

Appendix 2: Recommended Option (Option A)

Retain the Levy with Significant Reforms

- **Maintain Dedicated Policing Resource**
 - Continue to allocate the majority of Levy income to fund dedicated high-visibility policing interventions across the night-time economy.
 - Retain current funding allocations of 70% to the Met Police and 30% retained by the Council to ensure consistent and reliable police deployment.
- **Enhance Transparency and Accountability**
 - Publish an annual report to Licensing Committee detailing Levy income, expenditure, and outcomes.
 - Provide monthly police updates on officer hours, activities, and impact (e.g. arrests, seizures, safeguarding interventions) to the LNL consultative group.
 - Monthly update to the LNL Consultative Group.
- **Strengthen Stakeholder Engagement**
 - Expand the Late-Night Levy Consultative Group to include a broader range of businesses, alongside Council licensing officers, community safety teams, and the police.
 - Meetings held monthly and to include levy-paying licensees in oversight of spending.
- **Broaden the Contribution Base and Refine Exemptions**
 - Extend the Levy to late-night refreshment premises to reflect their role in the late-night economy and to increase fairness.
 - Retain or introduce exemptions and reductions for community premises and amateur sports clubs.
 - Maintain BID reductions but require evidence of activity that reduces the negative impacts on the night-time economy for levy-paying businesses to benefit from the 30% relief.
- **Embed in a Strategic Framework**
 - Align the Levy with Camden's wider Night-Time Economy Strategy, ensuring it contributes to safety, inclusivity, and vibrancy.
 - Appoint a Late-Night Manager/Coordinator to oversee Levy-funded initiatives, strengthen engagement with businesses, and champion best practice. The Manager/Coordinator would support local businesses,

- promote initiatives like WAVE and Ask for Angela, and provide feedback through multi-agency forums.

This option ensures continuity of funding for additional policing, and high-visibility patrols shown to reduce theft and violent crime. Provides stability and predictability in budgeting for enforcement activity.

To address concerns about oversight, the Council will improve Transparency and Communication by:

- Publishing an annual public report detailing Levy income, expenditure, and measurable outcomes to the Licensing Committee.
- Providing six-monthly updates to the Licensing Committee and Levy-paying businesses, ensuring timely reporting of spend and impact.
- Establishing a dedicated online information hub on the Council's website where updates, case studies, and outcome reports will be made available.

To ensure fairer representation, the Consultative Group will be expanded to include:

- A wider range of Levy-paying businesses (both large and small operators, including late-night refreshment premises if included).
- Business Improvement District (BID) representatives and Pubwatch members.
- This expanded group will continue to meet monthly and act as a forum to scrutinise Levy spending, share best practice, and advise on future priorities.

Extend the Levy to include late-night refreshment premises (hot food and drink served between 11pm and 5am) would:

- Increase fairness by ensuring that all late-night operators benefitting from the night-time economy contribute towards its management.
- Provide additional funding to support enforcement and management, potentially increasing police capacity and resources for safety initiatives.
- Help address perceptions of inequity expressed by existing Levy payers, who currently shoulder the full burden of funding despite late-night refreshment outlets also contributing to public safety and challenges within the night-time economy.

This is the recommended option to the Committee, because this approach offers a

practical balance between continuity and reform, ensuring the Levy continues to meet its objectives while improving credibility and trust among businesses and residents.