



<b>LATE NIGHT LEVY</b>  <b>NH N2</b>	
<b>LICENSING COMMITTEE</b>  <b>30<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b>  <b>COUNCIL</b>  <b>20<sup>th</sup> July 2016</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>  <b>OPEN</b>  <b>If exempt, the reason will be listed in the main body of this report.</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED</b>  <b>ALL WARDS</b>	
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>  <b>COUNCILLOR EMMA PLOUVIEZ</b>  <b>CHAIR OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>KEY DECISION</b>  <b>Yes</b>  <b>REASON</b>  <b>AFFECTS TWO OR MORE WARDS</b>	
<b>GROUP DIRECTOR, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND HOUSING</b>  <b>KIM WRIGHT</b>	

## **1. CHAIR OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE'S INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Hackney is one of the main centres for culture and leisure in London with well over 1000 licensed premises in the Borough. Many of these premises are authorised for alcohol supply.
- 1.2 Evidence gathered as part of the most recent review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy showed what appears to be a correlation between the locations of licensed premises and incidences of robbery, violence and thefts. Evidence also implied that the night time economy and associated markets were potentially influencing these crimes.
- 1.3 As a result of this, the Council designated the Shoreditch and Dalston areas as suffering from "cumulative impact". This is due to the significant number of licensed premises concentrated in those areas which is believed to be having a negative impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 1.4 The introduction of the late night levy will produce additional funding to enable the Council and the police to address the impacts and strain on services that occur between midnight and 6am and thus tackle the instances of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour (ASB) during these hours and possibly help to maintain a clean environment.

## **2. GROUP DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 On 20 November 2013 the Licensing Committee considered a report on the powers to introduce a late night levy. The Committee noted that Licensing Officers would monitor whether a Late Night Levy was needed and if necessary a further report would be presented to a future Committee meeting.
- 2.2 On 30 June 2016 the Licensing Committee considered a further report on the matter, which forms the basis for this report. The Committee members all agreed that the introduction of a Late Night Levy should be consulted upon.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

### **2.1 That Full Council:**

- (i) **notes the contents of the report**
- (ii) **approve a consultation on the introduction of a late night levy being in Hackney.**

## **4. REASONS FOR DECISION**

- 4.1 Before a levy can be introduced the local authority must comply with the necessary procedural requirements which consist of the following:

- consulting with the police and those licensees that will be affected by the proposed levy
- placing a notice of the relevant details for the proposed levy on the website and in the local newspaper with a copy of the notice also being sent to police and affected licensees

4.2 Following the consultation should the Council then decide to proceed with introducing the levy, this must be approved by Full Council pursuant to Schedule 1 of The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, as amended in 2013.

## **5. DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

5.1 The Council's Regeneration Delivery team agreed a commitment with a number of operators of licensed premises in the Dalston and Shoreditch areas to fund the overtime costs of six wardens on Friday and Saturday nights.

5.2 There are currently around 40 businesses that participate in the scheme, contributing around £56K per annum. The process for collection is managed by an officer in the Regeneration Delivery Team.

5.3 It has been well received by local residents and business and has been pivotal in addressing numerous anti-social behaviour related impacts of the NTE such as street urination and illegal street trading. However, opportunities to expand this scheme are limited.

5.4 The late night levy provides an opportunity to raise a significant amount of revenue above that collected by the voluntary scheme. Therefore, the voluntary levy would not continue if the late night levy were introduced.

## **6. BACKGROUND**

6.1 Established under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the late night levy is a power enabling licensing authorities to charge a levy to persons who are licensed to sell alcohol in the local area late at night. The revenue raised is then used as a contribution towards the costs of policing the late night economy.

6.2 The levy is payable by the holders of any premises licence or club premises certificate that authorises the sale or supply of alcohol on any day during a period ("the late night supply period") beginning at or after midnight and ending at or before 6am and must apply to the whole area covered by the licensing authority.

6.3 The levy is paid annually by each premises licence holder to the local authority. After deductions for introducing and administering the levy, the rate of the revenue split will be at least 70% to the police, with the remainder being retained by the Licensing Authority.

- 6.4 The police portion of the levy is unrestricted in terms of its use in line with standard practice on the allocation of police funds. However, this portion will be subject to the same transparency measures as those that would normally apply.
- 6.5 The Local Authority must use its portion of the levy on activities, which must be related to mitigating the impact of the supply of alcohol within the specified hours, namely:
- the reduction or prevention of crime and disorder,
  - the promotion of public safety,
  - the reduction or prevention of public nuisance,
  - the cleaning of any relevant highway or relevant land in its area.
- 6.6 Before introducing a levy the Authority must consider the desirability of introducing the scheme and can demonstrate this by the level of crime and disorder issues arising from licensed premises selling alcohol during the levy hours. The levy must apply to the whole of the borough. The Authority therefore needs to consider whether the introduction of a borough wide levy is a proportionate response.
- 6.7 Prior to making a decision to implement the levy, the Authority should have discussions with the Chief Officer of police to decide whether it is appropriate to introduce the levy in its area. If the Authority considers it appropriate, it must then conduct a formal consultation with the police, existing licence holders and any other persons, including residents, about the introduction of any levy.
- 6.8 The consultation should also consider whether the authority needs to apply any exemptions or discounts to the levy and how it will apportion net levy revenue between the police and the Authority. The decision whether or not to implement a levy is left entirely to the discretion of the Local Authority following the consultation responses being considered.
- 6.9 If introduced, the levy applies to all the relevant premises authorised to supply alcohol (which includes both on and off sales) within the borough. The only exceptions are those set by central government that the Council can choose whether they wish to adopt or not. The levy will be collected at the same time as the annual licensing fee.
- 6.10 The following premises are those that the authority may exempt from the requirement to pay the levy:
- Premises with overnight accommodation
  - Theatres and cinemas
  - Bingo halls
  - Community amateur sports clubs
  - Community premises
  - Country village pubs

- Business Improvement Districts

The authority must also decide what time the levy will apply within an operational window that is restricted to between 12 midnight and 6 am.

## LEVY CHARGE AND COLLECTION PROCESS

- 6.11 The levy paid is dependent on the non-domestic rateable value of the premises. This is the same as the existing licence fee structure that is currently set by central government. Table 1 sets this out below:

Rateable Value Bands	A No rateable value to £4300	B £4301 to £33000	C £33001 to £87000	D £87001 to £125000	E £125001 and above	D x 2 *	E x 3 **
Annual Levy Charge	£299	£768	£1259	£1365	£1493	£2730	£4440

\* Multiplier applies to premises in band D that primarily or exclusively sell alcohol.

\*\* Multiplier applies to premises in band E that primarily or exclusively sell alcohol.

