

LICENSING COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 14TH JANUARY 2020

Present: Councillor Emma Plouviez in the Chair

Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Gilbert Smyth,
Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr James Peters,
Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Sem Moema,
Cllr Peter Snell and Cllr Harvey Odze

Apologies: Cllr Brian Bell, Cllr Sharon Patrick,
Cllr Caroline Selman, Cllr Ian Rathbone and
Cllr Penny Wrout

Officers: Samantha Mathys (Late Night Levy Manager)
Butta Singh (Senior Licensing Lawyer)
David Tuitt (Business Regulation Team Leader)
Natalie Williams (Governance Services Officer)

Police: Inspector Sam Horton, Night time Economy –
Central East BCU of the Police

1 **Apologies for Absence**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of the following Councillors: Bell, Cameron, Patrick, Rathbone, Selman and Wrout

2 **Declarations of Interest - Members to declare as appropriate**

2.1 There were no declarations of interests.

3 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

3.1 Cllr Odze noted that there were grammatical errors in the minutes.

3.2 It was noted that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2019 were not taken by the Governance Services Officer present, who had recently taken over administration of the Licensing Committee.

3.3 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th September 2019 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

4 **Late Night Levy - Report Following the End of Year 2**

- 4.1 David Tuitt, presented the report on the Late Night Levy ('Levy'). The Committee noted that the Levy had been operational for two years, having been introduced in November 2017.
- 4.2 It was highlighted that the net revenue is to be split with at least 70% allocated to the Police to be used for late night policing and the remainder 30% (after administration costs and exemptions) to be retained by the Licensing Authority to promote the Licensing objectives.
- 4.3 The Licensing Service recorded £414,010 – total revenue collected for the second year of operation in the 12 month period running from 1st November 2018 -31st October 2019.
- 4.4 Following a brief overview, Cllr Odze raised points of clarity. The first was in relation to the omission of an Appendix 2 which is referred to throughout the report and secondly he believed that it should be clearly specified that 70% of the Levy which is allocated to the Police is after the deduction of expenses.
- 4.5 Butta Singh, Senior Licensing Lawyer confirmed that the split (70% to the Police 30% to the Local Authority) was after expenses. He further explained that this was a legal requirement, however there was some scope for local arrangements to be agreed between the Police and Local Authority regarding how the revenue is spent.
- 4.6 Councillor Snell welcomed the report and queried the practical arrangements in place to distribute revenue from the shared fund via the Levy Board.
- 4.7 David Tuitt, informed the Sub Committee that Home Office guidance suggests local partnerships can move away from the precise 70-30 split if desired. It was confirmed that the Board oversees and manages how the revenue is spent and noted that money is not given directly to the Police.
- 4.8 Councillor Odze, whilst welcoming the report, stated the importance of having an audit trail.
- 4.9 Councillor Moema highlighted the importance of having checks in place to monitor backfilling so that resources are not sucked out of the rest of the Borough from areas that may appear less busy, but may be equally as problematic.
- 4.10 Officers identified the hotspot areas as Hoxton East and Shoreditch and Hoxton West with almost 40% collected in these areas. Followed by Dalston, London Fields and Stoke Newington.
- 4.11 Samantha Mathys, Late Night Levy manager talked the Committee through the recurring expenditure incurred in year 2 which included:
- £414,010 total revenue collected which is relatively consistent with the total collected in year 1
 - £170k MET Police (as agreed with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime MOPAC) funded additional surge of activity between April – December

- £61,502 Hackney Enforcement Officer Patrols
- £20k Administration and Operational Costs
- £600 Communications
- £23,532 Late Night Levy Manager

4.12 The Committee received a summary of the practical arrangements of the Levy as detailed on pages 17-19 of the agenda pack. These included:

- Balances carried forward from year 1 and 2
- Funding for the additional surge of (non-recurring) activity April-December 2019, mostly within the Shoreditch area
- ‘Operation Lagana’, a 10 week multi agency operation in the Shoreditch area during night time economy hours
- The Hackney Nights-Sexual Harassment Campaign
- The Hackney Nights- Drinkaware Partnership and Christmas Safety Campaign
- The Hackney Nights Portal, giving licensees better access to training information and best practice.
- Hackney Nights Monthly Training Sessions commencing early 2020, giving licensees and their staff a stable offer of training
- Redeployable CCTV, which can be temporarily installed in night time economy areas
- Stoke Newington Pilot Radio Scheme, CCTV radios provided to late night venues where less police presence is felt

4.13 Samantha Mathys highlighted the importance of having a coherent message between the campaigns on the street and within the licensed venues, who are liable to pay the Levy. The importance of information sharing, clear communication streams and multi-agency working to find out information relating to identity checking and counter terrorism was emphasised.

