

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT
TO THE LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

20 JANUARY 2016
ALL WARDS

BIRMINGHAM BEST BAR NONE 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report advises the Committee of the results of the 2015 Best Bar None scheme held in Birmingham on 2nd December 2015.
- 1.2 Best Bar None is a “best practice” initiative, supported by the Home Office, which offers an incentive for licensed premises to raise their standards of operation to the level of an agreed national benchmark.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

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3. Background

- 3.1 Best Bar None is a national scheme which was developed in 2003 in Manchester to address alcohol-related crime and promote the responsible management of alcohol licensed premises. It is supported by the Home Office and has been adopted by 75 towns and cities across the UK. On 2nd December 2015 Birmingham held its ninth annual Best Bar None awards ceremony at the International Convention Centre in Broad Street.

4. The Purpose of the Best Bar None Scheme

- 4.1 The purpose of the scheme is to:

- Reduce alcohol related crime and disorder.
- Build a positive relationship between the licensed trade, police and local authorities.
- Encourage the sharing of knowledge, skills and good practice between regulators, business owners and bar staff to raise standards.
- Recognise and reward high standards in responsible management.
- Highlight how premises that are responsibly managed can improve their profitability and the attractiveness of a general area.
- Provide an opportunity for accredited premises to promote their success.

5. Why Birmingham Supports Best Bar None

- 5.1 Birmingham supports Best Bar None because it:

- Promotes the city as a safe and vibrant place to go at night.
- Shows a willingness to address alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour through the promotion of good practice and behaviour.
- Is acknowledged by the Home Office as having a positive effect on the night-time economy.
- Promotes a partnership approach to resolving issues.

6. How the scheme works

- 6.1 The scheme is open to all licensed premises in the city. At the beginning of the year premises are invited to apply to be assessed against a set of Best Bar None criteria. Premises are visited by pairs of assessors. Assessors are taken from the Licensing Enforcement team, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service and the Trading Standards service. Premises are asked to demonstrate how they meet the standards of Best Bar None in respect of the following areas and they are scored by assessors accordingly:

- Regular security reviews.

- Written accident recording system.
- Building evacuation procedures in the event of emergencies.
- Fire safety and risk assessments.
- Noise and dispersal policies.
- Robust proof of age policies.
- Regular staff training.
- Clear and effective policies on:
 - Drunkenness.
 - Drug abuse.
 - Anti-theft strategies.
 - Dealing with disorder.
- Glass collection.

6.2 The above criteria all relate to the Licensing Act objectives, which are:

- prevention of crime and disorder;
- health and public safety;
- prevention of public nuisance; and
- protection of children from harm.

6.3 This year 56 premises were assessed and 55 were judged to have met the essential criteria for accreditation. Every premises that met the standard received a certificate and a plaque that can be displayed in or outside their venue to acknowledge that they have met the standard. A copy of the plaque is attached as an appendix showing the refreshed national branding for 2015. From the list of accredited premises 42 were shortlisted.

6.4 Shortlisted premises classified themselves into one of the categories below and a judging panel then chose a winning venue in each category based on the assessors scores and any supplementary information provided by the premises in their assessment. The panel made their decisions on written information which had been anonymised to prevent them knowing the names of the premises they were judging.

- Casino.
- City centre venue.
- Hotel bar.
- Nightclub.
- Restaurant Bar.
- Student Bar.
- Suburban venues:
 - North.
 - South.
 - East.
 - West.
- Overall “Best Bar None”.

- 6.5 In addition, Free Radio conducted a “People’s Choice” vote in November, in which the public were invited to vote on-line for their favourite premises from the shortlist for a city centre and a suburban award.

7. Best Bar None Awards Ceremony

- 7.1 The Awards Ceremony was attended by 230 people and the evening was hosted by Free Radio’s morning DJ Andy Goulding. Winning premises were presented on stage with a trophy. Photographs of the awards ceremony can be seen on the Birmingham Best Bar None website www.bhambbn.co.uk. During the evening a raffle for the Children’s Hospital raised £1,089.

- 7.2 The winners were:

Category	Winner
Casino	Genting Casino Chinatown
City centre venue	Village Inn
Hotel bar	Briar Rose
Nightclub	Nightingale
Restaurant Bar	Le Truc
Student Bar	Jo’s Bar
Suburban venues:	
North	The Bottle of Sack
South	Old Hare and Hounds
East	The Pear Tree
West	Sacks of Potatoes
Birmingham People’s Choice Award City Centre	Pitcher and Piano
Birmingham People’s Choice Award Suburban	The Red Lion
Best Bar None (overall winner)	Le Truc

8. Implications for Resources

- 8.1 The awards ceremony is principally funded through ticket sales for the event and financial sponsorship or sponsorship in kind which this year was provided by the following organisations:

- Carlsberg UK
- Aston Manor Cider
- Harrison Clark Rickerbys (Solicitors)
- Free Radio

- 8.2 The partnership contributions made to this scheme from Licensing and Trading Standards were contained within the resources available to your Committee. However, due to increased pressures on City Council and West

Midlands Police and Fire budgets, the future viability of the scheme will be reviewed in 2016.

9. Implications for Policy Priorities

- 9.1 Best Bar None contributes to the strategic outcomes of 'staying safe' and "succeeding economically". It is also consistent with the Council's Future Council design principles in that by encouraging high standards it helps to reduce demand for services which poorly managed alcohol licensed premises can create.

10. Implications for Equality and Diversity

- 10.1 No implications have been identified.

ACTING DIRECTOR OF REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Background Papers: nil



**ACCREDITED
VENUE
2015**