

## **Camden Cabinet - Michael Kill CEO NTIA**

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address the pressing issue of the decline in nightlife within Camden and across London over the past few years.

While Camden boasts an illustrious history of vibrant nightlife, recent trends indicate a troubling downturn that requires our immediate attention and action.

The statistics paint a stark picture: over 1000 Night Time Economy (NTE) businesses across London lost since 2020, with London bearing 43% of the brunt of the overall UK losses.

The hospitality and NTE sectors have witnessed the closure of over 23,000 businesses, with 6000 lost in the last year alone. These figures underscore the urgency of the situation, especially considering that one-third of jobs in Camden are within the Evening/Night Time Economy.

Inflation has exacerbated the problem, with businesses grappling with a 30-40% increase in operating costs coupled with a 15-20% downturn in trade over the last 24 months. Despite appearances, many businesses are barely staying afloat, with 7 out of 10 either breaking even or operating at a loss.

As we navigate through changing economic landscapes, it is imperative that we approach the issue holistically, taking into account the multifaceted impacts of our decisions. While evolution is inevitable, we must also acknowledge the integral role that nightlife plays in our communities. It is not merely about economic viability; it encompasses considerations of equality, access to culture, safe spaces for marginalised groups, and its profound influence on mental, social, and physical well-being.

The policy proposed by Camden represents a progressive step forward, one that prioritises the needs of all stakeholders while fostering a safe and vibrant environment for businesses to thrive. Importantly, this policy recognises the importance of regulatory flexibility, allowing for the assessment of each application on its merits, whether old or new.

The Night Time Industries Association, endorses this strategy because we believe it represents a balanced approach towards enhancing nightlife and developing community engagement.

Extending framework hours for pubs, clubs, and fast food outlets is not merely about economic growth; it is about initiating a journey and will allow us to build towards a harmonious relationship between businesses and residents, ensuring a dynamic safe and inclusive urban environment for all.

In conclusion, I urge the Cabinet to support this progressive stance and work collaboratively towards revitalising Camden's nightlife. By doing so, we uphold the legacy of this vibrant community while paving the way for a brighter, more prosperous future through true partnership.