- 6.12 In addition to the above, a licensing authority may also offer a reduction of up to 30% to:

- Premises that are in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief and have a rateable value of £12,000 or less. The reduction is only available to premises that supply alcohol for consumption on the premises; and
- Operators who hold membership of a suitable best practice scheme designed to reduce alcohol related crime and disorder.

## LEVY REVENUE

- 6.13 Table 2 sets out the potential revenue that could be raised if a levy were introduced in Hackney. It should be noted that the total figure can only be estimated at this stage.

Band	Number of premises	Band Fee	Estimated Income
A	17	£299	£5,083
B	268	£768	£205,824
C	72	£1,259	£90,648
D	17	£1,365	£23,205
E	25	£1,493	£37,325
<b>Total</b>	<b>399</b>		<b>£362,085</b>

- 6.14 The Licensing Service found that there were 399 premises that are authorised to sell alcohol between midnight and 6:00am, the majority of which are in non-

domestic rateable value band B. If applied for the period, possible maximum income would be £362,085 before any exemptions, reductions, administration deductions or free variations apply.

- 6.15 A key element of the levy is the requirement that ‘a specified proportion’ of at least 70% of any net revenue collected must be paid to the police. This appears to have made the introduction of a levy unattractive in many areas, along with there being no requirement for the police to use the income in the area in which it was collected.
- 6.16 However, in March 2015, the Home Office published amended guidance on the Late Night Levy. Para 1.41 recommends “...that the licensing authority should use its existing partnership with the police to discuss the police intentions for their share of the levy revenue. We also recommend that the PCC should consider allocating funds raised from the levy back to local commanders to allow the revenue to be spent on tackling alcohol-related crime and disorder in the area in which the levy was raised. There is no bar to making a local agreement between licensing authority and the PCC to vary the percentage split by allocating some or all of the PCC’s share of the revenue back to local authority initiatives if the PCC so chooses.”
- 6.17 In London, this would mean that, subject to agreement from the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC), the net revenue of the levy may be pooled and a collaborative arrangement may be made between the authority and the police to oversee the use of the funds. It is considered best practice for a board to be set-up to allow the Police and Local Authority to determine how best the revenue is spent. The board should also have licensees represented as well as the police and council.
- 6.18 A number of authorities have already put in place measures that mean the authority effectively has greater control over the net revenue and that all (or almost all) of this revenue is spent on the management and policing of the night time economy in its area.

### **Newcastle**

- 6.19 The levy was introduced in November 2013. The income is still shared 70/30 between Northumbria Police and the City Council. However, an agreement was made that the income would be pooled and spent within the city of Newcastle upon Tyne. The agreement also includes the establishment of a Late Night Levy Board to supervise the use of the levy proceeds and that licensees will be represented on the Board.

### **Islington**

- 6.20 LB Islington introduced the levy in November 2014. The Council agreed with MOPAC that the net amount of levy payments will be pooled and a Late Night Levy Board established to oversee the use of funds.

6.21 An annual report on the first year of the scheme was considered by Islington's Licensing Committee on 7 March 2016. This has been appended to this report for information.

### **Camden**

6.22 Camden Council decided to introduce the levy on 25 January 2016. It has proposed a similar arrangement in that all revenue received is used as a single fund between the Council and police, a proposal supported by Camden police, to be agreed through discussion with the MOPAC.

6.23 If a levy is introduced it would also be expected that a management board would be established locally as a sub-group of the Community Safety Partnership. The board would be responsible for the operational use of the levy resources, in a similar fashion to what Islington and Camden have done. The Borough Commander has indicated that he is broadly supportive of this approach if a levy is introduced.

6.24 At the present time any exemptions or reductions appear to be unwarranted. This is supported by evidence that shows that the highest levels of crime and ASB are street based and often difficult to link to individual premises. Therefore, the services that could be provided we will be street based and hence all premises will benefit.

### **TIMETABLE**

6.25 If Council approves a consultation, the following indicative timeline is anticipated:

- Formal consultation on the levy – September to December 2016
- Council decides on levy – March 2017

*The following steps are subject to the Council deciding to introduce a levy:*

- Notifications sent to holders of relevant authorisations – March 2017
- Period of free variations – March to May 2017
- Start date of the levy – June 2017

### **6.26 Policy Context**

Any levy would sit alongside the Council's existing Statement of Licensing Policy.

### **6.27 Equality Impact Assessment**

There are no new decisions within the report that require an Equality Impact Assessment.

## **6.28 Sustainability**

There are no issues within the report that impact on the physical and social environment.

## **6.29 Consultations**

It is a statutory requirement to consult on any decision to introduce a levy. The consultation would be developed along with information for the relevant licence holders as well as the general public. The consultation would run for 12 weeks which is the normal practice for licensing related consultations.

## **6.30 Risk Assessment**

It should be noted that in the event of a levy being implemented, operators would be able to apply for a free minor variation to reduce their hours for the sale of alcohol to take them outside the levy period. This could substantially decrease the estimated level of income from the levy.

In Islington, the figure collected is around 10% less than originally anticipated. And a levy introduced by Cheltenham Borough Council has raised 50% less than anticipated. This is likely to result in that levy being withdrawn. It would be a key requirement of the levy management board to monitor income.

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES**

- 7.1 This report asks the Licensing Committee to consider whether the Council should formally consult on the introduction of a late night levy in Hackney. The amount of the Late Night Levy (LNL) is set at National Level and will be collected alongside the annual licence fee. The Licensing service estimates the cost of the consultation to be between £1k-£3k and this will be contained within existing revenue budgets.
- 7.2 There are currently around 40 businesses that participate in voluntary scheme in the Dalston and Shoreditch areas, with an estimated contribution of £56K per annum. This scheme would not continue if the late night levy were to be introduced.
- 7.3 The Licensing Service has estimated the existing 399 premises that are authorised to sell alcohol between midnight and 6am. This could therefore generate a maximum gross income of £362,085 (see paragraph 4) from a late night levy. The potential income, in the event of a levy being implemented, may reduce if operators apply to vary their hours to operate outside the levy period. Income would also reduce if the Council applies exemptions or reductions on certain occasions. These are explained in paragraphs 6.10.



- 7.4 The Council would be entitled to retain up to 30% of income receipts after deducting administration costs and exemptions, should a levy be introduced. The eventual percentage allocation and the use of the police's income share will be agreed in negotiations with the Chief Police Officer and MOPAC.
- 7.5 There is the possibility that the Late Night Levy will not generate the income levels predicted in this report. The service would need to ensure for all income generation scenarios, that any additional costs from the introduction of a Late Night Levy do not exceed the additional income received.

