



**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY, 9TH DECEMBER 2020**

**THIS MEETING WAS RECORDED AND CAN BE VIEWED AT:**

**[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/LLU5o435BYO](https://youtu.be/LLU5o435BYO)**

**Present:** Councillor Emma Plouviez in the Chair

Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr James Peters,  
Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr Penny Wrout, Cllr Gilbert Smyth,  
Cllr Brian Bell and Cllr Peter Snell

**Officers:** Robert Gardner (Enforcement and Business Regulation  
Manager), Samantha Mathys (Late Night Levy Manager),  
Amanda Nauth (Corporate and Licensing Lawyer),  
David Tuitt (Licensing Team Leader)  
Team Leader), Natalie Williams (Governance Officer)

**Apologies** Cllr Sem Moema and Cllr Harvey Odze

**1 Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors Moema and Odze.
- 1.2 Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Bell

**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 **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the previous meetings held on 8th June 2020 and 9th September 2020 be agreed as a true and accurate record, subject to a minor amendment to paragraph 4.3 of the minutes of 9th September relating to the correct reference to Cllr David.

#### **4 Late Night Levy Report and Appendix 1: Following the End of Year 3**

- 4.1 David Tuitt, Licensing Team Leader introduced the report which provided an update on the Late Night Levy following the end of the third year of its operation on 31 October 2020. The Levy has been operational since 1st November 2017 following a period of consultation.
- 4.2 It was noted that the pandemic had impacted all Council services and subsequently the Levy itself.
- 4.3 Samantha Mathys, Late Night Levy Manager gave a presentation during which she highlighted the following points:
- Clarity was awaited from the Home Office regarding Levy fees. Fees were still required to be paid however there has been an intentional delay in sending reminder letters and licences will not be suspended based on non payment of fees.
  - A breakdown of the receipts and expenditure for 2020 including details of recurring and non recurring expenses and Police activity.
  - At the beginning of 2020 there was a balance of 490k from years 1 and 2. This was used to fund projects and non recurring expenditure.
  - The two biggest recurring expenditures are MOPAC (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) 279k and Police enforcement patrols at 40k.
  - Police expenditure was increased in the first four months of the year (December 2019-March 2020) to continue funding Operation Lagana. (multi-agency operation of over 26 officers deployed in the Shoreditch area during night time economy hours).
  - In March, when the lock-down was announced police funding and enforcement patrol was reduced. A presence was however maintained to address street drinking and safeguard empty licenced premises.
  - Looking ahead at year 4, receipts are expected to be severely impacted, with annual income estimated to be approx 70k.
  - The full impact of the pandemic is not yet known therefore estimation of income is very difficult. Only the income from off licenced premises can be forecasted for year 4.
  - Balances from previous years will be factored in to help address the deficit in the short-term and continue activities at the current level.
  - Activities in year 3 included; use of a mobile messaging vehicle to engage with visitors following the re-opening of the NTE (also London Fields and Borough Market) after lockdown and purchase of 4 deployable CCTV cameras which can be moved to areas with few/no CCTV.
  - In year 4, there will be a focus on broadening the scope of the Levy concentrating on education, engagement and public awareness, alongside enforcement activity.
  - Despite the challenges, the Levy remains favourable amongst licensees who agree it still represents value for money. The Levy remained in a secure position due to balances from previous years.
  - In closing, a demonstration and overview of the Hackney Nights Portal was given.

**Final version of these minutes were approved at the 10th of March 2021 Licensing  
Committee meeting**

- 4.4 Following the presentation, in response to a question from Cllr Smyth, Samantha Mathys explained that with regards to policing, an overtime model had been funded in previous years, however this was likely to change due to the impact of the pandemic. It was noted that a more proactive crime prevention approach would be taken.
- 4.5 Samantha Mathys agreed to provide more details on the success and take up of the training offered via the Hackney Nights Portal, which was soon to be launched, at a future committee meeting.
- 4.6 In response to a question from Cllr Smyth regarding the measuring of some of the non-quantifiable initiatives, Ms Mathys agreed that whilst there was some difficulty in providing direct data on their impact there was an excellent intelligence hub that was instrumental in mapping hotspots. It was agreed that where possible, qualitative and quantitative data would be provided at a future meeting.
- 4.7 Mr Tuitt explained that the Levy was applicable to all licensed premises that are authorised to sell alcohol between midnight and 6am whether they choose to open or not.
- 4.8 In response to a question from Cllr Peters, it was advised that in early 2021, it will be assessed how the issue of outstanding fees and levy payments will be addressed. It was noted that the current legislation does not provide for many options. It was highlighted that the pandemic had not affected all businesses in the same way. Off licences and supermarkets had mostly remained opened throughout the pandemic however most restaurants and bars have been closed. Also, it was believed that different areas of the borough may have been impacted to varying degrees.
- 4.9 In response to a question from Cllr Peters, it was explained that there was usually a delay in being invoiced for the Police's activities. Whilst the Police's expenditure may have been incurred in year 3, some of the activity would have taken place during year 2. Subsequently, the projected Police expenditure for year 4 is lower which will account for a reduction in enforcement during the pandemic. A collaborative approach with the Police had been used to come up with a realistic budget going into year 4 and to adopt a proactive approach to crime reduction.
- 4.10 In response to a question from Cllr Wrouth regarding areas outside the NTE (namely Victoria Park and Broadway Market) which have experienced a significant increase in day-time street drinking, Mr Tuitt explained that the Levy was specifically for the policing of the late night economy. It was advised that the Hackney Portal may be useful to assist in education and crime prevention in these areas.
- 4.11 Cllr Gordon congratulated officers on the Hackney Portal and suggested that Members may wish to sign-post licensees at Sub Committee hearings.

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4.12 David Tuitt agreed to present the minutes of the Levy Board meeting to March's meeting.

4.13 **RESOLVED:** to note the report and appendix

**5. Any Other Business**

5.1 There were no other business for consideration.

Chairman at the meeting: Cllr Emma Plouviez  
Wednesday, 9th December 2020