

# Licensing Committee



Date of meeting:	07 December 2021
Title of Report:	<b>Licensing Activity Report</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor John Riley (Cabinet Member for Governance, HR, IT & Community Safety)
Lead Strategic Director:	Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health)
Author:	Rachael Hind
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Your Reference:	RH/Licensing Activity Report 2021
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

This report has been compiled to give the Licensing Committee an overview of the various aspects of the work undertaken by agencies involved in regulating the licencing regimes within the remit of the Committee. The report will also highlight future work plans and potential changes in legislation or guidance which will have an impact on the Committee.

## Recommendations and Reasons

That members consider this report and note its contents.

## Alternative options considered and rejected

None

## Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This report links to the delivery of the Council priorities. In particular:

### 1. **Unlocking the City's Potential**

Licensing systems aim to assist in the delivery of a safer, more vibrant Plymouth. This in turn should attract more visitors to the City and also support an increase in the numbers of citizens of Plymouth who will utilise the social, cultural and sporting offers available. Opportunities for increased levels of employment should follow.

### 2. **Caring for People and Communities**

The policy will allow for effective control of alcohol supply, which will assist in reducing alcohol harm and thereby reduce inequality. Whilst alcohol misuse affects individuals from all sections of society, those from the most disadvantaged communities experience the highest burden of harm.

**Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

Not applicable

**Financial Risks**

None.

**Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

Not applicable.

**Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:**

\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

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**Appendices**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

**Background papers:**

\*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<a href="#">Statement of Licensing Policy Licensing Act 2003</a>							
<a href="#">Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 Licensing Act 2003 - April 2018</a>							
<a href="#">Policy and Local Area Profiles for Plymouth</a>							
<a href="#">Tackling Gambling Related Harm: A Whole Council Approach</a>							

**Sign off:**

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Rob Nelder											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Ruth Harrell Date agreed: 24/11/2021											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Riley (via email) Date approved: 23/11/2021											

## Enforcement Activity Report

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report has been compiled to give Members of the Licensing Committee an update of the work undertaken by agencies involved in regulating licensable activities and in particular management of the Evening and Night Time Economy (ENTE). It will also outline specifically the work of the licensing team from the 1 April 2020 to the 31 March 2021. The team received 1332 licensing applications in 2020/2021 covering the following areas:

- Alcohol and entertainment
- Gambling
- Sex Establishments
- Petroleum
- Explosives
- Animal welfare
- Charitable collections
- Scrap metal
- Caravan licensing
- Body and Beauty Art

This was a significant reduction of 45% less than compared to 2019/20 due to Covid-19. However we had 48 new premises applications compared to 36 the previous year which are very time consuming and 45 transfer applications compared to 34 the year before. We also had four premises reviews that were heard by committee compared to two last year.

Due to Covid-19, businesses were closed, therefore TENs and small lotteries were not applied for e.g. for school fetes.

However, our team provided regular updates and visits to the businesses, especially the ENTE trade to assist them with understanding the Covid-19 requirements.

## 2.0 Licensing Act 2003

2.1 Licensing Officers with administrative support, undertake all aspects of the licensing function covered by the Licensing Act 2003. During 2020/21, Officers processed the following number of applications:

Licence Type	01/04/18 – 31/03/19	1/4/19 – 31/3/20	1/4/20 – 31/3/21
Licensing applications, transfers and variations etc.	463 (plus 167 suspensions)	578 (plus 214 suspensions)	339 (plus 301 suspensions)
New Personal licences	129 + 145 Change of address applications	159 + 139 Change of address applications	103 + 80 Change of address applications
TEN's	411	462	91

2.2 Responsible authorities continue to submit formal representations in respect of licensing applications. In the majority of cases the applicant will agree with the advice given, thereby allowing them to be mediated out. Members receive regular updates of all the mediated applications by way of a report.

2.3 32 Licensing Inspections (compared to 180 in 2019/20) were completed between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, however the number of applications that required representations from Environmental Health and Trading Standards remained the same at 63. This was due to a number of businesses changing their business to adapt to Covid-19 for example by making deliveries.

