

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Review of the Camden Late Night Levy 2025	
REPORT OF: Director of Recreation and Public Safety	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Licensing Committee	DATE: 24 November 2025
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>The Late-Night Levy (LNL), introduced under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, enables licensing authorities to raise a financial contribution from premises licensed to sell alcohol between midnight and 6am. In 2023 the Government revised the LNL guidance to make LNL more flexible, better targeted and transparent. In response to the changes and a manifesto commitment to review the LNL, the council commissioned an external consultant to review the LNL.</p> <p>To review the LNL scheme, the council must show that late night activities are placing additional demands on policing, enforcement and public services.</p> <p>This report presents the findings of the independent review of Camden's Late Night Levy (LNL), undertaken by SixTillSix Ltd and MAKE Associates, and presents options to the Licensing Committee on its future operation.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>The following documents have been used in the preparation of this report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Licensing Act 2003 2. Home Office Revised guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003 - GOV.UK <p>Contact Officer: William Sasu, Public Protection Manager 5 Pancras Square London, N1C 4AG Tel: 020 79744733 Email: william.sasu@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The Licensing Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Note the findings of the independent review of Camden's Late-Night Levy outlined within the report; and ii) Agree to proceed to a statutory 6-week consultation on the recommended option (option A, as outlined in appendix 2 of the report). 	

Signed:



Date: 12 November 2025

Oliver Jones
Director of Recreation and Public Safety

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 In February 2025, the council commissioned an independent review into its Late-Night Levy (LNL) in line with its commitment to review the LNL, engaging with residents and businesses about how best the funds generated can be spent to improve our town centres.
- 1.2 The council commissioned SixTillSix Ltd and MAKE Associates to carry out the review. The review was to evaluate whether the Levy is achieving its intended objectives of reducing crime and disorder, improving safety in the night-time economy, and ensuring that late-night businesses contribute fairly to the costs of managing associated impacts. It also explored options on how the Levy can be spent to improve our town centres.
- 1.3 This report provides the Licensing Committee with the findings of the independent review. The report also sets out options for the future of the LNL scheme.
- 1.4 Members are asked to consider the findings of the review and agree a 6-week public consultation on the recommended options to amend the Late-Night Levy, as outlined in section 4 of this report.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Late-Night Levy (LNL), introduced under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, enables licensing authorities to raise a financial contribution from premises licensed to sell alcohol between midnight and 6am.
- 2.2 Camden's late-night economy contributes significantly to the borough's cultural vibrancy and economic success but also generates challenges, including increased levels of alcohol-related crime, antisocial behaviour, and noise disturbance.
- 2.3 To promote fairness and shared responsibility, the Late-Night Levy requires licensed premises that benefit from extended trading hours to contribute towards the costs of managing these impacts. This approach ensures that the expense of additional policing, cleansing, and enforcement is not borne solely by residents or core public budgets.
- 2.4 The Levy provides a sustainable and equitable funding mechanism that helps maintain public safety, reduce disorder, and enhance the overall wellbeing of Camden's night-time economy and local communities.
- 2.5 The council adopted the Levy in April 2016 following extensive consultation and analysis of the borough's late-night economy. The decision was supported by clear evidence of alcohol-related crime, antisocial behaviour and public nuisance concentrated in key areas such as Camden Town, Holborn, and Tottenham Court Road, particularly during late-night hours.
- 2.6 Camden's vibrant nighttime economy generates challenges linked to crime and anti-social behaviour. Alcohol-related offences, such as public disorder, violence against a person (particularly women and girls), and criminal damage tend to peak during

weekend nights, which can stretch police and enforcement resources.

- 2.7 While overall crime levels in Camden's Night time economy fluctuate and has generally gone down (Camden's nighttime economy (NTE) crime data **Appendix 4**), the concentration of late-night venues in close proximity often leads to issues such as street drinking, drug-related activity, theft, violence against the person, public disorder incidents and noise related disturbances. Camden council and the Metropolitan Police have responded to these issues through targeted policies, partnership initiatives and promotion of best practice. The focus remains on balancing a thriving, diverse, and safe nighttime economy that supports businesses and residents while reducing alcohol related crime and disorder and improving public confidence.
- 2.8 Camden's nighttime economy (NTE) crime data (**Appendix 4**) demonstrates the scale and scope of late-night policing and management. The spatial and temporal mapping informs the need for the council to continue to target interventions, such as policing patrols, CCTV coverage, provision of sanitary facilities or street cleansing in the most affected areas. The crime data shows a decrease in most crime types. Whilst this cannot categorically be attributed to the extra officers funded through the LNL revenue, we do believe that having extra officers using the LNL had a big impact on the lower crime numbers.
- 2.9 The Levy was introduced with the objectives of:
- Reducing crime and disorder in the night-time economy (NTE).
 - Promoting public safety.
 - Ensuring businesses benefitting from late-night trade contribute fairly towards the costs of managing associated impacts.
- 2.10 The decision to adopt the Levy aligned with the Licensing Act 2003 objectives, particularly the prevention of crime and disorder and promotion of public safety and supported the priorities set out in the Camden Plan, which seeks to build a fair, safe, and well managed borough.
- 2.11 The decision also reflected comparative learning from early adopting authorities such as Islington and the City of London, where the Levy had proven effective in funding dedicated night-time policing and safety initiatives.
- 2.12 The amount of Late Night Levy money each venue pays is set at a national level. This charge is calculated according to the venue's rateable value. This system applies to the existing licence fee, and the levy charge is collected alongside the annual licence fee.
- 2.13 The spending of Levy revenue must be in connection with the supply of alcohol during the late-night period and relate to arrangements for one or all of the following:
- The reduction of crime and disorder
 - The promotion of public safety
 - The reduction or prevention of public nuisance
 - The cleaning of any relevant highway or relevant land in the local authority
- 2.14 Under the statutory framework, 70% of Levy revenue is allocated to the Metropolitan