## **8. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL**

- 8.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act") allows the Council to raise revenue on alcohol licensed premises by way of a Late Night Levy (the "Levy"). The powers to introduce the Levy come specifically from within the 2011 Act and not by way of an amendment to the Licensing Act 2003.
- 8.2 In considering whether to introduce a Levy the Council must first consider whether it is worth having the Levy having regard to the current cost of tackling the problems of crime and disorder that are caused by the night time economy from those premises that are licensed for alcohol sales between midnight and 6.00 am.
- 8.3 Any levy imposed must apply to the whole borough and will only apply to those who hold a licence to supply alcohol for the hours that the Levy will operate from. Local Authorities do have a discretion as to the hours when the Levy can start and finish, although it must be within those hours specified above.
- 8.4 As set-out in the report at paragraph 6.16, the 2011 Act does not prohibit the Local Authority and Police agreeing a separate agreement as to the use of the funds raised for the Police, which is explained in section 6 of the report.
- 8.5 The report at section 4 outlines the requirement to consult before any levy can be introduced. The case law on consultation states that:
- a consultation must be at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage;
  - sufficient reasons must be given for any proposal to enable intelligent consideration and response;
  - adequate time must be given for such consideration and response; and
  - the product of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising any proposals.
- 8.6 Section 4 of the report also outlines the need for Full Council to approve the introduction of any Levey following the consultation.

## APPENDICES

**Appendix 1** – Map of premises with licences/certificates authorising alcohol sales between 00:00 and 06:00.

**Appendix 2** – Maps/charts extracted from Licensing Policy Evidence Study

**Appendix 3** – LB Islington “Late Night Levy – Review of First Year of Operation”

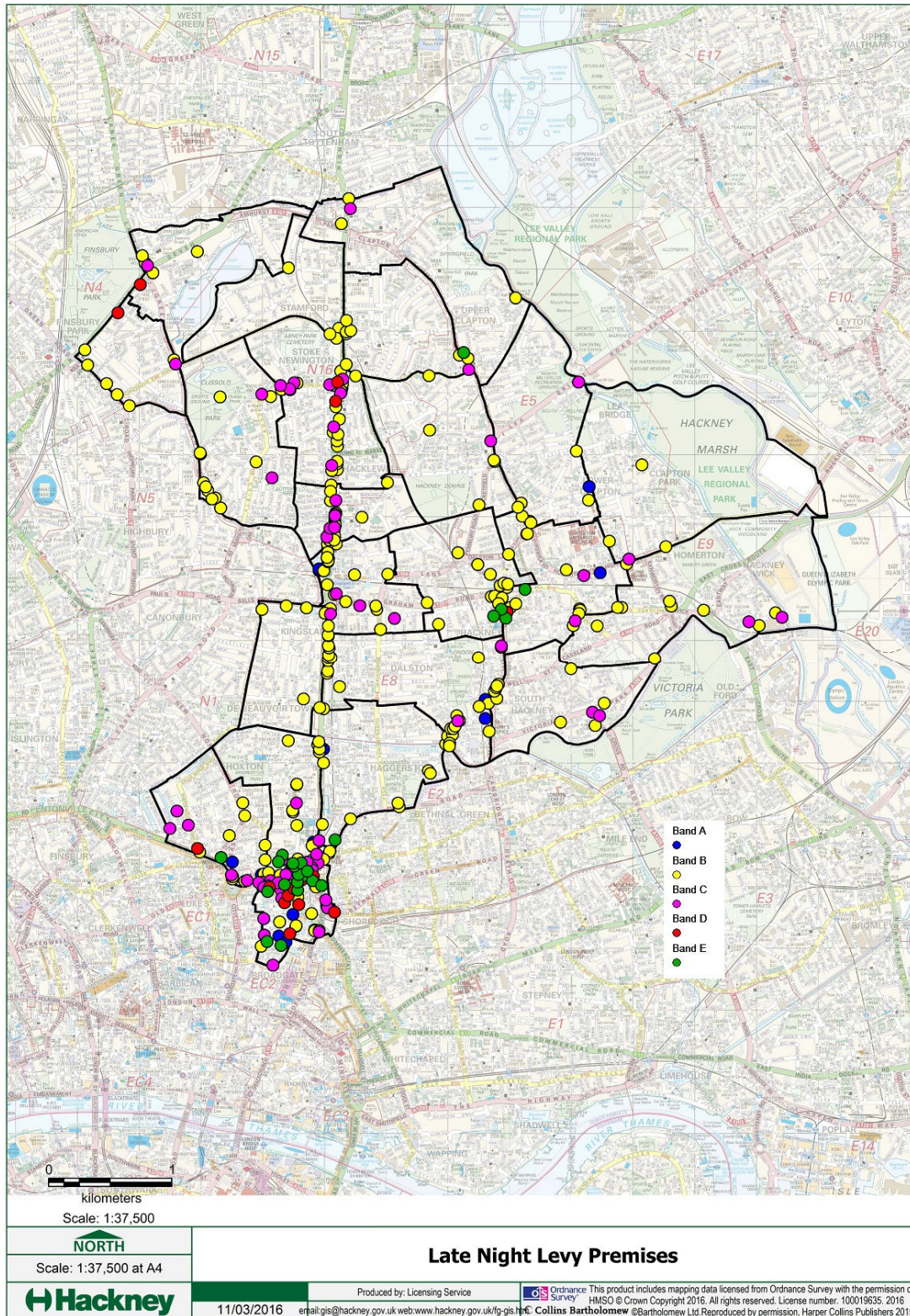
## BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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# APPENDIX 1