2.4 The Licensing Sub-Committee undertook the following activities:

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Applications or Variations	8	7	8	5	2
Review of premises licences	1	4	0	2	3
Expedited review applications	1	1	0	0	1

One premises was also taken for a summary licence review by Police Licensing regarding its association with serious crime.

Two applications went to committee to consider representations. One was granted with reduced hours and one withdrew their application.

One premises licence was reviewed, following an application from the Licensing Police under grounds of the prevention of crime and disorder, public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. The premises was poorly managed with reports of children present that were under the influence, breaches of the premises licence were witnessed and there was poor supervision and control of patrons attending the premises. There were also problems encountered to obtain CCTV footage following reports of incidents and crimes of assault. As a result of the hearing, the Premises licence was revoked.

Two premises were reviewed following application from the Environmental Health department under grounds of the prevention of public nuisance from live and recorded music outside of both premises. As a result of the hearings, both premises were prevented from having regulated entertainment outside of the premises.

### **3.0 Licensing Act Policy**

3.1 Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires a Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy every 5 years. The Policy was last approved on 31 March 2019. The Cumulative Impact Policy is required to be reviewed every 3 years and this is currently being reviewed by the Licensing Police and will be consulted on shortly.

### **4.0 Public Safety and Public Nuisance**

4.1 During 2020/21, the number of noise complaints remained high and 153 formal noise complaints were registered against licensed premises.

4.2 Environmental Health Officers continue to use an escalation process when investigating noise complaints, discussing the circumstances of the complaint with the responsible person at the earliest opportunity in order to allow them to resolve the matter quickly without the need for further formal action. In most cases the complaint can be resolved by way of an action plan or minor variation with the agreement of the licensee.

Two premises licences were reviewed for public nuisance in this financial year as detailed above.

4.3 The out of hours noise service has not been running since March 2020 due to Covid-19, however officers arrange visits as required to ensure any noise or public nuisance from licensed premises are dealt with as promptly as possible.

Officers work with the licensed premises to ensure action plans are put in place to reduce the impact to local residents. This has been very important following the reopening after Covid-19, particularly as the use of outside areas has been encouraged and many businesses have taken the opportunity to expand these areas and apply for pavement licences.

### **5.0 Protection of Children from harm**

5.1 The Police and Trading standards continue to try and reduce the access to alcohol, from on and off-licences to young people by means of neighbourhood interventions and advice to retailers.

5.2 Unfortunately, the Licensing Team and Police Licensing have not been about to arrange Test Purchasing Operations with Trading Standards since February 2020 due to Covid-19. However we have recently met with our Trading Standards colleagues and will be arranging future test purchases based on the intelligence and complaints received.

5.3 Businesses are supported to minimize the potential for under age sales and are encouraged to use a Challenge 25 policy. All licensed premises in Plymouth have free access to the regional under age sales web based toolkit 'No Proof of Age No Sale (NPOANS) for their staff and were all written to following the recent test purchase reminding them of this training tool.

### **6.0 Gambling Policy**

6.1 Licensing Officers with administrative support are also responsible for licensing establishments such as casinos, betting shops, adult gaming centres, bingo halls covered by the Gambling Act 2005.

Inspections were carried out this year to assist gambling businesses and ensure compliance with the Covid-19 requirements. Full inspections of our Gambling Premises will be undertaken between December 2021 and March 2022, to ensure our establishments are fully compliant.

- 6.2 The Councils Gambling Licensing Policy (Statement of Principles) came into effect on 31 January 2019 and is required to be reviewed every three years. The draft new policy to commence on 31 January 2022 to 30 January 2025, was consulted on for 6 weeks between 1 July 2021 and 16 August 2021. It was approved by Full Council on Tuesday 22 November 2021 and a notice of the intention to publish the new policy will be advertised in the Plymouth Herald in December 2021.

The Gambling Policy was updated in detail in 2019 and therefore only minor changes were required at this review. Minor updates have been made to:

- update any out of date website links/contact details for example to the Gambling Commission guidance notes and responsible authority contacts.
- include references to the specific parts of the Gambling Commission guidance and code of practices.
- include more detail with regards to how the Licensing Authority will deal with applications in buildings which are divided into more than one premises and what is expected of applicants (see page 15 – 18).