Police via the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, with the remaining 30% retained by the council to fund measures that support and manage the evening and night-time economy. The 30% retained by the council is spent solely for the provision of six Uri-lift pop-up toilets at various locations in the borough.

- 2.15 The LNL spend is reported to the LNL consultative group which is made up of a small group of businesses and individuals representing trade associations (CILA), BIDs, and officers from the Metropolitan Police and the council.
- 2.16 Amendments introduced by the Police and Crime Act 2017 (implemented in 2023) allows licensing authorities to:
 - Apply the Levy to specific geographical areas.
 - Extend it to late-night refreshment premises; and
 - Require greater transparency and accountability in reporting Levy income and expenditure.
- 2.17 There has not been a review into the operation and effectiveness of the Levy since its introduction in April 2016.
- 2.18 The review commissioned by the council and undertaken by SixTillSix Ltd and MAKE associates paid particular attention to the transparency of how funds are spent, the fairness of its application across different parts of the borough, and the extent to which the Levy supports both businesses and local communities. The analysis draws on data from policing and enforcement activity, consultation feedback from residents and businesses, and comparative approaches taken by other local authorities.
- 2.19 SixTillSix Ltd and MAKE Associates are leaders in research and expert consultants in licensing, planning, place management, evening and nighttime strategy. Their services include objective, independent assessment for councils, police, licensing authorities, developers as well as evidence-based research methods focused on nighttime economies. They have worked collaboratively on several major projects across London including a major piece on Licensing, regulation and night time economy recovery for the Mayor of London, Greater London Authority (GLA) and London Councils. The consultants have undertaken or acted as advisors for more than 10 London boroughs, including Bromley, Merton, Richmond, Westminster, Hounslow and Hammersmith & Fulham.

3. Key Findings of the Review

- 3.1 The independent review drew on data analysis and stakeholder engagement with businesses, residents, Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), trade associations, the police and council officers.

Key issues identified include:

- **Transparency and oversight:** Stakeholders reported limited awareness of how Levy funds are spent and the need for clearer reporting and stronger business involvement in oversight.

- **Impact on businesses:** Mixed views were expressed. Some saw benefits in visible policing; others, particularly in quieter areas, considered the Levy delivered little value relative to its cost. National trade associations described it as a “punitive tax.”
- **Impact on residents:** Feedback was mixed. Some valued the police presence; others questioned whether the Levy addressed wider community concerns such as cleanliness and other environmental impacts.
- **Impact on policing:** The Levy funds around 72 hours of high visibility policing each week, primarily in Camden Town. Police evidence suggests reductions in theft and violent crime during deployment periods.
- **Fairness and equity:** Concerns were raised that benefits of the Levy are concentrated in Camden Town while other areas see limited impact. Some stakeholders favoured extending the Levy to late-night refreshment premises to improve fairness.
- **Comparative learning:** Hackney’s “Hackney Nights” programme ([Page | Hackney Nights](#)) was highlighted as an example of a more strategic, partnership-led model that reinvests Levy funds into training, accreditation, and business support alongside enforcement.

- 3.2 The review of Camden’s Late-Night Levy (LNL) highlights that while there are challenges and mixed perceptions, the Levy has delivered measurable benefits to the borough’s night-time economy. Most notably, it has directly funded an additional 72 hours of high visibility policing every week, leading to visible crime reduction and reassurance for residents, businesses, and visitors. Police data indicates decreases in theft, violent crime, and anti-social behaviour during periods when Levy-funded patrols are deployed, highlighting the tangible contribution the Levy makes to public safety by reducing crime and disorder.
- 3.3 Stakeholder feedback, although varied, underlines the Levy’s importance as a mechanism for supporting the borough’s late-night economy. Residents value the additional enforcement and visible police presence, while businesses particularly in high-activity areas acknowledge that the Levy plays a role in creating a safer trading environment. Importantly, the Levy ensures that those who benefit from late-night trading make a proportionate contribution towards the management of its impacts, aligning with the principle of fairness.
- 3.4 The review also identified areas where the Levy’s impact could be strengthened, such as improved transparency and accountability, with clearer reporting on how funds are spent and greater oversight by businesses. Concerns about fairness across the borough suggest a need to explore targeted or area-based approaches, while the inclusion of late-night refreshment premises towards the Levy contribution was seen as a means of widening responsibility and reducing perceptions of inequity.
- 3.5 The Levy clearly delivers measurable benefits in terms of dedicated policing and crime reduction, particularly in Camden Town. However, perceptions of fairness and transparency remain significant issues. Improvements in communication, oversight,

and reporting are essential if the Levy is to maintain credibility and stakeholder support. While there is scope to explore reforms or broader partnership approaches, officers are of the view that retaining the Levy with significant reforms and including late night refreshment premises in the Levy contribution, alongside stronger reporting mechanisms offers the most practical way to sustain policing capacity in the night-time economy while addressing stakeholder concerns.