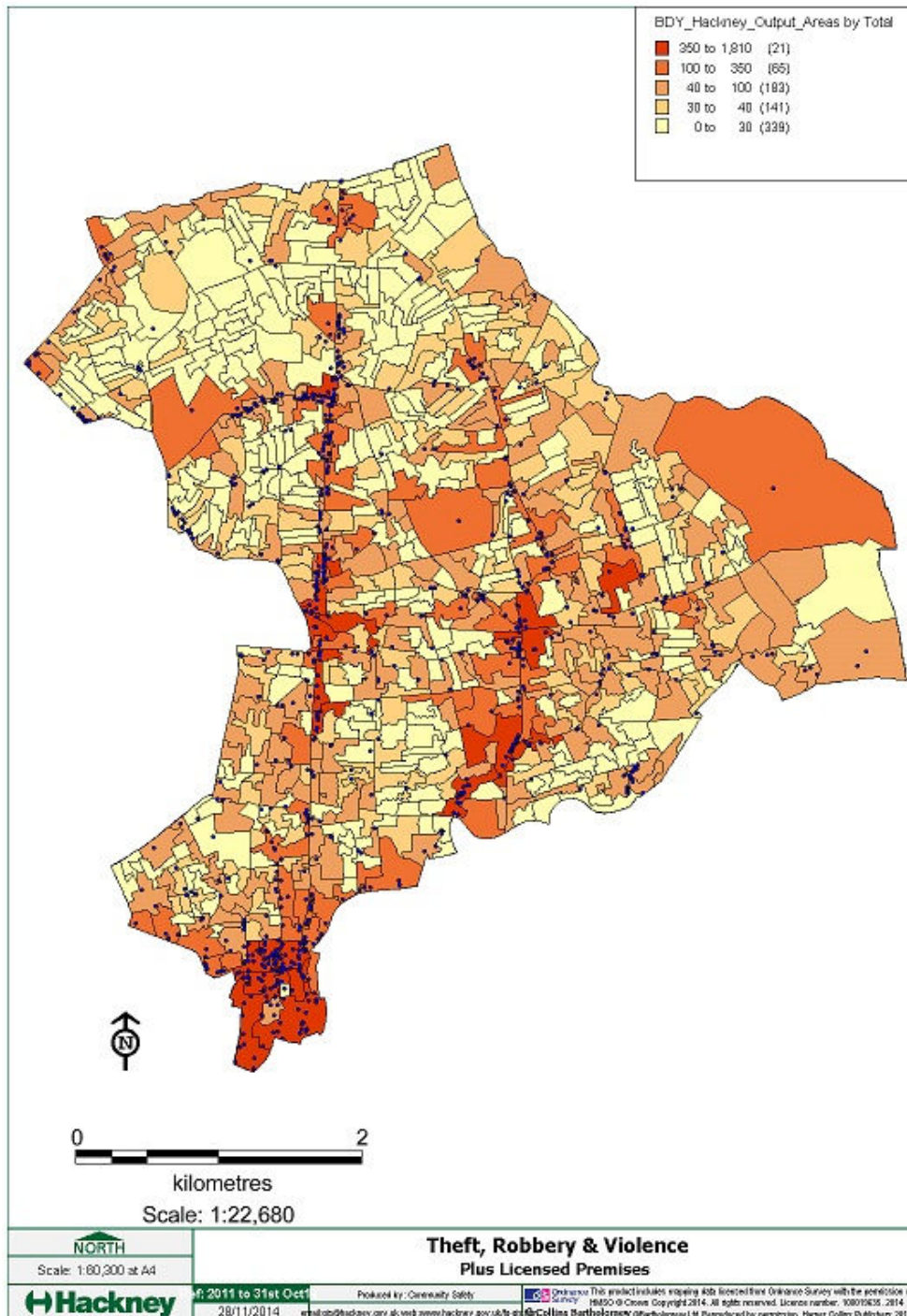
Map of premises with licences/certificates authorising alcohol sales between 00:00 and 06:00.



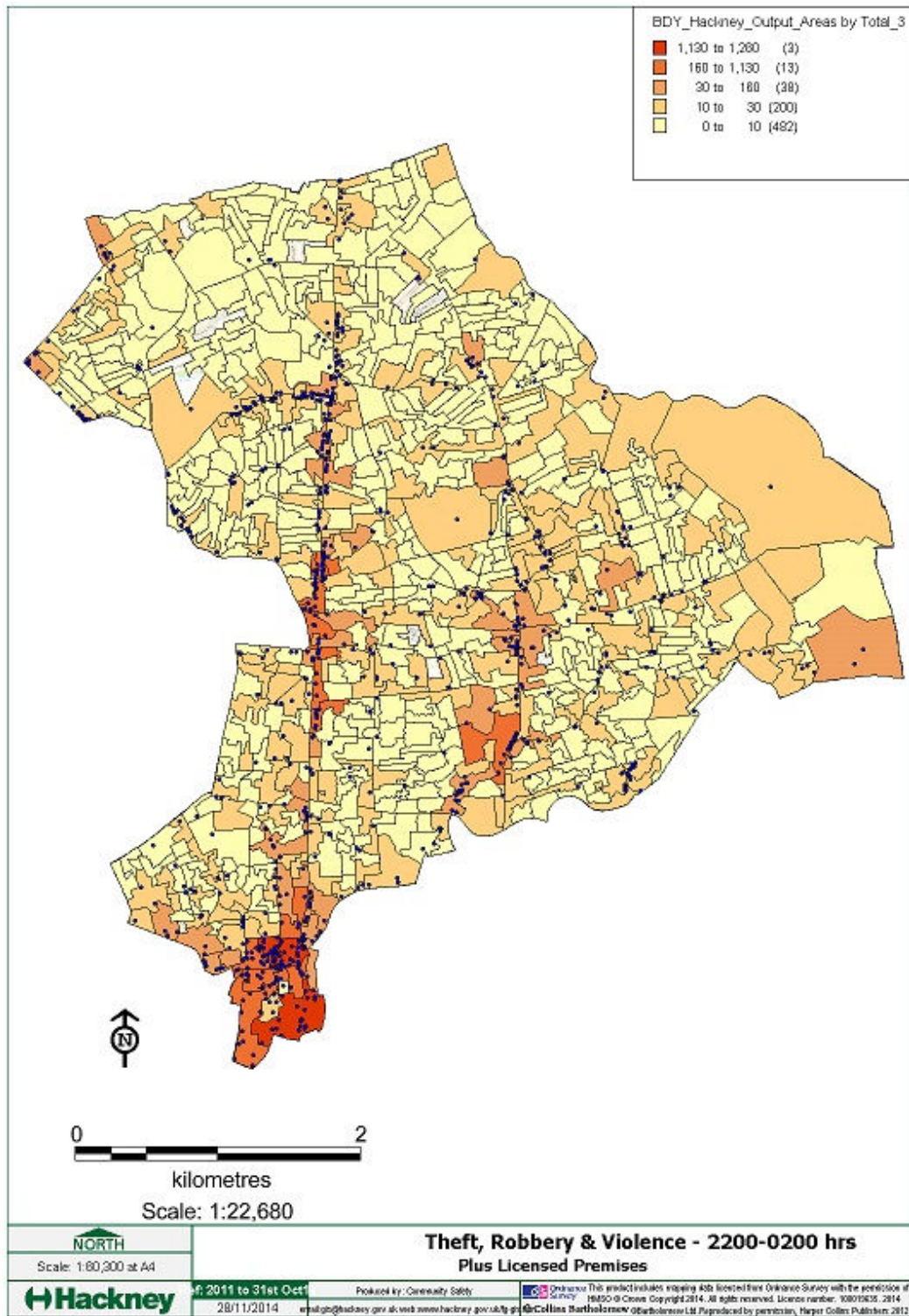
## APPENDIX 2

Maps/charts extracted from Licensing Policy Evidence Study carried out in 2014.