### **Local Risk Assessments and Local Area Gambling Profile**

Since the last Statement of Principles came into effect on 31 January 2019, the Council have published the following guidance on their websites and these have been referred to within the updated Policy:

- **Guide to undertaking local gambling risk assessments (April 2020)** – this guide has been produced to assist gambling operators when undertaking and preparing their local premises risk assessments.
- **Local Area Gambling Profiles (April 2020)**

The local area profile has been produced with our Public Health colleagues and is an assessment of the key characteristics of Plymouth in the context of gambling related harm. The information obtained for the assessment helps to provide a better understanding of the types of people that are at risk of being vulnerable to gambling related harm, where they are located and any current or emerging problems that may increase that risk. The profiles can be used by gambling operators to assess local risks to the licensing objectives, posed by the provision of gambling facilities at each of their premises and to have policies, procedures and control measures in place to mitigate the risks. The profiles will also assist gambling operators in undertaking and preparing their local premises risk assessment.

### **6.3 Gambling Training - Safeguarding and Local Area Profile Risk Assessments**

We arranged online training which was delivered to Managers and staff of our Gambling Premises on 30 June 2021. The session covered:

- Understanding vulnerability and risk factors
- Understanding what we mean by adult and children's safeguarding
- Being able to recognise and report concerns about abuse and neglect
- Who to contact should you have concerns about Abuse or Neglect
- The current Gambling Commission Strategy and the likely changes as well as typical scenarios that operators may encounter
- Consideration of updated local area profiles and updating Risk Assessments.

The training was well received and future dates will be arranged for those that were unable to attend.

## **7.0 Sex Establishments**

7.1 There is currently one lap dancing club and one sex shop licensed with Plymouth City Council.

## **8.0 Scrap Metal Dealers**

8.1 Following two joint operations with Environmental Protection, the Police and the Environment Agency last year, we prosecuted three unlicensed scrap metal dealers.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 was introduced to curtail criminal activity and requires dealers to be licensed and keep records of what they collect and who they deal with. The Act also makes it an offence for any scrap metal dealer, including collectors, to buy scrap metal for cash.

On 11 August 2020, one man that was ordered to pay £5000 after collecting scrap metal without a licence. The Magistrates fined him £2640 for operating without a scrap metal Licence, £1043 for operating without a waste Carriers Licence and ordered to pay £1136 costs and a victim surcharge of £181.00. The Court heard that despite the Licensing Department advising him that he needed to be licenced, he continued to operate the business illegally and that over a period of 6 months, without a Waste Carriers Licence or Scrap Metal Dealers Licence in place, he deposited scrap metal to the value of £10,397.99.

In 9 September 2020, another man, was ordered to pay over £1600 for collecting scrap metal without a licence over a six month period from June 2019. He was fined £461 for operating without a scrap metal licence, ordered to pay £1,200 costs and a victim surcharge of £46. This man was also advised by the Licensing Team that he needed to be licenced but continued to operate his business illegally, for over six months. During this time, he deposited scrap metal to the value of £10,000.

On 16 January 2021, another man was fined £3601 after being taken to court for not having the correct licence. He pleaded guilty at Plymouth magistrates to a charge of collecting scrap metal without a licence over a three month period from January 2020. He was fined £120 for operating without a scrap metal licence also ordered to pay £2637 costs and a victim surcharge of £95. The court heard that despite being advised by the Licensing Team that he needed to be licenced, he continued to operate his business illegally for three months. During this time, he deposited scrap metal to the value of £2,021.95.

These prosecutions have helped ensure that other people get appropriately licensed and as a result we have received an increase in applications. Three additional site licences and eight additional mobile collectors licences has been issued this year. There are now 18 licensed scrap metal sites in Plymouth and 18 mobile licensed collectors.

## **9.0 Partnership Working**

9.1 The responsible authorities meet on a regular basis to discuss enforcement options and consider strategies for dealing with 'problem premises'. Premises operating in the evening and night time economy (ENTE) continue to receive constructive advice from enforcement agencies such as Licensing, Environmental Health, Fire Service, Trading Standards and the Police to help encourage a responsible ENTE.