4. Options appraisal

4.1 The review presents three possible options:

- a) Retain the Levy with significant reforms
- b) Retain the Levy in current form
- c) Remove the Levy

4.2 Option A (recommended)– Retain the Levy with significant reforms

4.3 Option A is the recommended option as it provides a balanced approach that sustains key benefits of the Late-Night Levy (LNL) while addressing concerns raised by stakeholders.

4.4 This option not only maintains the dedicated policing resource, ensuring 72 hours per week of high-visibility patrols and reducing crime and disorder but also improves transparency through annual and biannual reporting to the Licensing Committee and levy payers and strengthens business and community engagement via an expanded LNL consultative group.

4.5 It is anticipated that it will extend fairness by broadening the contribution base to include late-night refreshment premises and align levy spending with Camden's Night-Time Economy Strategy to promote safety, inclusivity, and vibrancy.

4.6 Implementation of this option requires additional administrative oversight and monitoring capacity. There is also potential for pushback from late-night refreshment premises newly brought into scope. Implementation of these reforms may take time to fully realise benefits.

4.7 More information on the recommended option is available in **Appendix 2**.

Other options

Option B – Retain the Levy in its current form

4.8 This option maintains the existing arrangements without introducing reforms or new transparency measures. Whilst it ensures continuity of dedicated police funding and visible enforcement presence, it fails to address fairness, transparency, and accountability concerns expressed by levy-paying businesses and therefore risks ongoing dissatisfaction.

Option C – Remove the Levy

4.9 This option responds to calls from trade bodies and businesses who consider the levy a financial burden. This option however removes approximately 72 hours per week of additional dedicated policing in our town centres, significantly reducing visible enforcement. It undermines public safety and reduces ability to effectively respond to late night economy challenges.

5. Next Steps

Activity	Date
Licensing Committee to consider and agree consultation on amendments to Camden Late Night Levy	24 November 2025
Consultation Start	01 December 2025
Consultation End	11 January 2026
Consultation Responses Report to Licensing Committee	9 February 2026
Full Council	2 March 2026

6. Finance Comments of the Director of Finance

- 6.1 There are no material financial implications concerning this report. The Director of Finance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to add.

7. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 The Borough Solicitor has been consulted, and legal comments have been provided in this report
- 7.2 Section 142 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, made changes to the late night levy to make the levy more flexible for local areas, fairer to business and more transparent to:
- allow licensing authorities the power to apply the levy to late night refreshment premises to assist with the cost of policing the night time economy
 - allow local authorities to target the levy in smaller geographical areas where the night time economy places demand on policing, rather than having to implement it across the entirety of their area.
 - permit PCCs the right to formally request that a licensing authority consult on implementing a levy.
 - require licensing authorities to publish information about how the revenue raised from the levy is spent.
- The decision to introduce, vary or end the requirement for the levy must be made by the full council.
- 7.3 Before making changes to the Levy it is good practice to consult on proposals with all premises licence holders who may be affected during the period when it is proposed the levy will apply particularly businesses, the police, residents and other interested parties. The views of all these persons or bodies should be given appropriate weight.
- 7.4 To give effect to the Council's public law duties and specific duties in relation to equalities, decision makers must take into account in coming to any decision the Council's equality duties and have due regard to them. In summary, these legal obligations require the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to

the need to: a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act (the protected characteristic of marriage and civil partnership is also relevant); b) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and c) foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't (which involves tackling prejudice and promoting understanding). Under the Duty, the relevant protected characteristics are Age, Disability, Gender reassignment, Pregnancy and maternity, Race, Religion, Sex, and Sexual orientation.

8. Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no environmental implications arising from the proposals within the report.

9. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) regarding the proposed changes has been produced.
- 9.2 The EIA has not identified that the proposed changes will adversely affect the holders of existing premises licences, those applying to hold licences, Responsible Authorities under the Licensing Act 2003, Council officers, and existing and potential residents of the borough.
- 9.3 The proposed changes will have a positive impact by aligning with the priorities of the Council including, but not limited to, promoting fairness and equality and promoting better health. The EIA identified no negative impacts on those with protected characteristics relating to age, disability, health, sex and socio-economic status.

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Review of the Camden Late Night Levy Report
Appendix 2 – Recommended Option (option A)
Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix 4 – Camden's Crime Data

REPORT ENDS