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**TO: ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD**

**ON: 18 MAY 2016**

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**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

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**HEADING: BEST BAR NONE RENFREWSHIRE**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 Best Bar None is a national scheme which aims to raise standards in the licensed trade sector and reward excellence for venues that attain the Award standard. The scheme is delivered at a local level by partnerships between the industry, local authorities and regulatory agencies. Best Bar None Awards are based on core national standards, reflecting the five licensing objectives. The scheme recognises best practice, and rewards venues that provide a safe and welcoming environment for local residents to enjoy responsible drinking.
- 1.2 Best Bar None is a significant contributor to the Public Protection agenda. It promotes best practice across local premises in relation to the management of premises and customer service. As Renfrewshire Council pursues the regulation of town centres and in Paisley the 2021 City of Culture Bid, best bar none can help to ensure that good and safe, well managed premises that contribute particularly to the development of the night time economy, promoted and supported by all partners, the Police, Regulatory Services and Environmental Health.
- 1.3 Best Bar None Renfrewshire is administered locally by Community Resources, with valued support provided by partners in other Council services, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service. The Renfrewshire scheme has recently completed its fourth cycle of Awards, with 13 licensed premises throughout Renfrewshire attaining accreditation standard in 2015-16.
- 1.4 The continued development and further promotion of the Best Bar None event aligns with the Council priorities of regeneration of our town centres and the stimulation of

the night time economy in line with the bid for Paisley 2021. The expansion of the Best Bar None scheme will also assist with Paisley's bid for Purple Flag status which is awarded to those towns and cities that meet or surpass standards of excellence in stimulating the night time economy by having a town centre which is vibrant, safe, well managed and offers a positive experience to customers.

- 1.5 The national Best Bar None Scotland Awards were held on 24 March 2016. Five Renfrewshire venues from the 2015-16 cycle of the scheme were short-listed as national finalists this year – a very strong result that reflects well on the quality of participating venues in Renfrewshire.
- 1.6 To encourage greater local uptake and provide additional opportunities to showcase the range and quality of premises across Renfrewshire, it is proposed that 5 new local award categories are introduced for the 2016-17 cycle, due to launch in August 2016. The new categories proposed are detailed below:
  - Best Restaurant,
  - Best Family Establishment,
  - Most Improved Venue,
  - Best Premises Manager, and
  - People's Choice.
- 1.7 The objectives in expanding the categories are to support and promote a wider range of attributes which businesses possess and also to allow businesses to demonstrate how they are contributing to the wider Public Protection and regeneration agenda.

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## 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board;

- 2.1 Approves the proposed new local categories for Best Bar None Renfrewshire 2016-17, and
- 2.2 Notes the progress made with raising the profile of Best Bar None across Renfrewshire.

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## 3. Background

- 3.1 Best Bar None aims to raise standards and reward excellence for those venues that attain the Award standard. It is delivered at a local level by partnerships between the industry, local authorities and Police.
- 3.2 The scheme is nationally administered by the Scottish Business Resilience Centre and run locally by an area co-ordinator. The scheme is sponsored by Diageo, Molson Coors, Heineken, Tennents, Maxxium UK and Chivas Brothers and is

supported corporately by the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Belhaven Pubs and the Scottish Licensed Trade Association.

- 3.4 The Renfrewshire scheme is now run by Community Resources, with valued support provided by partners in other Council services, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.
- 3.5 Best Bar None is a significant contributor to the Public Protection agenda. It promotes best practice across local premises in relation to the management of premises and customer service. As Renfrewshire Council pursues the regulation of town centres and in Paisley the 2021 City of Culture Bid, best bar none can help to ensure that good and safe, well managed premises that contribute particularly to the development of the night time economy, promoted and supported by all partners, the Police, Regulatory Services and Environmental Health.
- 3.6 Best Bar None Awards are based on core national standards with local flexibility to ensure they address local needs. The scheme aims to reward premises that provide a safe and welcoming environment for local residents to enjoy responsible drinking. The scheme focuses on public safety and customer care and encourages licensed premises to build positive relationships with regulatory agencies.
- 3.7 The categories in which venues can apply for accreditation are:
- Independent Pub
  - Independent Bar
  - Pub
  - Bar
  - Nightclub
  - Hotel Bar
  - Specialist Entertainment Venue
- 3.8 All venues must meet a minimum standard, and if successful are awarded a 'Bronze', 'Silver' or 'Gold' Award in their category. Applications and assessments are considered against the five licensing objectives, namely:
- Prevention of Crime & Disorder,
  - Securing Public Safety,
  - Preventing Public Nuisance,
  - Protecting and Improving Public Health and
  - Protecting Children from Harm.
- 3.9 A Judging Panel meets to determine the appropriate level of award for each venue, to choose the overall local category winners and any special award winners. Special awards have previously been awarded for the following nationally set categories:
- Best Use of Innovation
  - Best Public Health Initiative

- Heart of the Community
  - Best Newcomer
- 3.10 Local Awards are presented to all accredited premises, with category winners being announced at the local Awards Ceremony. Category winners are then nominated for national awards, and if short-listed can go on to represent the Renfrewshire scheme at the Best Bar None Scotland Awards, held each March.
- 3.11 To encourage greater local uptake and provide additional opportunities to showcase the range and quality of premises across Renfrewshire, it is proposed that 5 new local award categories are introduced for the 2016-17 cycle, due to launch in August 2016. The new categories proposed are detailed below:
- Best Restaurant,
  - Best Family Establishment,
  - Most Improved Venue,
  - Best Premises Manager, and
  - People's Choice.
- 3.12 The objectives in expanding the categories are to support and promote a wider range of attributes which businesses possess and also to allow businesses to demonstrate how they are contributing to the wider Public Protection and regeneration agenda.
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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - none.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** - none.
3. **Community Planning**

**Jobs and the Economy** – Best Bar None Awards recognise well-managed venue and help to support a thriving trading environment.

**Safer and Stronger** – Best Bar None venues must meet a recognised national standard, which residents and visitors recognise as providing a safe and place to socialise and enjoy responsible drinking.
4. **Legal** - none.
5. **Property/Assets** - none.
6. **Information Technology** - none.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No

negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. **Health & Safety** - none.
9. **Procurement** - none.
10. **Risk** – none.
11. **Privacy Impact** – the proposed new categories will not require the Council to gather any additional personal or sensitive data, than is already gathered in the course of the administration of this scheme. .

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**List of Background Papers - none**

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