9.2 Interventions include unannounced and announced visits to assess the licensed premises against licensing conditions and other workplace regulations. The licensees, managers and staff are

encouraged to participate in community schemes for the licensed trade such as Best Bar None, Pubwatch and the Licensing Forum.

- 9.3 Officers from all enforcement agencies undertake joint inspections where appropriate to ensure a consistent approach to enforcement is maintained and demonstrates to the licensee and designated premises supervisor that agencies work together. Enforcement agencies also undertake night-time inspections in order to assess how licensed premises comply with their regulatory responsibilities.
- 9.4 The Licensing Team are members of Safer Plymouth and the Evening and Night Time Economy Group (ENTE) and Alcohol Harm Reduction Subgroup. The group has been recently reinstated following Covid-19 and the Purple Flag Award renewal application will be submitted in January 2022.
- 9.5 The Licensing Team and Police continue to support Pubwatch schemes and are a member of the Best bar None Steering Group. We continue to carry out multiagency working on safeguarding, modern slavery/exploitation and hate crime projects. During Covid-19, we worked very closely to ensure regular additional guidance was produced for our venues to assist them in understanding and implementing the ever changing Covid -19 controls. We attended online BBN/Pubwatch sessions, multi-agency meetings and jointly coordinated the Covid-19 Marshals working across the City to prevent anti-social behaviour and to help the public and businesses comply with the Covid-19 requirements.

## **10.0 Work Initiatives for 2021/22**

- 10.1 The responsible authorities will continue to support licensed premises to ensure that they are best placed to contribute towards providing a positive and well managed ENTE.
- 10.2 All agencies will continue to meet to discuss enforcement strategies, best practice and on-going operations to ensure that resources are best targeted at those premises that contribute significantly to undermining the licensing objectives.
- 10.3 We intend to:
- Continue our joint working to detect, deter and disrupt modern slavery and exploitation
  - Continue the joint working with the Police to reduce hate crime
  - Continue to promote the voluntary reducing the strength campaign
  - Undertake a programme of alcohol and gambling test purchasing operations
  - Audit all gambling risk assessments against the new gambling profiles
  - Arrange additional online safeguarding training for licensed premises and gambling establishments
  - Ongoing training of Taxi Marshalls that have been appointed to assist with the ENTE.
  - Chair the Event Safety Advisory Group and attend the ENTE and Alcohol Harm Reduction Sub Group and assist the group with maintaining the Purple Flag Award for the City.
  - Support Best Bar None and Pubwatch

## **11.0 Conclusion**

- 11.1 This report has sought to provide members with an insight into the range of work initiatives and enforcement operations undertaken by the Licensing Team for regulating the evening and night time economy throughout 2020/21. In addition to provide details of the work initiatives

planned for the coming year and how partner agencies will continue to interact to ensure that limited resources are targeted effectively.

**12.0 Police Licensing Activity Report**

- 12.1 Attached in Appendix One is a report from the Police Alcohol Licensing Officer who is also invited to present information to the Committee at this meeting.

**APPENDIX ONE****POLICE LICENSING REPORT APRIL 2020 – April 2021**

Sir/Madam,

In response to your request, the Devon and Cornwall Police alcohol licensing department can provide you with the following details regarding our activities over the last twelve months.

We have dealt with –

- 50 applications to grant Premises Licence and negotiated appropriate conditions with each. 1 of these was withdrawn
- 24 applications to transfer premises licences
- 11 variations of Premises Licences – 1 of these was objected to
- 18 minor variations
- 1 new club premises certificate
- 105 variations of DPS
- 35 Temporary Event Notices
- 29 Late Temporary Event Notices, of which 8 were rejected.
- 2 Licensing Committee Reviews

*(Please note that these figures are those where the Licensing Officer has needed to become involved. 'Low-risk' applications are screened out centrally after they pass a 'logic')*

This 12-month period has been very different from previous years due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and subsequent lockdowns throughout the retail sector and the Evening and Night-time Economy (ENTE) sector.

The statistical summary above indicates a very different landscape to the usual business undertaken in a normal year by the Police Alcohol Licensing Department. It was a turbulent time for the licensing trade with an initial lockdown period, followed by a limited re-opening and then a further lockdown before a staged re-opening in 2021.

