

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**Report by Chief Officer – Regulatory & Regeneration****Corporate Services Committee: 17 February 2021**

Subject: Festive Night Zone Funding**1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to outline the current position with regard to the festive Night Zone West (“NZW”) provision, and for the Committee to consider the position with regard to funding of it by the Council.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** It is recommended that the Council’s funding for the festive Night Zone West scheme be removed.

3. Background

- 3.1** NZW is a safety initiative designed to keep local people safe during the festive season. This included taxi marshals on duty in Clydebank, Dumbarton and Alexandria. In 2016/2017 Scottish Government community funding was cut which had the result that there would be no Taxi Marshals that year. Instead funding was secured from the Licensing budget which paid for Police Officers overtime to allow for an additional Police presence in the main town centre areas of West Dunbartonshire. Thereafter a joint growth bid was lodged by Licensing and Communities and as a result £12,000 was allocated to NZW.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** In recent years there has been great difficulties (despite involved and repeated efforts of officers), in obtaining taxi marshal stewards, and a decision was taken by the Licensing Board on 26 March 2019 in consultation with the Licensing Forum that this fund be offered to Police Scotland to finance Police Officer overtime during the festive period. This funding was not allocated over the festive period in 2020-2021 due to COVID restrictions on licensed premises in Tier 4, and the position with regard to the night time economy in general.
- 4.2** It is recommended that the funding now be withdrawn given the current financial climate and it being used to fund another public body, albeit to undertake additional work at the request of the Council.

5. People Implications

- 5.1** If the recommendation is approved, then this would allow Council officers increased time and resources to focus on Licensing related enforcement and guidance matters.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 6.1** Although, this report relates to a funding matter, there are no further financial or procurement considerations relevant to this report.

7. Risk Analysis

- 7.1** Members should consider that a removal of funding would mean that the continued provision of the NZW taxi marshal scheme is in question.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 8.1** An EIA screening has been prepared for this report. This reported no adverse equality impacts.

9. Consultation

- 9.1** The Chief Officer of Finance has been consulted in connection with the terms of this report.

10. Strategic Assessment

NZW contributed to the strategic aim of citizens who feel safe and engaged.

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Designation: Chief Officer – Regulatory & Regeneration.

Date: 26 January 2021.

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Appendices:	None.
Background Papers:	Equality Impact Assessment Screening- Festive NZW.
Wards Affected:	Primarily wards: 1. Lomond. 2. Leven. 3. Dumbarton. 5. Clydebank Central 6. Clydebank Waterfront.