

Late Night Levy - Year 4 Q1 Update

1. Year 4 YTD Income

- 1.1 Receipts are still 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.
- 1.2 Total receipts in Year 4 to date amounted to £16,035. This is compared to £163,287 for the same period in year 3. The bulk of our receipts usually come in the month of November. The cyberattack has affected our ability to collect payments, therefore we anticipate that there will be a delay to receive the income we normally receive at the start of the Levy year.
- 1.3 There is a balance carried over from previous years of £260,073.

Coronavirus

- 1.4 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 still 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.
- 1.5 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 restrictions are eased.

2. Year 4 YTD Expenditure

2.1 The table below analyses YTD expenditure.

Balance Carried over from Previous Years	£260,073
Receipts to date (-9% on YTD Forecast)	£16,035
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Met Police - MOPAC Agreement <i>Police Spend - August to November 2020</i>	£22,417
Enforcement Activity	£6,395
Administration & Salaries (covers entire year)	£67,065
Hackney Nights Portal, Best Practice Scheme, Print and Design	£6,328
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Balance :	£173,903

Policing

August to December Period

2.2 LNL funded patrols were provided each Friday and Saturday night up to the lockdown period and including Christmas and New Year. The “Scarlet Cars” were crewed with two officers until 2300hrs, and would visit licensed venues to ensure compliance with licensing legislation as well as COVID requirements.

January and February Periods

2.3 On Monday 4th January 2021, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown and instructed people to stay at home. This resulted into the pubs, bars and restaurants along with non-essential shops closing during this period. Nightclubs/music venues remained closed. Therefore, no LNL funding was used for this period.

Enforcement Patrols

- 2.4 The LNL funded some activity prior to the January Lockdown to assist with street drinking and any ASB caused by groups drinking in the street.

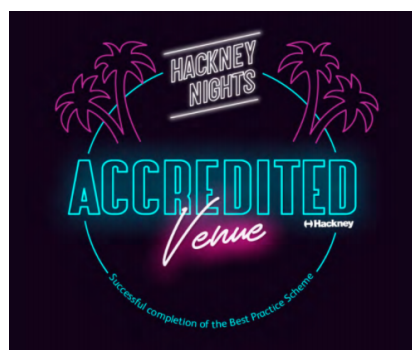
Hackney Nights Portal

- 2.5 When the lockdown was announced in January, the Portal launch was paused and the launch communications plan delayed. The aim is to have the Hackney Nights portal up and running before the hospitality sector re-opens later this year.

3. Future Projects in Year 4

- 3.1 The complete re-opening of the night time economy following the relaxation of Coronavirus measures will present new challenges in 2021. 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.
- 3.2 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.

Hackney Nights Accreditation



- 3.3 A 'Hackney Nights' accreditation scheme has been created and will assist with maintaining safety standards and Coronavirus compliance, managed remotely by operators via the online portal.
- 3.4 The criteria of the scheme has been determined by reviewing similar schemes in other boroughs and in the industry as well as incorporating elements that go beyond just safety and encourage businesses to promote wellbeing, diversity and inclusivity in night time spaces. Toolkits will be sent out to those who pass the scheme and will be allowed to advertise their accreditation in the window of the premises as well with posters for the venue.
- 3.5 The accreditation will be tied into a reduction on their annual late night levy fees following a consultation process, please see report with information relating to a proposal to consult on a change to the Late Night Levy.
- 3.6 The incentivisation of the scheme will ensure its longevity and boost participation from licensees. The licensees have voiced their support for an accreditation that can be advertised, especially for the re-opening period during the current pandemic to help build consumer confidence.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 It is anticipated that the income in Year 4 will be greatly affected by the coronavirus pandemic. However, the balance carried over from Year 3 will help to fill the gap in the short term.
- 4.2 The online portal and accreditation scheme will be instrumental in the safe re-opening of the NTE and a chance for us to build back better.
- 4.3 Notwithstanding the above, the Licensing Service will continue to prepare and present quarterly updates to the Licensing Committee which, as well as the Board, will maintain oversight of the Levy moving forward.