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Dear David,

Re: Late Night Levy for Milton Keynes.

Having fully discussed this with Barry, I am writing to you formally to ask Milton Keynes Council to consider supporting the introduction of the Late Night Levy, as specified in the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act 2011, which amends and supplements the Licensing Act 2003.

As you know, our night time economy draws 100,000 people into the centre at weekends on a regular basis which contributes to MK having a regional reputation as a vibrant night time venue. In order to maintain and grow these numbers in the future, it is key that we ensure MK continues to be seen and perceived to be a safe place to socialise, shop and work.

Currently Thames Valley Police provides a significant number of Police Officers and staff to patrol the night time economy every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. As part of that operation, our officers visit local retail centres, rural locations as well as providing a visual presence in Central Milton Keynes to reassure and deter. SaferMK play a significant role in supporting us and have also invested in a state of the art CCTV control room providing high quality coverage of key locations across MK which has proved invaluable over the years.

We work closely with key partners to ensure that visitors and local people enjoy the night time economy and are safe to do so by supporting a number of important community safety initiatives which include:

- Established Taxi Marshalls outside Xscape.
- Development of further Taxi Marshalls in locations currently unsupervised.
- Safe Hut – Currently operates during the Christmas period.
- Drugs Itemiser & Drugs Dog Operations – a proactive approach to dealing with drugs in License Premises.
- Knife Arch – more visible presence with knife arches and wands.

I am sure you will agree that funding streams are becoming less accessible and all of these initiatives are vulnerable to lack of future funding; any potential loss could see an increase in crime and crime related incidents.

In order to secure these and additional community safety initiatives in MK, the Local Police Area would wish to support the introduction of a Levy. Having considered and scoped all the options, we would favour a relevant charge to license premises that sell alcohol between 0100 and 0600 (statistics show this is when we experience the most alcohol related crime and public disorder). By introducing the Levy from 0100 we would reduce the numbers of affected premises by 75% resulting in only 166 license premises being affected. Further, any premises that sign up to the "Safer Socialising Award" in Milton Keynes would see a discount of up to 30% on the Levy, further reducing the cost to those businesses who choose to remain open after 0100 and ensuring they work within recognised good practice regarding customer safety.

I would like to emphasise that Thames Valley Police have no intention to retain the Levy, but will commit to giving all of the revenue raised by the Late Night Levy to SaferMK to manage funding on projects tackling alcohol related problems in the night time economy through the Public Place Violence Group.

I hope this proposal is acceptable to you and look forward to having the opportunity to discuss this with you at our next meeting. If you require a more detailed brief please let me know and I will arrange as necessary.

Yours Sincerely

