attractive with raised house prices, and a desire from others to visit or move to that area.
- The key to rebuilding the night-time economy is creativity, safety and transport.
- There was specific mention of deregulation of aspects of licensing and planning rules to encourage growth. It is understood that a government report is to be released in this respect in the course of September 2022.
- Licensing applications and reviews need to be based on facts and not on conjecture or speculation about what might happen. The views of residents must be considered, but these need to be balanced with the needs of business.

#### 4 **CONCLUSION**

4.1 Committee is asked to note the content of this report.

STEPHEN BARKER  
SOLICITOR

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Stephen Barker, extension 3216.