

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Review of the Camden Late Night Levy	
REPORT OF: Director of Recreation and Public Safety	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Licensing Committee Council	DATE: 11 February 2026 2 March 2026
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This report sets out the responses received during the statutory consultation on proposed changes to Camden's Late Night Levy (LNL), following the independent review commissioned by the Council. The consultation sought views on retaining, varying or ending the Levy, and on specific reform measures including transparency arrangements, governance, geographic targeting and extending the Levy to late-night refreshment premises, as enabled by national legislation.</p> <p>The consultation responses indicate majority support for retaining the Levy with significant reforms. This report summarises the findings, key themes and proposed refinements to the recommended option, and seeks the Licensing Committee's approval and recommendation to Council.</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. <u>Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011</u> 2. <u>Amended guidance on the late night levy - GOV.UK</u> 3. <u>Licensing Act 2003</u> 4. <u>Revised guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003 - GOV.UK</u> <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>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That the Licensing Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) Consider and note the consultation responses to the proposed amendments to Camden's Late Night Levy (LNL); and ii) Recommend to Council that the Late Night Levy be retained with significant reforms, including enhanced transparency and reporting, strengthened 	

stakeholder oversight arrangements, and extension of the levy contribution to relevant late-night refreshment premises.

That Council:

- i) Approve the retention of the Late Night Levy with significant reforms, including enhanced transparency and reporting, strengthened stakeholder oversight arrangements, and extension of the levy contribution to relevant late-night refreshment premises.

Signed:



Oliver Jones
Director of Recreation and Public Safety

Date: 30th January 2026

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report provides the Licensing Committee with the results of the statutory public consultation undertaken on proposed amendments to Camden's Late Night Levy (LNL).
- 1.2. The report summarises the consultation responses (quantitative results and key themes) and suggests minor amendments to the recommended option, informed by the feedback received.
- 1.3. The Licensing Committee is asked to consider the consultation responses and recommend to Council the preferred approach for the future operation of the Levy.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Late Night Levy (LNL) enables licensing authorities to raise a financial contribution from premises licensed to supply alcohol between midnight and 6am, to help meet the costs of policing and managing the late-night economy.
- 2.2. Camden adopted the Levy in April 2016. Under the statutory framework, 70% of Levy revenue is allocated to the Metropolitan Police (via the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) and 30% is retained by the Council to address the impacts connected to the evening and night time economy.
- 2.3. The levy is dependent on the rateable value of the premises, and the levy amounts are set by the government:

Rateable value	Annual Levy	Cost per week
Band A (Nil - £4,300)	£299	£5.75
Band B (£4,301-£33,000)	£768	£14.76
Band C (£33,001-£87,000)	£1,259	£24.21
Band D (£87,001-£125,000)	£1,365* (£2,730)	£26.25 (£52.50)
Band E (£125,001 and above)	£1,493* (£4,440)	£28.71 (£85.38)

*Those that are band D or E where the main use is the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises will pay an additional fee.

- 2.4. The table below summarises the distribution of levy-liable premises by rateable value band and the corresponding levy income collected in **2024/25**. It sets out, for each band, the applicable levy fee, the number of premises charged, and the total income generated.

Rateable Band	Levy Fee	No. of Premises	Income Generated
Band A	£299	4	£1,196
Band B	£768	50	£38,400

Band C	£1,259	77	£96,943
Band D	£1,365	23	£31,395
Band E	£1,493	78	£116,454
Band D Multiplier	£2,730	0	£0
Band E Multiplier	£4,400	1	£4,400
Total		233	£288,788

- 2.5. In February 2025, the Council commissioned an independent review of Camden's LNL to assess whether it remains fit for purpose and to identify options for its future operation, including potential reforms to improve transparency, fairness and targeting.
- 2.6. At a meeting of the Licesning Committee in November 2025, the Committee considered a report which presented 3 options for the committee to consider for consultation. The options were as follows:
- Option A - Retain the Levy with significant reforms (recommended)
Option B - Retain the Levy in current form
Option C - Remove the Levy
- 2.7. Following consideration of the report, the options available and the independent review, the Licensing Committee agreed that a statutory 6-week consultation be undertaken on the recommended option: to retain the Levy with significant reforms (which was presented as Option A in the report).
- 2.8. This report presents the committee with the responses to the consultation and recommends that the Licensing Committee recommends that the Council retains the Late Night Levy with significant reforms, including enhanced transparency and reporting, strengthened stakeholder oversight arrangements, and extension of the levy contribution to relevant late-night refreshment premises.

