

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2022

- Councillors Present:** Councillor Emma Plouviez in the Chair
Cllr Brian Bell (Vice-Chair), Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas, Harvey Odze, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Anya Sizer, Cllr Peter Snell and Cllr Penny Wrout
- Apologies:** Cllr Sharon Patrick and Cllr Gilbert Smyth
- Officers in Attendance:** Amanda Nauth – Licensing and Corporate Lawyer
Samantha Mathys – Late Night Levy Manager
Natalie Williams – Governance Officer

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Patrick and Smyth.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed the following Councillors who had joined remotely. Councillors: Conway, David and Gordon.

2 Declarations of Interest - Members to declare as appropriate

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 3.1 Following a question from Cllr Fajana-Thomas, the Late Night Levy Manager, explained that all Late Night Levy reports were written in retrospect. Any subsequent discussions which took place at the last meeting related to the position of the Late Night Levy between July 2021 and 31 October 2022 and did not necessarily reflect the position at the time of the meeting in December 2021.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the previous meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 8 December 2021 were agreed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

4 Late Night :Levy Update Report (Quarter 1, Year 5)

- 4.1 Samantha Mathys, Late Night Levy Manager provided an update on the Late Night Levy, year 5, quarter 1, which covered the period 1 November 2021 to 31 January 2022 as follows:

Income and Expenditure

- The total expenditure amounted to £93,382

- The total receipts amounted to £102, 791
- The balance carried forward from previous years was £146, 232

Policing and Enforcement

- There had been additional policing in Shoreditch, since early December 2021, tasked to specifically work in the Night time Economy (NTE)
- The Shoreditch Town Centre Team (TCT) policing was not funded by the Late Night Levy (LNL).
- The LNL continued to fund overtime police patrols.
- The full budget allocated to policing was not being spent.
- Legislation required 70% of net receipts from the LNL to be allocated to policing. Funds did not have to be spent on officers but could be used to fund initiatives.
- New initiatives/proposals would be developed in partnership with the police and required approval by the LNL Board.

Communications and Campaigns

- In conjunction with the Council's communications department, various campaigns would be launched in 2022 using posters, social media and the online portal.
- The key campaigns included: the official launch of the Accreditation Scheme, public awareness on laughing gas (Nitrous Oxide), inclusivity in night time spaces and drink spiking awareness.

Training

- A wide selection of free training (online and in person) would continue to be offered to all venues.
- Welfare and vulnerability training would be offered in partnership with London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the police. Each session would be able to accommodate 100 participants at a time.
- A short online licensing refresher course focused on licensing law, regulation and responsibility would be offered.
- Licensees had requested a short induction to those new to the bar trade.

Press and Upcoming Events

- There had been particular interest in the Hackney NTE. Hackney Nights had been chosen by the GLA for a case study review and the LNL Manager would be presenting at the Night Time Industry Conference in April 2022.

Portal, Accreditation Scheme and LNL Support Officer

- A series of training and benchmarking was required to gain the Hackney Nights accreditation.
- Accredited venues would be safe a spaces for women who felt like they were the victim of sexual harassment or assault.
- The scheme was in the pilot phase working with 25 venues and would be launched once all had completed accreditation.
- A part time support officer role would be funded by the LNL and would be advertised shortly.
- Outreach work would be undertaken to engage Off-Licences.

4.2 In conclusion, the LNL Manager advised that as the economy re-opened, it was expected that income would return to regular levels by spring. The main focus of the Levy in the coming months would be the on-line portal and the Accreditation Scheme.

4.3 In response to questions from Members relating to the report, the LNL Manager responded as follows:

- The police were currently working on guidance for licensees on crime scene preservation, The guidance would be made available on the portal.
- The additional policing in Shoreditch had enabled the LNL patrols to go to other Night Time Economy areas in the borough.
- Joint partnership working with the police and other agencies was facilitated by weekly NTE meetings to tackle issues and monthly strategic meetings. Meetings were attended by the police, Hackney Licensing Team, Metropolitan Police Licensing Team and the Council's Enforcement, Community Safety and Environmental Health teams.
- To shape strategies on women's safety, the Council had engaged women and girls through 'Good Night Out' - the campaign for a safer nightlife, which had acted as a focus group. There had also been regular consultation with the Council's safety team. There were plans to carry out a survey within venues to get the views of women and girls on safety issues.
- Accredited venues would have a certain level of prestige and be subject to positive marketing. In addition, they would receive a 30% reduction in levy fees.
- A record was kept of training undertaken by venues and meetings attended. Attendance at Pubwatch meetings was not monitored as this was not Council led.
- Accredited venues were required to keep updated on training. The portal would trigger a visit to venues that were not engaging in training.
- Accreditation included a sustainability module.
- Stop and search figures and outcomes requested by Members at the last meeting in December 2021 were still awaited from the Police, who had been invited to attend the next Licensing Committee meeting.
- Pubwatch meetings were listed on the portal.
- It was recognised that Pubwatch participants use WhatsApp groups to communicate, however the police and Council were not legally permitted to do so.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Members of the Committee, paid tribute to the Chair and Vice Chair, Cllr Plouviez and Cllr Bell who were both standing down as Councillors at the election in May. Members placed on record their thanks and well wishes to them both.

5.2 There was no other business for consideration.

Wednesday 9 March 2022

Duration of the meeting: 7.00-8:00pm

Chair of the Licensing: Committee: Cllr Emma Plouviez

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