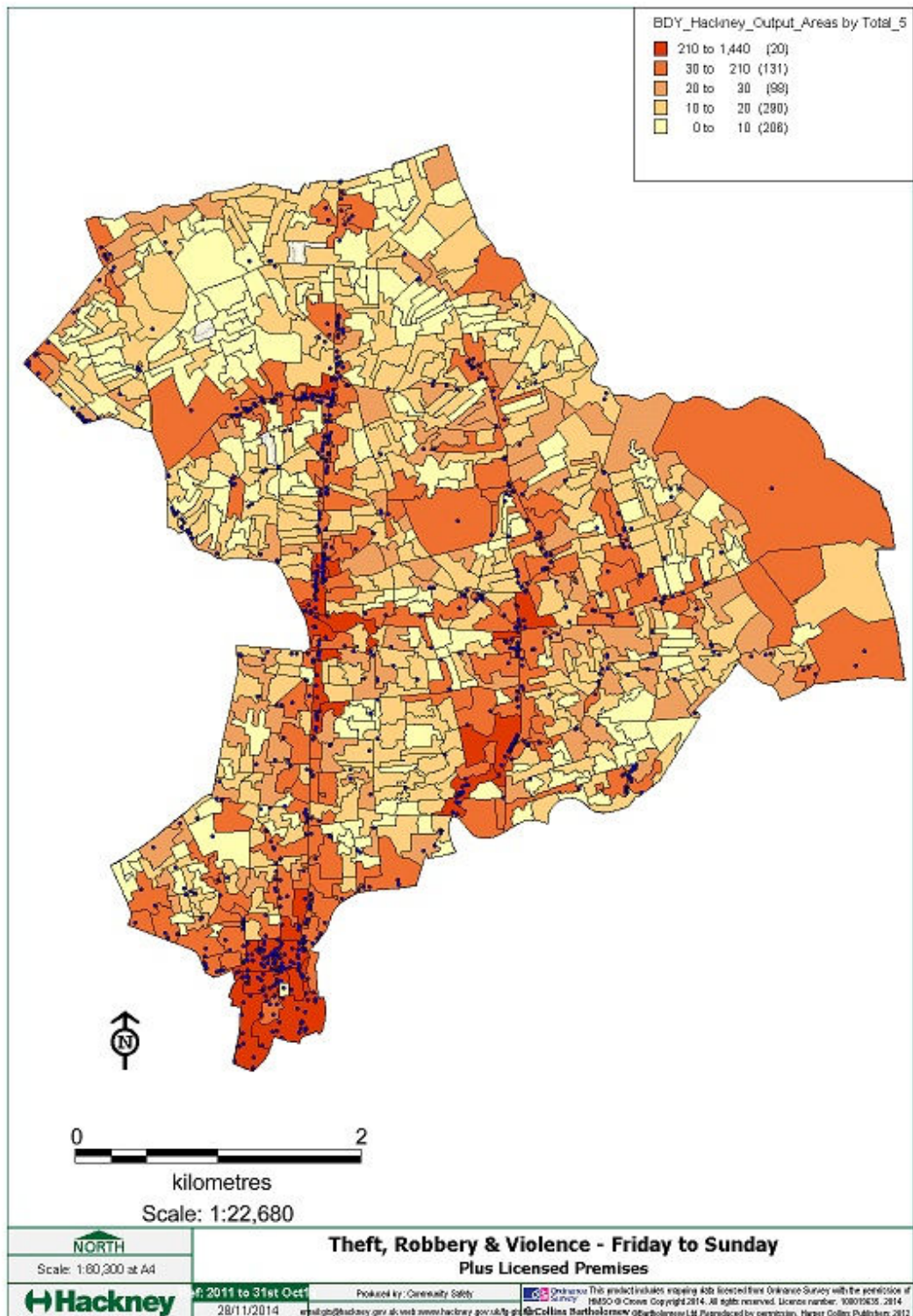
**Map 1 – Violence against the person, theft & handling and robbery from 1 January 2011 to 31 October 2014**



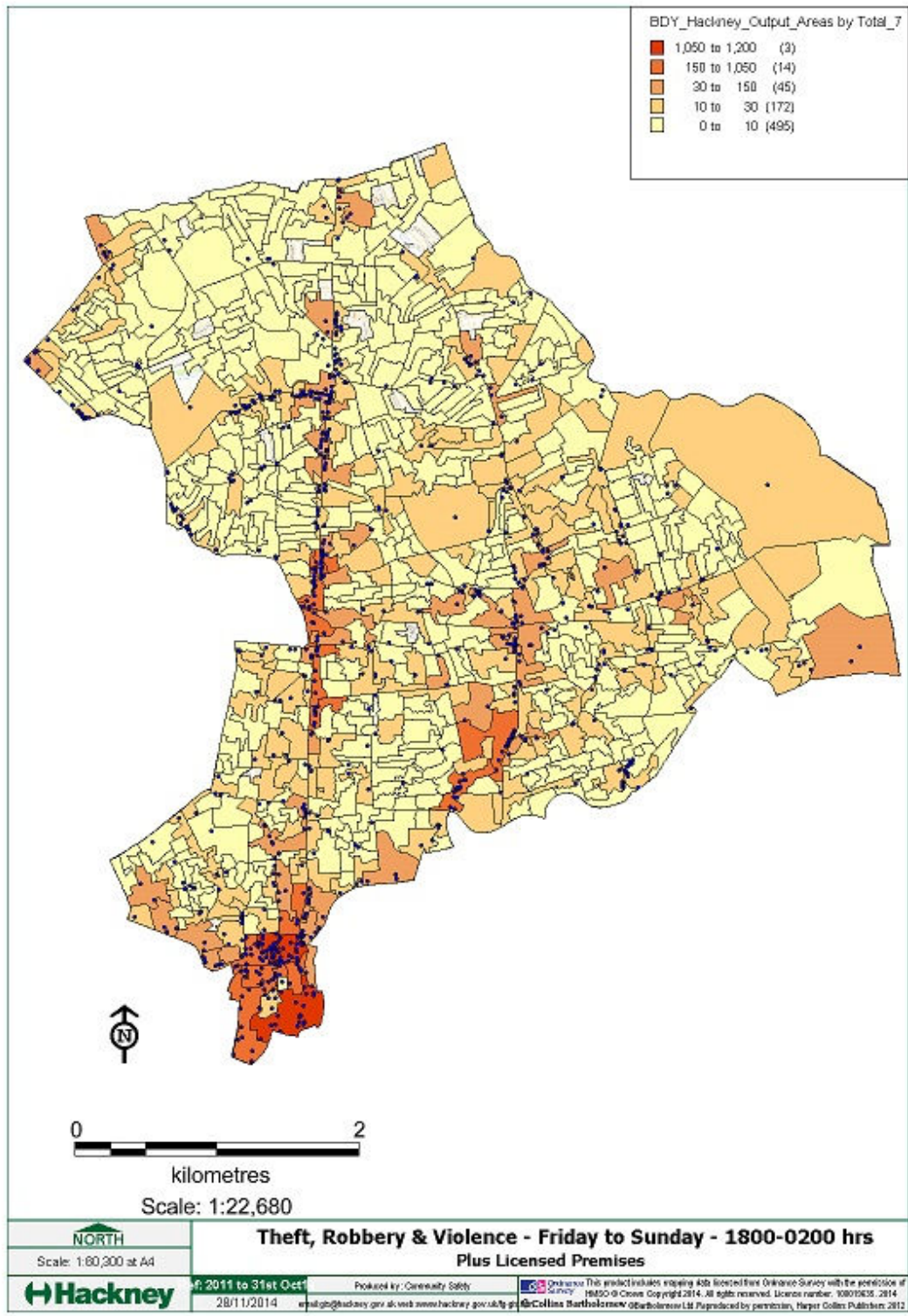
**Map 2 – Violence against the person, theft & handling and robbery between the hours of 2200 and 0200 (1 January 2011 to 31 October 2014)**



