


<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>	<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b> Improving Disabled Access in Licensed Premises and Events Update	
<b>REPORT OF:</b> Director of Recreation and Public Safety	
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b> Licensing Committee	<b>DATE:</b> 24 November 2025
<p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT</b></p> <p>At the meeting that took place on 7 July 2025, the Licensing Committee heard from Attitude is Everything and discussed a report on "Improving Disabled Access in Licensed Premises and Events". Accessibility within licensed venues is directly relevant to the Licensing Committee, particularly in ensuring that premises operate in a manner consistent with the Council's statutory duties and policy objectives under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Equality Act 2010. The Committee's role includes promoting the licensing objectives particularly public safety and the prevention of public nuisance, which encompasses ensuring that venues are safe, inclusive, and accessible to all members of the community. Accessibility also supports Camden Council's wider corporate priorities around equality, diversity and inclusion, and contributes to fostering a vibrant and inclusive nighttime economy that serves our residents and visitors equitably.</p> <p>This report provides an update on the accessibility work carried out by officers and intentions for future plans and invites the Committee to comment on this work.</p> <p><b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b> No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> William Sasu, Public Protection Manager 5 Pancras Square London, N1C 4AG Tel: 020 79744733 Email: <a href="mailto:william.sasu@camden.gov.uk">william.sasu@camden.gov.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>The Licensing Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Note and comment on the report; and</li> <li>ii) Provide comments on the areas the committee would find most valuable for future accessibility work and site visits to see examples of best practice.</li> </ul>	

Signed:



Date: 13 November 2025

Oliver Jones  
Director of Recreation and Public Safety

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 In July 2025, the Licensing Committee discussed Improving Disabled Access in Licensed Premises and Events. The organisation Attitude is Everything attended the meeting to share their expertise. In response the Committee requested officers to undertake some exploratory work and organise visits to venues considered to be delivering good practice.
- 1.2 This report provides an interim update on the work undertaken by officers and invites members to share reflections and comments on this work and identify areas the Committee would like to focus on as this work progresses

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Camden Council is committed to ensuring its licensed venues and nighttime economy is safe, inclusive and welcoming for everyone. The Council recognises that accessibility in licensed venues is an essential part of this ambition.
- 2.2 While the Licensing Act 2003 does not explicitly list accessibility as one of the four licensing objectives, the Council's responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010, along with its wider corporate priorities on equality, diversity, and inclusion, makes it clear that accessibility is a key consideration in how licensed venues are designed, managed and operated.
- 2.3 Ensuring that Camden residents, visitors and workers with disabilities or other access needs can safely and comfortably enjoy Camden's nighttime economy contributes to both public safety and social inclusion.
- 2.4 This work has developed in response to concerns raised through engagement with residents, disability advocacy groups, and community organisations who have highlighted barriers faced by people with physical, sensory or neurodiverse needs when accessing licensed premises.
- 2.5 The Council has embedded good practice into its licensing approach regarding disability access, including:
  - Pre-application advice that promotes accessible design and encourages applicants to provide:
    - o Clear signage for accessible entrances
    - o Details of step free access
    - o Toilets suitable for wheelchair users
    - o Communication aids were needed.
  - Collaboration with planning/ building control to meet access standards.
  - Consultation with disabled residents and organisations.
  - Accessibility consideration in Event Management Plans for large events.
- 2.6 Ongoing and future work will focus on establishing and promoting:
  - Accessibility guidance and checklist for venues
  - Training and capacity building for staff in licensed venues to enable them to identify and properly assist disabled patrons and visitors to their venues.

- Partnership and community engagement.
- Enforcement and monitoring to ensure compliance.

### **3. Interim update**

#### Local accessibility pledge

- 3.1 At the meeting of Licensing Committee that took place in July 2025, officers committed to meet with representatives from Attitude is Everything and explore options to create a bespoke accessibility pledge for Camden venues. A further meeting is scheduled for later in November 2025.
- 3.2 The main objective for this meeting is to explore the feasibility of having a local version of an accessibility pledge developed, based on the extensive experience of Attitude is Everything. Work will also be undertaken to explore how the Council can raise awareness among disabled residents about available schemes such as the Nimbus Access Card.

#### Good practice visits

- 3.3 The Roundhouse was highlighted as providing good practice for accessibility and is recognised as an Attitude is Everything Gold Charter awardee. At the request of the Chair of Licensing Committee, a site visit was arranged for Committee members to see an example of best practice in the Borough. The visit took place on the 22nd of July 2025 with officers and members of the Licensing Committee present.
- 3.4 Senior representatives at the Roundhouse provided a tour of the facilities on site, highlighting:
- A world class commitment to supporting access to the venue
  - Providing a bespoke offer to support individual support needs, noting that these are often very varied due to the breadth of the offer at the Roundhouse.
  - An in-depth online portal that provides
    - o Accessibility booking routes
    - o Details of accessible performance
    - o Detailed venue information
    - o A visual guide of the venue
    - o Option to request a call back from the dedicated team
- 3.5 Officers are also in the process of organising a site visit to The O2 arena in Greenwich, which has been awarded Platinum status by the Attitude is Everything Live Events Access Charter. The aim of this visit will be to identify in practice, what good accessibility looks like with the view of incorporating it into Camden's work.

### **4. Finance Comments of the Director of Finance**

- 4.1 This report provides an interim update and invites members to share reflections and comments on work and identify areas the Committee would like to focus on in future as work progresses.
- 4.2 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.

## **5. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

- 5.1 The Council must comply with the public sector equality duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This is a duty to have regard to the need to achieve the statutory goals of s.149, rather than to achieve a particular result. The s149 duty sits alongside and does not override statutory requirements in relation to determining this policy.
- 5.2 When Members have before them material on issues relevant to s149, such material must be specifically assessed in the context of s149. However, because s149 creates a requirement to “have regard” the fact a matter raised is relevant to s149 will not automatically translate into a reason for refusing an application that would be sustainable in any subsequent appeal, given the legal requirement to determine applications in compliance with legislation

## **6. Environmental Implications**

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

**REPORT ENDS**