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Councillor Simon Letts
Leader
Southampton City Council
Civic Centre
Southampton
SO14 7LY

BY Email

Date: 4 March 2014

Enquires to: Lou Parker-Jones

Direct line: 01962 871595

Our reference:

Your reference:

Dear Councillor Letts,

Proposal for a Night-Time Levy

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment upon the 'need' for a night-time levy as part of your deliberations.

Policing the night-time economy places a huge demand upon our limited resources and decreasing budget. Although the constabulary works very closely with the licensing trade and partners to minimise drink-related crime, it is estimated policing the night-time economy from midnight to 6am in Southampton costs £1.6million per year. This of course does not include costs incurred by partners in local authorities, health and even the wider criminal justice system.

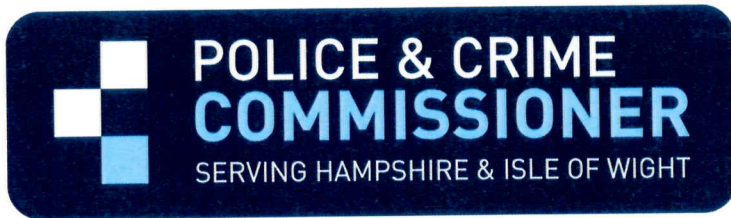
As Police and Crime Commissioner I am committed to protecting people and places, and support in principle the night-time levy. Initiatives to raise revenue to be spent on making the city's night time economy a safer place is: good for residents; good for visitors; and, good for businesses.

Of course, the decision to introduce the levy is for the licensing authority to make. I'm sure the views of the night-time economy traders, users, residents and partners will help to shape your decisions. If, following consultation, the Council is minded to pursue this course of action I would like to discuss further how revenue raised will be used to the benefit of the city.

I promise the people of Southampton that I shall devote all income generated to improving the safety of people using the City's night time economy. I would welcome the same reassurance from the Council.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire
Westgate Chambers, Staple Gardens, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8AW
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Protecting People & Places



Please accept my apologies but I will not be able to take up your kind offer to attend and address cabinet prior to its considerations, unfortunately a prior commitment makes it impossible for me to do so. However, I look forward to hearing the outcome of the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Hayes'.

Simon Hayes

Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and Isle of Wight