

The Late Night Levy

Report following the end of Year 3

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1. Background

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to provide the position on the Late Night Levy (“the Levy”) following the end of the third year of its operation on 31 October 2020.
- 1.2 The Levy is a provision established under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. It enables licensing authorities to charge an additional annual fee to persons who are licensed to sell alcohol between midnight and 6am. The revenue raised is then used as a contribution towards the costs of policing the late night economy.
- 1.3 The Levy is paid annually by relevant premises licence or club premises certificate holders at the same time as the annual fee. Where a licence or certificate is granted within the year, the holder has two weeks to pay from the date the licence or certificate was granted.
- 1.4 At least 70% of any net revenue collected must be given to the Police. The local authority must use its portion on activities related to mitigating the impact of the supply of alcohol within the specified hours. The legislation does not prevent a local arrangement from being agreed between the Police and Council as to any revenue collected for the Police is to be spent.
- 1.5 Following a public consultation, the Council decided to introduce the Levy effective from 1 November 2017. In introducing the power, the Council agreed that the late night supply period would be from 00:01 to 06:00 and that no exemptions or reductions would apply.
- 1.6 A local management board (“the Board”) set up by the Council to oversee how the revenue is spent meets four times annually. The Licensing Committee agreed the management structure and Terms of Reference for the Board which includes Council officers, Licensing Committee members, Police and the licensing trade.

2. Year 3 Receipts

- 2.1 Total receipts in Year 3 amounted to £272,176. This is compared to £414,010 in Year 2. This represents a 34% decrease year on year.
- 2.2 There is a balance carried over from Years 1 and 2 of £490,528.

Coronavirus

- 2.3 The unprecedented arrangements as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic have created a particularly challenging environment for the majority of Hackney's licensees. From the outset the Licensing Service has been keen to take a considered and pragmatic approach to collection of the Levy as well as licensing fees. There has been no indication from the Home Office that legislative requirements in relation to the payment of fees will be altered. This means at the current time, the requirement to pay the Levy remains.
- 2.4 The Licensing Service has assisted licensees where possible by delaying reminder letters and licence suspensions for non-payment of the Levy where the businesses had to close under Coronavirus regulations. The Service will maintain this position until at least the end of the calendar year before reviewing further.

3. Year 3 Expenditure

- 3.1 The table below analyses how the receipts were spent in Year 3.

Balance carried from Years 1 and 2	£490,528.00
Year 3 Receipts	£272,176.00
Year 3 Expenditure	
<i>Recurring</i>	
MOPAC - Police funding	£279,006.72
Enforcement patrols - 33 weeks of activity	£40,590.00
Administration and operational costs	£21,042.00
LNL Manager salary (1 Year) including costs	£47,065.22
CCTV - Ongoing operations and deployments	£7,172.86
"Hackney Nights" print and design costs	£3,194.00
<i>Non-Recurring (Projects funded by the balance carried over from year 1 and 2)</i>	
Mobile messaging vehicle - 4 weeks activity	£3,960.00
Consultancy and training - women's safety campaign -	£11,590.00

"Reframe the Night"	
Drinkaware 2 year training licence	£10,000.00
"Hackney Nights" Portal	£24,500.00
Radio scheme and network upgrade	£22,550.00
CCTV - Redeployable cameras and support package	£29,400.00
Total Expenditure	£500,070.80
Balance to be carried to Year 4	£260,073.00

Policing

- 3.2 In Year 3, before the pandemic hit, the Police budget was increased in the first 4 months of the Levy year (December 19-March 20). This was to continue funding of overtime resources for "Operation Lagana". This multi-agency operation saw a team of over 26 officers deployed in the Shoreditch area during night time economy hours to tackle anti-social behavior, robbery, theft, drug offences and violence.

Police activities this year saw:

- 178 arrests
- 207 dispersal notices
- 2083 visits to licensed premises
- 9 offensive weapons / knives seizures
- 37 drug seizures
- 11 vehicle seizures

- 3.3 Once the lockdown was announced in March, although policing was reduced, a presence was maintained to address the issues encountered around street drinking and also to safeguard against the burglary of empty licensed premises.

Enforcement Patrols

- 3.3 In total, 33 weeks of enforcement overtime were funded Year 3. Activities were paused during the period of Lockdown (March 23, 2020 - July 4, 2020) as well as during the period following the announcement of the 10pm curfew (September 24, 2020 - October 31, 2020).