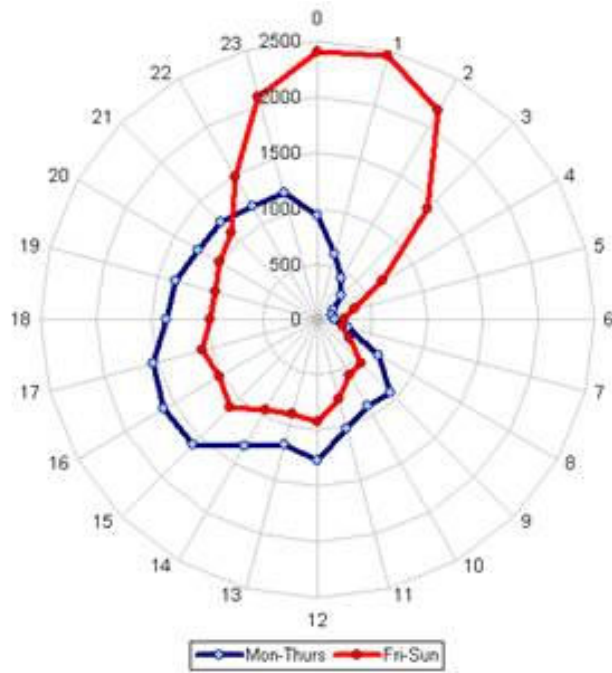
**Map 3 – Violence against the person, theft & handling and robbery – Friday to Sunday (1 January 2011 to 31 October 2014)**



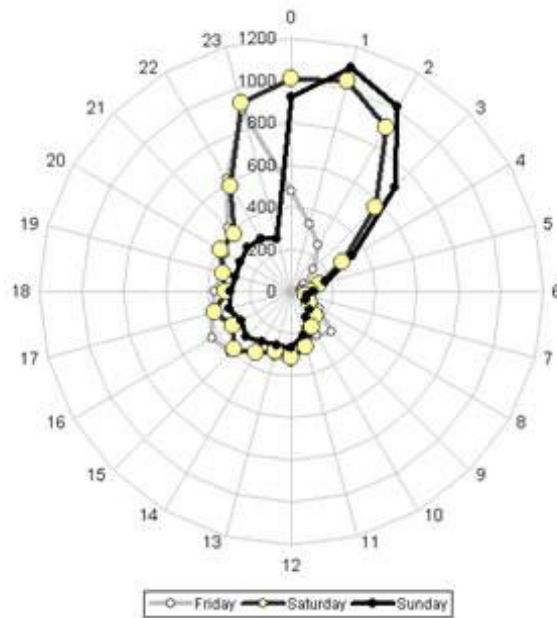
**Map 4 – Violence against the person, theft & handling and robbery – Friday to Sunday between the hours of 1800 and 0200 (1 January 2011 to 31 October 2014)**



**Chart 1: Violence, theft & robbery – by hour of day: weekday versus weekends**



**Chart 2: Violence, theft & robbery – by hour of day: weekday versus weekends**





# **LB Islington “Late Night Levy – Review of First Year of Operation”**

**January 2016**

## **BACKGROUND**

Islington Council adopted the Late Night Levy to come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 and from that date any licence holder permitted sell alcohol after midnight was required to pay the levy. All income raised by the levy must fund activities that benefit the late night economy

From the very outset the Council’s intention has been to use the levy to fund additional uniformed night time patrols and this has been achieved through funding a dedicated multiagency team called Operation Nightsafe.

The overall aim of Operation Nightsafe is to support and promote the late night economy in Islington by:

- providing a safe, welcoming night time environment for residents, workers and visitors
- reducing late night alcohol related crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and nuisance
- minimising negative impacts on local residents.

Operation Nightsafe has two distinct complementary strands

- The deployment of both a rapid response and intelligence lead policing capability at night and day time follow up action
- The provision of a street based patrolling service, operated by Parkguard, with capacity to support to the licensed trade as well as providing police and medical support

## **LATE NIGHT LEVY FUNDED ACTIVITIES**

### **Operation Nightsafe – Police**

The Late Night Levy funds:

- a dedicated police sergeant to act as a Night Time Economy Coordinator
- a dedicated police constable to work on operational night time activities, and lead on day time follow up and engagement activities

Night time policing is carried out by officers drawn from neighbourhood, emergency and special police constabulary teams. The Night Time Economy Coordinator is responsible for collating intelligence and using this information to task and brief officers prior to deployment ensuring that resources target hotspot areas, problem-solving activities and call response. The police utilise various tactics including high visibility pulse patrolling, visiting licenced premises, using of passive drugs dog, taxi-touting operations and CCTV targeted patrols. Funding the Night Time Economy Manager has enabled capacity building resulting in improved consistency and effectiveness of policing the night-time economy particularly in relation to investigation, linking in with CID and reporting issues of concern for day time follow up by Police Licensing Officers.

During the day the dedicate police officers focus on:

- preparing night time briefings
- working with licenced premises to promote and share best practice
- dealing with problematic premises using a range of tools from action planning to reviews
- briefing staff working in late night venues or matters that can reduce crime and improve criminal detection rates for example, crime scene preservation, best practice in door supervision management, providing witness statements, CCTV management

### **Alcohol Related Domestic Violence**

Whilst outside the scope of the Late Night Levy the introduction of the Levy has resulted in the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime match funding the portion of the levy allocated to additional policing. The police have used this funding to recruit an additional two police officers to work in Islington on alcohol related domestic violence.

