



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive

**Date:** 24 March 2015

## **PROPOSAL TO FUND TRIAL PROGRAMME FOR BREATHALYSING ON ENTRY TO VENUES IN CAMBRIDGE CITY CENTRE**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 To present a proposal to the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) to fund a trial programme of pub and nightclub venue security staff having access to newly launched commercial breathalysing equipment.

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Board approve the funding of a trial programme of providing equipment to allow breathalysing on entry to venues in Cambridge City Centre by venue security staff.

2.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) signs the Decision Notice to grant fund the trial programme.

### **3. Background**

3.1 Cambridgeshire Constabulary (“the Constabulary”) and Cambridge Business Against Crime have been exploring the option of funding for security staff to use breathalysing devices at the entrances to venues in Cambridge City Centre on a trial basis. The plan would not be to use them as a requirement of entry but rather as a deterrent and part of a wider framework of early intervention into alcohol-related violent crime. This would help to combat the problem of young people ‘pre-loading’ with alcohol before entering bars in the city with no consequences – use of the device would mean a real risk to those ‘pre-loading’ that they would be refused entry to a venue. The devices would empower venue security staff, who often become the victims of drunk aggressive behaviour, in denying entry to venues to those who are obviously intoxicated.

3.2 This methodology is being rolled out in Birmingham City Centre, with over 40 venues signing up to a scheme launched by West Midlands Police and Birmingham City

Council. A similar project has also been trialled in Norfolk last year and was found to reduce the number of disorders at venues by around a third. A trial was carried out at one Cambridge venue recently with a number of people being refused entry due to failing the test with many more deciding not to join the queue when they saw breath tests being performed.

- 3.3 The devices are so accurate that they have been used to great effect for Under 18s nights, for example to pick up on whether 'soft drinks' being carried into venues actually contain alcohol and to screen customers' breath on entry. The devices take approximately five seconds to register a reading.
- 3.4 Twenty devices one per venue, are proposed across Cambridge City to prevent intoxicated members of the public choosing their drinking venue to avoid the devices. A Service Level Agreement would be put in place for each venue to state that they are responsible for any repair or replacement costs and also the cost of annual calibration.
- 3.5 It is therefore requested that the Commissioner considers making a contribution towards the cost of the trial, which would be around £5,000, with a plan to roll out the initiative in time for the summer.
- 3.6 The proposed £5,000 contribution will be funded from the Commissioner's Community Safety Grant Fund 2014/15 underspend however the funding would need to be supplied to the project by the end of March 2015.

**4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 That the Board approve the funding of a trial programme of venue security having access to breathalysing equipment on entry to venues.
- 4.2 The Commissioner signs the Decision Notice to grant fund the trial programme.

<b>Source Document</b>	
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