Mobile Messaging Vehicle

- 3.4 The Levy was used to fund a mobile messaging vehicle (MMV) for four weekends of coordinated activities with Police Officers from the Neighbourhood Improvement District. The aim was to increase engagement with visitors to the re-opened

NTE/hospitality sector in July and over the bank holiday weekend, Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th of August.



- 3.5 The MMV was deployed to display “Hackney Nights” messaging around crime prevention, safer socialising, sexual harassment, anti-social behaviour (ASB) as well as bespoke Hackney Nights content around ASB in parks such as London Fields was displayed from the vehicle as it was parks in various sites around the borough.

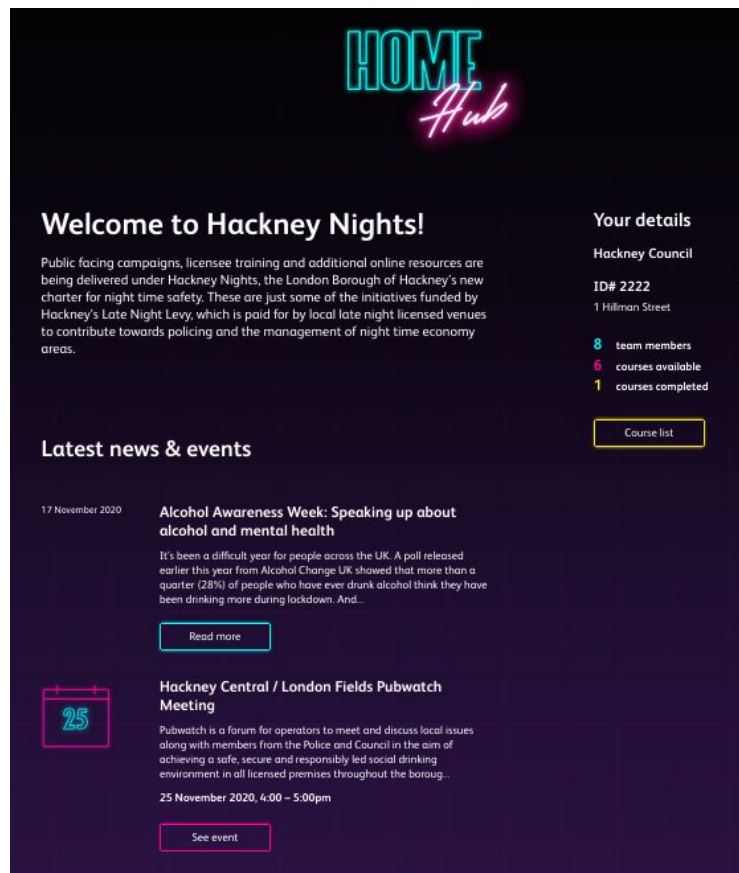


Re-Deployable CCTV

- 3.6 The Levy was used to purchase 4 re-deployable CCTV cameras, two of which have automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) capability. These cameras can be moved to areas with no or little CCTV coverage to aid with issues around NTE such as robbery, anti-social behavior and nuisance. These have proven to be a very useful tool for community safety teams in crime prevention and enforcement.

Hackney Nights Portal

- 3.7 The Hackney Nights portal aims to provide licensees with better access to training, information, events and best practice advice to improve safety in their respective premises. This portal will serve as a landing space for all relevant information about safety in the NTE and will increase engagement with licensees by distributing crucial safety training, guides and resources. It will include guidance for Covid-19 compliance, community links, business support, licensing, safety and crime prevention, waste, environmental issues, trading standards and health and wellbeing.



- 3.8 A 'soft launch' will take place with a selected number of premises in early December 2020. Engagement with licensees to sign up will commence alongside the launch, with physical visits planned to most licensees, once officers are able to do so.

- 3.9 Some of the training programs to be incorporated into the portal are listed below. These courses will be available to all licensees and their staff at no cost. There will also be interactive Zoom training in the events section of the portal. In person sessions will commence once restrictions around gatherings are eased.