## **Operation Nightsafe- Parkguard Night Safe Patrol Team**

The Late Night Levy funds the Nightsafe Patrol Team, a four person, police accredited, street based tasking team provided by Parkguard. The team operates four nights per week, usually Thursdays to Sundays and covers the whole borough with locations of work being determined on a nightly basis by intelligence lead tasking, call response and police lead briefings. The Nightsafe Patrol provides:

- a rapid response to requests for assistance from licence holders paying the late night levy
- an early intervention style of approach to minimise demands on the emergency services
- medical and police support where needed
- assistance to members of the public in need
- enforcement action against offenders
- high visibility patrols

The service is unique in that it has filled significant gaps in the management of the night time economy in Islington. The dedicated street based patrol team, resourced by 4 regular officers, provides an early intervention style approach by responding to low level, potential or emerging problems. By engaging with people on the street, supporting door staff dealing with difficult customers and providing a rapid response to licence holder requests for assistance the Nightsafe Patrol Officers interventions invariably prevent escalation requiring emergency services support.

Another gap filled by Nightsafe Patrol officers is their ability to help vulnerable people, many of whom are temporarily vulnerable due to the effects of alcohol. Typical activities have included providing welfare checks and personal safety advice, calling taxis, providing a temporary safe haven, first aid or medical assistance. One officer per shift is trained in first aid to 'first on the scene level' and their skills have been utilised on many occasions to assist a casualty until the ambulance service arrives.

Not only have the Nightsafe Patrol Officers have developed a good working relationship with licence holders and their door staff the team have acquired excellent working knowledge of the night-time economy in Islington and made a significant contribution to information gathered by the police and Local Authority.

During the year Parkguard have strived to improve the service offered through investment in staff and equipment for example in the summer the company invested in a new radio system to allow the Nightsafe Patrol officers to communicate directly with Parkguard operatives working on activities in the borough providing the team more resilience when dealing with situations requiring additional resources.

### **Late Night Levy Board**

The Late Night Board was set up in August 2014 to oversee operation of the Late Night Levy. The Board, chaired jointly by Police Borough Commander and LBI Chair of Licensing, meets four times per year. Businesses paying late night levy were represented by eight licence holders nominated by our pubwatches. There are currently vacancies for licence holders representing late night off licences and food lead venues.

As well as reviewing the previous quarter's Operation Nightsafe activities the Late Night Board provides a useful opportunity for the licence trade to engage with the Police and Council at strategic level on night time economy issues and discussions this year have included:

- Exploring communication options
- Working together to embed the early intervention strategy
- Sharing best practice on selecting and managing contracted door staff
- Balloon seller enforcement strategy

### **LATE NIGHT LEVY ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Late Night Levy has enabled us to strengthening the partnership between the late night licenced trade, police and local authority through the support services provide by Parkguard and the targeted deployment of additional police resources at night.

Feedback from licence holders indicate that they welcome the creation of the late Night Levy Board as this has given them an opportunity to contribute to strategic discussions regarding the management of the late night economy with senior police and local authority officers and councillors as well as monitoring activities funded by the Late Night Levy.

Prior to the introduction of the Levy there was no capacity to adopt an early intervention approach. Parkguard has filled this gap by helping vulnerable people in the street and by working collaboratively with licence holder to demonstrate the benefits of providing a reactive response to potential or low impact issues of concern.

Levy funding has resulted in improved intelligence gathering through the collation of information from the Police, Parkguard, Local Authority Antisocial Behaviour, CCTV and Licensing Teams as well as licence holders reporting issues of concern. This information feeds into the nightly police lead briefing and tasking process.

### **Police**

- Targeted deployment of dedicated police night time economy teams Thursdays to Sundays
- 178 arrests for various offences including GBH, ABH, Affray Possession of Drugs, Taxi Touting and other Public Order offences
- Responded to 410 calls to 999 or 101 from licenced premises regarding violence, public order, drugs, weapons, theft
- Responded to 72 minor variation applications to amend licence terms and conditions
- Audited medical facilities of 7 late night venues in conjunction with the London Ambulance Service
- Conducted 20 multi-agency licence premises visits
- Executed 2 warrants for misuse of drugs
- Carried out enforcement activities in 7 dispersal zones
- Applied for and enforced 3 closure orders
- Called in 32 premises to the Licensing Officer Panel for action planning purposes

- Utilised the review process with respect to 10 licenced premises to either revoke the premises licence or impose additional licence conditions.

## **Parkguard**

Appendix 2 contains Parkguard's comprehensive review of Operation Night Safe Patrols activities during the first 11 months of operation to 31 October 2015

Key headline achievements are:

- Health and welfare checks of 316 people found vulnerable due to excess alcohol or drug use resulting in ill health or incapacity
- Provided medical assistance on 161 occasions preventing 54 ambulance callouts and 72 attendances at A&E
- Dealt with 365 incidents involving violent or aggressive behaviour preventing assault occurring on 207 occasions
- Generated 59 arrests, which is a significantly high figure considering that the primary focus of the patrol is prevention, supporting levy payers, police and local authority
- Requested/directed/ dispersed 451 to leave an area and warned or advised 738 about conduct
- Liaised on 2295 occasions with door staff/DPS/licence holders to provide support and advise on operational effectiveness
- Engaged with 90 taxi touts
- Visited all premises paying the late night levy to promote the service provided by Parkguard and received 98% satisfaction rate for the service
- Responded to 226 calls for assistance from door staff/DPS/licence holders

## **Balloon Sellers**

Since Nov 2014, there has been a steady rise in the reports of nitrous oxide balloon sellers operating in several key areas of the borough, The initial control strategy tasked Parkguard Nightsafe Patrol Officers to disrupt and deter balloon sellers through patrolling hotspots and engagement. Although initially this approach appeared to be successful, dispersal was only temporary as balloon sellers became more confident and started returning to the area as soon as the Patrol Officers left.

During the summer, balloon sellers were linked to an increase in reported violence with intent and theft offences in the Charterhouse Street area. The Police responded by using dispersal order powers and organising a 2 week operation to identify and prosecute balloon sellers which, although a number of offenders have been identified for prosecution, again resulted in only a temporary disruption as the number of balloon sellers increased once the operation ended.

A further joint enforcement operation, lead by Islington Street Trading Team, has been set up to take place during December 2015 and January 2016 to deal with a new wave of balloon sellers with the intention to collect sufficient evidence to apply for injunctions to ban offenders from the area.

