

## **Greater Manchester Police: CityCo/NTE/Licensed Zoom Meeting**

**12.30pm, 13 May 2020**

### **Headline Notes**

Welcome to our business members from meeting host, CityCo Chief Exec Vaughan Allen.

This meeting will be the first in a series as more details emerge from central government and local plans are formed around national guidance.

### **Introduction by GMP City Centre Chief Inspector Zac Fraser**

- Zac is responsible for the operational policing plans for the city centre from crime to homelessness
- Zac recommends all NTE businesses read the latest Government strategy document published 12 May: [OUR PLAN TO REBUILD: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy](#)
- 3 key themes from this document highlighted by Zac:
  1. Main priority is to preserve Life
  2. Responsibility to keep everyone safe is a collective effort
  3. Responsibility of all to act responsibly

### **Introduction by Danielle Doyle, Licensing Unit Manager, Manchester City Council**

- MCC Licensing department manages all licenses, street trading and taxis
- MCC is in very early stages of city approach to recovery planning

### **Questions to Zac and Danielle**

#### **1. How much an exit strategy does the city currently have?**

City planning is in very early stages.

'Exit' is perhaps not the right term, it is more likely to be a longer-term recovery and changes in ways of working across all sectors.

GMP keen for this NTE group to start a dialogue that will help to form police response.

## **2. How is Social Distancing going to be managed in the NTE?**

The National Police Council confirms that there are no police powers to *enforce* social distancing.

GMP will take steps to:

1. Engage with people
2. Explain consequences of not SD
3. Encourage better behaviours
4. Enforce with fines as very last resort

GMP will start to formulate plans dependent on national policy guidance.

## **3. Is it likely that GMP will be inspecting venues in a different way?**

It is inevitable. However if all take collective responsibly for own venues there shouldn't be a need for mass inspections.

GMP is looking at potential resourcing an early July 'opening weekend', if it transpires that way.

City will need to consider what might work best in Manchester e.g. ticketing.

## **4. Is there going to be best practice guide for managing in and outside venues?**

Government guidelines on the reopening of pubs, restaurants, bars, venues are to come, and GMP will follow.

If businesses do reopen in July it will undoubtedly be monitored and a lockdown might be reinstated if the R (rate of infection) goes up. It is a changing situation.

Numbers, movement of people, monitoring and recording guests, managing egress, testing, PPE, outdoor spaces - all will be considerations.

Central guidance is anticipated, and Manchester is keeping an eye on what other cities are doing internationally.

## **5. What would you advise when guests/customers, fail to follow social distancing?**

If someone is coughing or spitting deliberately that can be charged as a Public Order Offence.

Venues can ask anyone to leave premises. If refuse and anti-social behaviour follows, that is when GMP can assist.

Will fall to premises to take individual responsibility. It is too early to say if the issue of enforcing SD will be become a national criminal matter.

## **6. How will Martyn's Law be affected?**

[Martyn's Law](#) consultation is due to close on the 17 May and it is likely that implementation is on hold.

The Council does not anticipate an immediate impact.

## **7. Is it likely that outdoor spaces e.g. Cutting Room Sq, Stevenson Sq, will be used more flexibility to support business recovery?**

The city needs to consider new ways of working and if these spaces become options, they will be looked at.

Using such spaces is being considered alongside other MCC policy such as the partial Deansgate Closure and widening pavements.

Regarding changes in licensing to do with outdoor music, glass etc; working collaboratively with traders will be paramount.

## **8. Is any flexibility likely on licenses? Around opening hours etc.?**

Partnership approach will be key across the Council, Police, and businesses to ensure safety first, but there is likely to be flexibility around areas such as extending or staggering or creating more uniformity in hours.

Working through the risks and considerations is needed.

GMP will need to know who is open, when, and where, to direct resources.

## **9. Will licenses will need to change going forward?**

If venues are planning major changes to layout, hours, retail usage etc. then some changes might be required. But it is the intention of Licensing to be as flexible as possible to support businesses.

Temporary furniture etc. is unlikely to need a change in license, providing it does not impact fire, H&S regs. Issues will be looked at on a case by case basis.

Licensing are happy to discuss any plans direct, please email Fraser:

[f.swift@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:f.swift@manchester.gov.uk)

**10. Will the council be providing a template risk assessment? How to open safely?**

It is too early to at the moment. Anything circulated will be based on Government guidelines and any local gaps will be sought to be addressed prior to any templates or guidance.

**11. Is there a quick response Licensing can give on putting out outdoor tables?**

The Council is discussing this week. Please email Fraser for any immediate advice.

**12. What is the overarching Council recovery strategy?**

CLlr Pat Karney: The top priority for the Council now is safety - public health and looking after Manchester's most vulnerable people.

A strategic 'Recovery Group' has been set up chaired by Sir Richard Leese. It will be addressing all aspects of the city recovery, including the economy.

Any recovery will need to be about reinvention and the Council would like to assure businesses in this early period, that they will continue to support the NTE and do everything possible to help people back into employment in a safe way.

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Many thank to all for joining.

It is intended to run these groups as the recovery progresses and details are clarified from city stakeholders.

If you have any feedback on this first session, please send to [members@cityco.com](mailto:members@cityco.com) or [gareth.worthington@cityco.com](mailto:gareth.worthington@cityco.com)