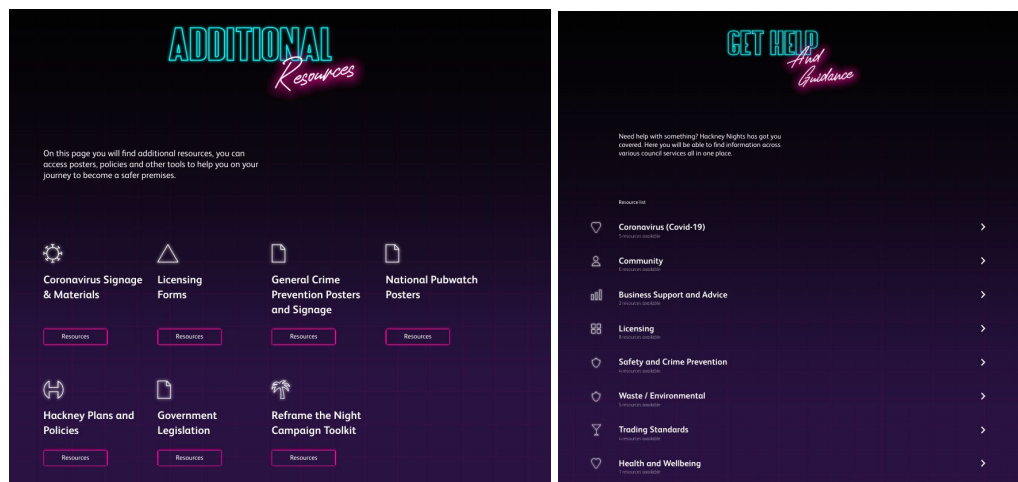
<p>Understanding and Responding to Sexual Harassment and Assault in Licensed Premises</p> <p>This training for bar staff and managers will cover sexual violence in a licensed space, barriers to reporting an incident and the removal of those barriers. It will educate on how to create environments that do not tolerate harassment and give tools and techniques on de-escalating unwanted behaviors. It will also cover a range of safety standards for licensed premises.</p>	<p>Alcohol Vulnerability Awareness e-learning by Drinkaware</p> <p>The e-learning has been designed for staff working inside venues; including bar staff, glass collectors, first aiders and anyone else whose role involves direct contact with customers throughout the night. By equipping staff with the ability to identify alcohol related vulnerability and take steps to help prevent customers from coming to harm, it is of benefit to any bar, club or venue where alcohol is sold.</p>
<p>Hate Crime Awareness</p> <p>A course geared towards educating bar staff and shop keepers on what a hate crime is and equip them with the tools to manage these incidents and report them correctly.</p>	<p>Substance Misuse</p> <p>A course designed for awareness and education on substance misuse, including drugs and drink spiking.</p>
<p>To Serve or Not to Serve?</p> <p>A training developed for frontline bar staff and shop keepers which familiarize them with their licensing obligations and responsibilities. The training covers selling to persons who are drunk, minors, and dealing with disorderly conduct.</p>	<p>MET Police ACT Awareness eLearning</p> <p>ACT Awareness e-learning is a new counter-terrorism awareness course designed for all UK based organisations and individuals. It provides nationally accredited, corporate CT guidance to help industry better understand and mitigate against current terrorist methodology.</p>

- 3.10 The portal has been designed to easily incorporate any Google Slides content with its own design theme which will make it easier for different services to create content for the Portal. It can also accept video or SCORM files to industry "LMS" standards.

- 3.11 Staff will not have full access to the Portal, only a limited view as to complete the courses they are sent with their unique link. When an employee successfully completes a course, a unique Hackney Nights certificate is generated that can be viewed by the manager in the Team section at any time. These can be printed out or stored in the Portal. See certificate example below.



- 3.12 A “Help and Guidance” section is included in the portal which will act as a ‘one stop shop’ to signpost to existing resources and relevant links on the Council website. An “Additional Resources” section will allow access to forms, crime prevention posters, policies, plans and legislation.



