

SALISBURY AREA BOARD
20 May 2010

ITEM 11c

REPORT TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR A TAXI MARSHALS SCHEME FOR SALISBURY

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides information to support funding the continuation of a Taxi Marshal Scheme in Salisbury City, which will be submitted to the Salisbury Area Board for consideration on the 20 May, 2010.

Background

2. In October, 2009, Wiltshire Police submitted an application to the Salisbury Area Board for funding from the Performance Reward Grant Scheme. The application was for funding to provide four qualified security staff to work as Taxi Marshals at Salisbury City centre taxi ranks on a number of key dates over Christmas and New Year 2009/10.
3. The application was successful with £2,000 awarded for the scheme covering a six day period from 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 31 December, 2009, a total of 30 hours with 4 members of staff covering each separate session. The three areas covered were the New Canal Taxi Rank, Milford Street and Endless Street.
4. A review was undertaken to assess the Scheme's effectiveness (see Appendix 1). Two sets of data were collected; the quantitative results relating to police arrest records and qualitative data gathered from questionnaires to Taxi Marshals, Taxi Drivers, Police Officers and PCSO's and Licensees.

Main Considerations for the Area Board

5. This initiative supports the Local Area Agreement's key ambition for Safer Communities, as the review of the scheme indicates that public perception and personal feelings of safety were improved by the presence of the Taxi Marshals.
6. That Salisbury is the largest area for late night entertainment in South Wiltshire with an increase of people enjoying the City on key dates in the calendar as well as regular Friday and/or Saturday nights. The 2009 scheme focused on key dates identified as times of high activity, i.e., the run up to Christmas and the New Year. If the scheme were to be extended for twelve months, a decision would need to be made about 1) when or which days to operate the scheme and 2) whether the areas covered and staffing levels could be reduced to minimise cost.

Recommendation

7. That the Board support the bid in principle and request that a working group of partners meet to discuss options for the continuation of the scheme and

report back to the 22 July, 2010 Area Board with, if appropriate, a bid for a Community Area Grant. Options considered could include the Review's recommendation to commission a timetable of predicted higher levels of activity within the Night Time Economy in Salisbury. Partners should include representatives from the Salisbury Area Board, Community Safety Partnership, Wiltshire Police, Pub Watch, Salisbury City Council, City Centre Management and others where appropriate.

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