4.14 Looking forward, Samantha Mathys informed the Committee that there would be greater emphasis on where incidents are occurring through enhanced use of CCTV and the Pilot Radio Scheme. In addition, it was noted that the budget for policing has been increased for year 3.

4.15 The Committee heard from Inspector Sam Horton, Night time Economy –Central East BCU of the Police who updated the Committee on “Operation Lagana” which commenced in September 2019. Funded by the MOPAC agreement, this was a multi-agency 10 week operation within the Shoreditch area to gather information and understand trends in order to tackle anti-social behaviour, crime, sexual offences, drug offences and robberies etc. This operation was active only during the times of the night time economy and involved neighbourhood managers, constables, crime squad, council enforcement officers and CCTV operators working together. The operation provided a very visible presence as officers would patrol the streets on foot and speak with bar staff and door staff. This partnership working approach was deemed to be a success and will be continued going forward.

4.16 In reference to the Stoke Newington Pilot Radio Scheme, it was reported that the Late Night Levy Board has agreed proposals to expand the scheme to other night time economy locations which will see it extended to 100 premises throughout the borough (outside of Shoreditch) including areas where there may not be such a visible police presence. In year 3, £41, 700 has been allocated for the extension of the scheme and

£7.180 allocated for the upgrade to a digital network. Licensees will be given a 6 month grace period after which a monthly network subscription will apply. It was noted that approximately 13 premises have signed up to the Pilot Radio Scheme.

- 4.17 In response to a question from Cllr Snell, Inspector Horton gave assurances that initiatives such as the Hackney Nights Portal and the Pilot Radio Scheme would not replace local Pubwatch groups and meetings but would be used alongside them and to encourage attendance and greater participation.
- 4.18 In response to a question from Cllr Smyth relating to safeguarding the vulnerable, Inspector Horton advised that one arm of “Operation Lagana” involves working with vulnerable males and females within the night time economy. Licensees will be trained to identify key signs of abuse, severe intoxication, harassment and conflict. The Committee was informed that The Metropolitan Police Service is working with venues across London to help prevent and reduce sexual violence and vulnerability. By telling customers that they can ‘Ask for Angela’ they are giving them a discreet code word that they can give to staff if they feel unsafe or threatened. Posters making them aware of this will be displayed in toilets. A similar campaign is to be implemented for men. Social media and other networks will be used to publicise this message.
- 4.19 The Committee welcomed the initiatives, and members stressed the importance of a publicity campaign which highlights the initiatives and available materials and aids. It was felt that this would be useful for both licensees and members of the public.
- 4.20 Samantha Mathys advised that a toolkit will be distributed to licensees within the Levy which will contain information on the initiatives and a pledge form to sign up to.
- 4.21 Councillor Emma Plouviez, Chair of the Committee suggested that it would be useful to get feedback from licensees on how useful they have found the toolkits and training on offer. In specific reference to the “Ask Angela” campaign it was noted it would be useful to have some further information on its use within the borough.
- 4.22 Councillor Snell welcomed the positive campaign and raised the issue of working collaboratively with hygiene services as 24 hour toilets were needed within the night time economy. Whilst he commended the work that had been done with pubs and clubs, he felt that greater engagement with off licences was required.
- 4.23 In response to a question relating to the rise in operational costs, Samantha Mathys advised that the administration costs in year 2 did not include her salary, there will also be ongoing obligations with the training and content providers as well as support for the online portal.
- 4.24 Councillor Odze made a point of accuracy in reference to page 16 paragraph 2.4 which reads that *‘Hoxton East, West and Shoreditch continues to be the most prominent late night economy zone with almost 40% of all the late night levy fees collected in those areas combined.* He pointed out that Dalston collects in excess of £10k more in fees than Hoxton West.
- 4.25 In response to a question relating to the Levy fees, David Tuitt informed the Committee that the Levy applies after midnight. The fees starts at £299 for Band A non-domestic rateable value that rises to £4400 annually for a Band E premises subject to a fee ‘multiplier’.

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- 4.26 In reference to Policing, it was noted that Tower Hamlets and Hackney had merged in October 2018. Resources are pooled from both boroughs to create a neighbourhood task force. Brick Lane and surrounding area was identified as the main Night Time Economy area within Tower Hamlets. Shoreditch, Dalston and Hackney were the main NTE identified in Hackney.
- 4.27 **RESOLVED** that the Licensing Committee NOTE the Late Night Levy report, following the end of Year 2 and the accompanying appendix.

Duration of the meeting: Times Not Specified

Chairman at the meeting on
Tuesday, 14 January 2020