4. Year 4 Forecast

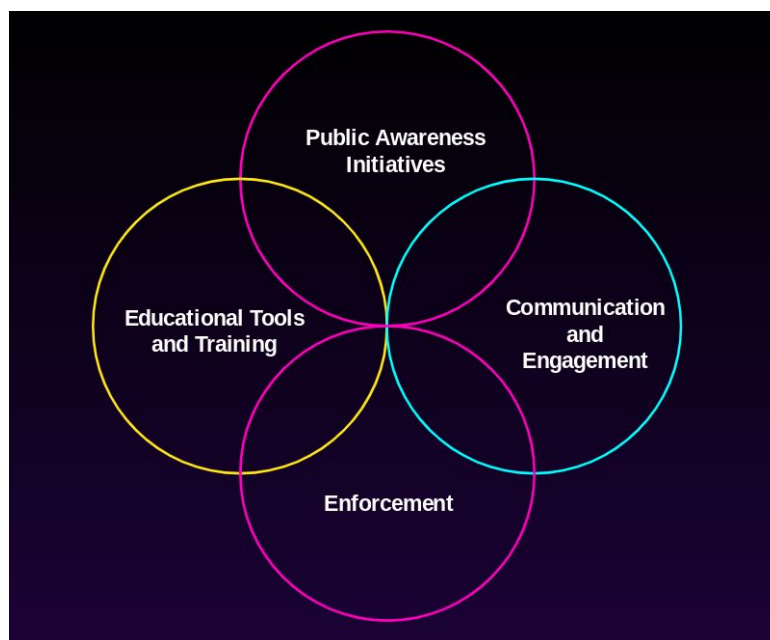
- 4.1 The balance carried over from Year 3 to Year 4 will be £260,073.20.
- 4.2 Receipts are expected to be severely impacted during Year 4. Annual income from off-licensed premises, such as shops, supermarkets and takeaways is estimated to be £70,000. Whilst some payments are being made, the current level of uncertainty as a result of the pandemic are making estimations of income difficult. Therefore, the current position is that only income from off-licensed premises can be forecasted to be received during Year 4.
- 4.3 The table belows outlines the Year 4 forecasted budget

Year 4 Forecasted Receipts	£330,073.20
Met Police - MOPAC Agreement	£150,000.00
Enforcement Patrols	£20,000.00
CCTV	
Operational Costs and Hackney Nights	£10,000.00
(LNL Manager, Portal, Design, Development, Training packages, Licences, Events)	£100,000.00
Year 4 Forecasted Spend*	£280,000.00

**This will be subject to change based on anticipated relaxation of Coronavirus measures and forecasted receipts. A more accurate prediction will be provided at the Licensing Committee on 10/03/2021.*

5. Year 4 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The complete re-opening of the night time economy following the relaxation of Coronavirus measures will present new challenges in 2021. It is anticipated that the bulk of the policing budget will address this. A greater policing plan will be drafted based on community safety partnership objectives and managed through working and tasking groups which include members from the Police and other stakeholders. A detailed crime analysis will be undertaken at the end of Year 4 to track long term changes in crime patterns, although it is worth noting that other KPIs will be developed to measure the effectiveness of the Levy's as well as a licensee survey.
- 5.2 The policing plan will seek to respond to the changing night time economy and will operate on a reduced budget due to the ongoing Coronavirus measures and the subsequent gap in receipts.
- 5.3 The scope of the Levy will be broadened to include more crime prevention and public awareness work with a focus on education and engagement alongside enforcement based activity. By making every premises as safe as they can be with the new schemes, scores, training programs, forums and advice sessions, we hope to bolster crime prevention. These resources will be available to all licensees who sell alcohol, including off-licences and supermarkets.



- 5.4 A Hackney Nights Best Practice Scheme and Venue Checklist is planned for early 2021 which will see the creation of a Hackney Nights Score. This will include input from all relevant authorities and include criteria across multiple services such as Licensing, Public Health, Waste and Environmental Health. We aim to work with licensees to ensure all premises signed up to the portal will have a safety score of at

least 80/100. We also aim to have 60% of all licensees signed up to the portal by May 2021.

- 5.5 The bulk of resources in Year 4 will be invested in the portal to commission new safety content and also push engagement with licensees. The aim is to roll out a new Hackney Nights Package every quarter. Each package will include a public awareness campaign with safety messaging tackling a specific issue, a training package (including an online and sessions), and a venue toolkit. Planned activities include safe re-opening, LGBTQ+ (including hate crime and transphobia) and security practices.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 It is anticipated that the income in Year 4 will be greatly affected by the pandemic. However, the balance carried over from Year 3 will help to fill the gap in the short term.
- 6.2 Favorability of the Levy has increased amongst licensees. At a recent levy board meeting, it was decided that the Levy still represented value for money and that members did not want to see its abolishment and concerns were voiced towards not having these resources for the re-opening period and beyond.
- 6.3 The Levy is in a secure position financially to continue with Year 4 activities as listed above. This will be revised as and when more payments are made and will result in increases to the Police and enforcement budgets.
- 6.4 Notwithstanding the above, the Licensing Service will continue to prepare and present interim reports to the Licensing Committee which, as well as the Board, will maintain oversight of the Levy moving forward.