

Background Paper: Scannet (ID scanners)

The night time economy (NTE) within East Herts is an area of growing concern and risk. Hertford, Ware and Bishop’s Stortford NTE has grown over the past few years and is continuing to expand. Assaults and thefts are reported by people attempting to enjoy the night time economy in these towns. ID Scanners have been proven to have significant impacts on public safety, crime reduction and crime detection when used within licensed premises.

What can Scannet do?

- The scanners are able to scan and recognise over 3650 different documents and identify fake or altered documents.
- The system captures a photo of the person presenting the ID, stores an image of the ID itself and produces a picture on the screen to compare with the image of person presenting the ID, making comparison easy.
- The scanner keeps a list of customer entry times.
- It is able to assimilate and store information from the documents scanned – ie names and addresses.
- The scanner assesses the information against a national database, which contains details of people who are for example known to the police. It then alerts the operator to the information so a decision can be made as to whether to allow entry. Those banned through pubwatch can be inputted into the system to ensure they are recognised if they attempt to enter.

Benefits

- This system will greatly assist in reducing and detecting crime. By adopting this system, people know they are more likely to be identified if they cause problems and can be banned from entering premises. This means they are less likely to cause an issue in the first place. Offenders are less likely to enter a venue to steal if they know their ID has been scanned in order for them to get in. The risk of being caught as a result of this system is higher.
- It can assist in identifying those known for possession of drugs, who then subsequently be searched reducing the likelihood of drugs getting into venues. Those who are underage are less likely to get into premises operating an ID Scanner as fake and altered ID’s are highlighted. The scanner will also alert the operator if the same ID is used twice.
- As photos are taken on entry identification of offenders is made easy (clothes being worn are shown) and names and addresses can be supplied to police if a crime occurs.
- Details of those who have entered into a venue can be supplied to police in order to track potential witnesses. The list will also show who entered with whom. Those who offend in the street having been in a venue are also more likely to be identified as they can be tracked back to a venue where their identification was scanned.