During this period, in July 2020, pubs and restaurants were allowed to re-open, following specific guidelines around numbers and social distancing, as well as having special measures in place to support 'track and trace'. Hospitality businesses were supported by the Business and Planning Act, enabling the use of outdoor adjacent spaces through table licences and also off-sales. There was the introduction of the 'Eat out to help out' scheme where meals had a 50% discount in hospitality venues, which did increase footfall considerably in the hospitality industry in the summer months. Due to a further increase in Covid cases, there was a further lockdown which commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020, which lasted for the rest of the time period of this report.

There were many challenges during this time including the support of the businesses as well as making sure that businesses were operating within the parameters of the legislation allowing them to operate. There was some excellent multi-agency work between Police Licensing and the Local Authority Licensing

departments, along with Pubwatch and Best Bar None, culminating in a number of guidance documents being produced in order to interpret the legislation around re-opening and putting it in terms which members of the licensing community could understand. This enabled a much smoother transition into the different stages of re-opening. These guidance documents were well received by the hospitality trade and were also used in other areas of Devon and Cornwall.

Venues and businesses were monitored for compliance and any breaches of the legislation was dealt with through initial engagement and education before possible escalation to enforcement methods. In order to assist with the monitoring and support of the hospitality industry, 'Covid marshals' were employed to engage with businesses and also to show a visible presence. These worked extremely effectively and were used to good effect to enforce the PSPO areas of Plymouth, especially the Barbican after one large gathering just before the July re-opening where a large gathering of people with take-away alcohol caused some disorder. After this incident, the PSPO areas were effectively managed with early intervention to prevent gatherings in these areas and continued for the rest of the year.

In total, 7 businesses were given fixed penalty notices for contravention of the Covid regulations, despite efforts to engage and explain. The evidence was supplied by police licensing officers working in conjunction with Local Authority licensing officers who issued the tickets.

In order to address Covid issues throughout the city, a weekly meeting of the newly established Plymouth Covid Enforcement Group was set up. This looked at the Covid figures for the city and the compliance and engagement from businesses within the city. This was chaired by the Police Licensing department and consisted of many members from other authorities and partners.

Also established during this time was the Visitor, Leisure, Hospitality and Retail Group which looked at many aspects of these business areas throughout the lockdown and for re-opening. The Police and Local Authority Licensing departments had important inputs in these meetings which were chaired by a Senior Council member.

We have dealt with a number of premises where concerns have been raised and through intervention at an early stage and the insistence of a formulated action plan from the DPS, changes have been made to the venues, which have removed those concerns. This has on occasion required specific visits to premises by the team and also requiring the DPS and/or area managers to attend Charles Cross Police station to deal with those issues.

In May 2020, a venue which had been subjected to a Closure Order under s.80 of the Police, Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014 (from the previous report) was taken before the Licensing Committee and had its premises licence revoked. The effect of the closure of this venue has been significant in reducing the instances of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the direct vicinity.

In August 2020, a review of a venue took place where it was alleged that a serious sexual offence took place. A condition was added to the licence of the venue.

The lack of bringing many cases to the licensing committee demonstrates the pro-active work which the Police and Local Authority Licensing departments undertake in order to work with venues and licensees in creating a safer and more professional licensing and hospitality community. Guidance and advice was offered through many meetings and visits to venues and, as can be seen by the statistics, compliance and development of good working practices and standards was achieved.

There was an approximate 20% increase in the granting of new licences during this period in the city, as some businesses closed and others saw a new opportunity to enter the hospitality industry due to changes in their own lives through Covid which was further supported by applications to transfer premises licences, which almost doubled from the previous year. There were a similar number of DPS changes to the previous year. The most significant change was the vast reduction in Temporary Event Notices reducing by over 80% and late TENs reducing by 77%. This was accounted for by the amount of time for which venues were closed during this period and also the restriction in hours when they were allowed to re-open with 2200 terminal hours.

We continue to be actively engaged in effectively working in partnership with Plymouth Pubwatch and Best Bar None. Through the different groups meeting on a regular basis, our partnership working with other authorities and agencies has strengthened and widened, making the partnership work even more effective.