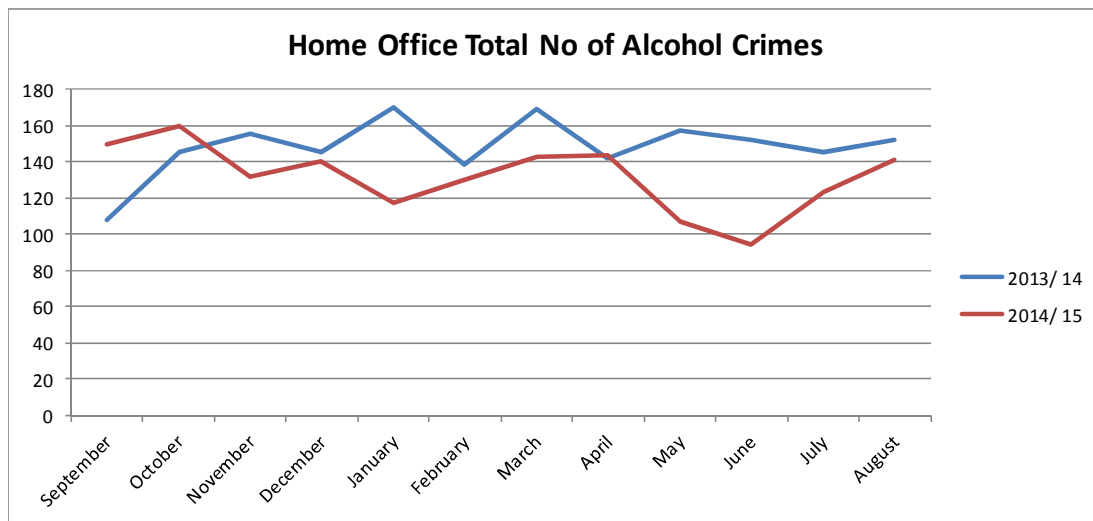
## **IMPACT ON ALCOHOL RELATED CRIME AND DISORDER**

Islington's Crime Data Analysts have examined the data for alcohol related crime and disorder for the first year of the Levy and compared this with the previous 12 months.

Overall there has been a 17% reduction in alcohol related crime since November 2014 and a 17% reduction in alcohol related crime between the hours of midnight and 8am. Violence continues to be the most frequently recorded crime type associated with alcohol; however levels have reduced by 14.4% over the last year.

Although there will be other factors that have contributed to this reduction Operation Night Safe has played an important part.

The chart below compares alcohol related crime by month for the period September 2013 to August 2015.



Source: Islington Alcohol Crime Profile Sept 2014 to Aug 2015, LBI Community Safety Unit

The chart shows that

- since October 2014 alcohol crime levels have consistently been below the previous year's monthly figures
- the traditional seasonal peak in alcohol crime levels during December/January and May did not occur in 2014/5.

Call levels to the both the police (999 and 101) and the council's ASB reporting line regarding alcohol related incident have increased by 29-30% over the last year, particularly in relation to calls coded as rowdy / drunken behaviour, which increased by nearly 100%. This indicates that the demand on night time response services in Islington has increased over that last 12 months and provides further evidence to use levy funding to support Operation Nightsafe.

## LATE NIGHT LEVY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

At the start of the levy year on 1 November 2014 it was estimated that 386 premises would be liable to pay the levy raising an estimated income of £441,966

At the end of the levy year (31 October 2015)

352 licenced premises were liable for paying the levy



338 had paid the levy raising an income of £397,278

Of the 14 that have not paid the levy yet 8 premises have had their premises licence suspended for non-payment of licence fees and 6 are the subject of administrative queries that are in the process of being resolved.

Thirty five licence holders operated businesses that were compliant with the Best Practice Scheme and received a 30% reduction in their levy payment.

The cost of Policing and Parkguard was £368,000. Included in this figure is an underspend on the Parkguard contract. We have agreed that this underspend will be carried over to the second year of the levy allowing us to fund additional patrols and the deployment of an dedicated medical support team during December 2015. The remaining under spend will be used to support other targeted activities during 2016.

The Council is permitted to deduct late Night Levy administrative costs from Levy income however, it was decided that these costs will be absorbed in its mainstream budget and this approach was been endorsed by the late Night Levy Board on 3 November 2014.

At the end of the levy year there was surplus of £24,278.

The surplus will be carried over and used to fund any additional activities that the Late Night Levy Board believe will benefit the night-time economy.

Late Night Levy income and expenditure is summarised in Appendix 1

### **LOOKING FORWARD TO 2016**

Year 2 of the levy runs from 1 November 2015 to 31 October 2016 and for this period we estimate that 352 licence holders will be eligible for paying the levy raising £397,278 in income.

The strategic objectives set for year 1 will continue through to year 2 but proposed operational improvements include:

1. Extending shift pattern of police officers working on the balloon sellers operation during December 2015 and January 2016 (Police)
2. Introducing targeted use of Police drug dog patrols (Police)

3. Targeted deployment of specialist Parkguard support services ( including the mobile office as a safe haven during the lead up to Christmas)  
(Parkguard)
4. Establishing a network of night time safe havens (Police)
5. Further develop knowledge and skills of all Operation Night Safe Officers through briefing and training (Police and Parkguard)
6. Support the licenced trade by developing an intelligence bulletin to be delivered by Police Officers (Police)

## APPENDIX 1

### Late Night Levy Year 1: Income and Expenditure

#### 1. Income

On 20 January 2016 338 premises licence holders had paid the LNL providing an income of £397,272.

#### 2. Expenditure

1 Nov 2014 to 31 Oct 2015

Local Authority Administrative costs (waivered)

£0

Nightsafe Operation Police and Parkguard committed expenditure\*

£368,000

#### Surplus to be carried over to 2016/7

£24,278

\*NB this figure includes underspend of £43,000 committed expenditure on Parkguard contact that will be used to pay for additional Patrols during December 2015- Oct 2016

#### 3. Reconciliation of projected income with actual income

At start of levy year on 1 November 2014, we identified 386 premises as selling alcohol beyond midnight giving us a projected maximum income of £441,966.

##### Difference between actual and projected

The shortfall of 48 premises and £44,694 income is due to:

Reason	Number of premises	Income
Administrative errors- data extraction and inclusion of exempt hotels	6	£6783
Minor Variation applications to reduce hours received after 1/10/14 deadline	8	£7360
Premises no longer trading – licence revoked, surrendered, lapsed and unlikely to reopen	20	£17346
Licence suspended for non-payment of LNL and subject to follow up enforcement action and debt recovery	8	£6144*
Administrative queries that should result in LNL being paid once resolved	6	£7061*
Total	48	£44,694

\*some of this lost income is recoverable