Our excellent partnership working is clearly identified through the retaining of the prestigious Purple Flag award for the city. This identified Plymouth as having a safe, vibrant and diverse ENTE and is a great benefit to the city for marketing purposes.

The application was of such quality that it was held up by the assessors to be an excellent example of how a city should present itself and would be used as a template for other schemes nationally to aim for. The main architects behind this were PS Dave Moore, Cat McDonald from Best Bar None and Rachael Hind from the Local Authority Licensing department.

After the city's Best Bar None scheme won the Best Overall Scheme for an unprecedented 2 years in a row previously, they were not allowed to enter in that category this year and were instead asked to judge on the panel for the other awards. The city's scheme in conjunction with the work undertaken by the police Licensing Department around anti-drink spiking was runner-up for the most innovative work award in a ceremony at the House of Lords.

We continue to engage in working with door supervision companies and regularly visit and check SIA doorstaff.

We regularly review CCTV evidence of interactions with door staff and the vast majority of cases show very good conflict management and resolution. There have been very few incidents involving door staff where inappropriate force has been used and good liaising with the Security Industry Authority (SIA) has been effective in dealing with these minor incidents, helping to maintain the safety of the public in Plymouth. Further training in this area will be rolled out next year.

Police Licensing, alongside Local Authority and Best Bar None will look to undertake training in the areas of vulnerability, Ask for Angela and anti-drink spiking once the lockdown is over and the hospitality industry re-opens fully. This training has always been well received in the past and is beneficial to making the ENTE staff more effective in protecting the public during the course of their work.

The successful trial of the taxi marshals at Derrys Cross and Union Street last year was made more permanent thanks to funding from a number of partners. They ran again over the 3 summer months, covering Fresher's Week and in December. Although the number of customers helped had decreased on the previous year, the taxi marshals had, once again, clearly prevented a number of disorderly incidents and possible serious sexual offences. There has been positive responses from customers, the licensing community and taxi drivers, who feel more inclined to stop there and this has helped dispersal.

Taxi marshals continue to be effective in the Barbican, and also supported the work of the Covid Marshals throughout the Covid pandemic.

The previously successful implementation of the Safe Bus has also sent a positive message of support out to the ENTE community and has been well-received. A multi-agency supported resource, it offers a safe haven for users and the support of the Fire Service and Alliance Pioneer Group (Health) as well as the police has kept running costs to a minimum at the moment. The Safe Bus has been serviced and ready to go again in the summer months and throughout busy weekends and December through some excellent financial support from the NHS which allows the provision of medial cover.

We continue, where possible, to develop the Reducing the Alcohol Campaign in the city. All off-licence new applications or variations will be offered guidance on the scheme and strongly encouraged to take it up.

Our continued involvement with the University of Plymouth and Marjon has benefitted their events and also helped to promote Plymouth as a safer city and destination for potential students. We have been working with the Student Union who successfully trialled a student street welfare patrol. This will continue to develop through training and equipping student volunteers.

In 2019, with the co-operation of a large number of venues in the city, a 3 month drink-spiking trial was undertaken in Plymouth, whereby an estimated 300,000 people attended venues which had been equipped with drink testing kits. Police vehicles had been equipped with urine testing kits. Any person who suspected that their drink had been spiked could alert a venue member of staff and their drink would be tested. Any person who believed that they had been spiked could have a very quick urine test to indicate whether they had been spiked. A simple working practice made this method of determining whether a person had been spiked was efficient and effective. The results showed that over 96% of cases which could have reported in a drink spiking crime report being raised were negative, thereby significantly reducing the number of recorded crimes and also the fear of crime in the city. One person was positively identified and arrested for the offence thanks to the use of the kits.

This scheme was given the green light to be rolled out across the whole force area but was delayed due to the Pandemic. It is due to go 'live' on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021 and is being monitored by many forces across the country and the Home Office, once again putting Plymouth at the forefront of a positive preventative strategy to protect the public.

I submit this report for your information and consideration.

Dave Moore

PS 4571

Alcohol Licensing Sergeant

Devon and Cornwall Police