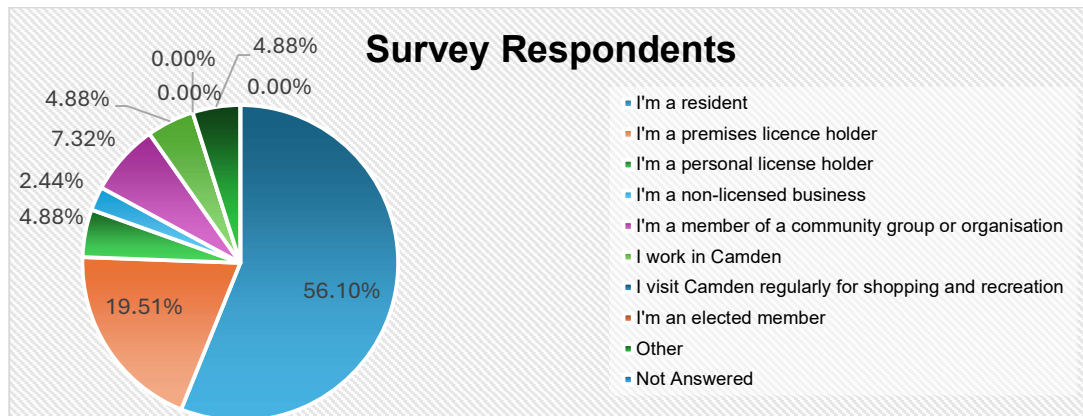
3. Consultation Process

- 3.1. The statutory consultation ran for six weeks from 1 December 2025 to 11 January 2026.
- 3.2. Responses were received via an online survey and written submissions. All responses were considered in the preparation of this report.

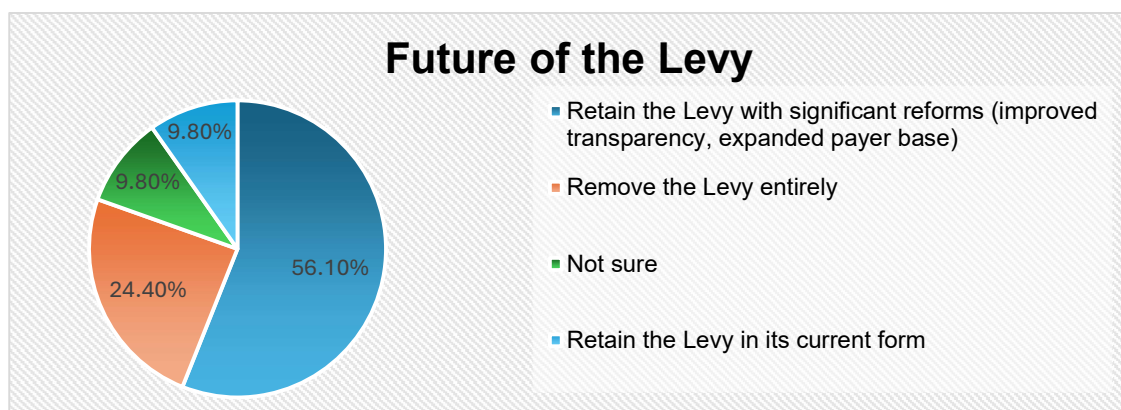
4. Summary of consultation responses

- 4.1. The consultation received a total of 41 responses through the online survey and 1 written response.
- 4.2. 30 responses were submitted by individuals and 12 were submitted on behalf of a group or organisation.

4.3. Respondents identified their primary connection to Camden as follows:



4.4. On the future of the Levy, respondents expressed the following preferences:



4.5. Overall, 16 respondents (39.0%) agreed that the Levy has helped reduce crime, disorder and/or public nuisance, 13 (31.7%) disagreed, and 12 (29.3%) were unsure.

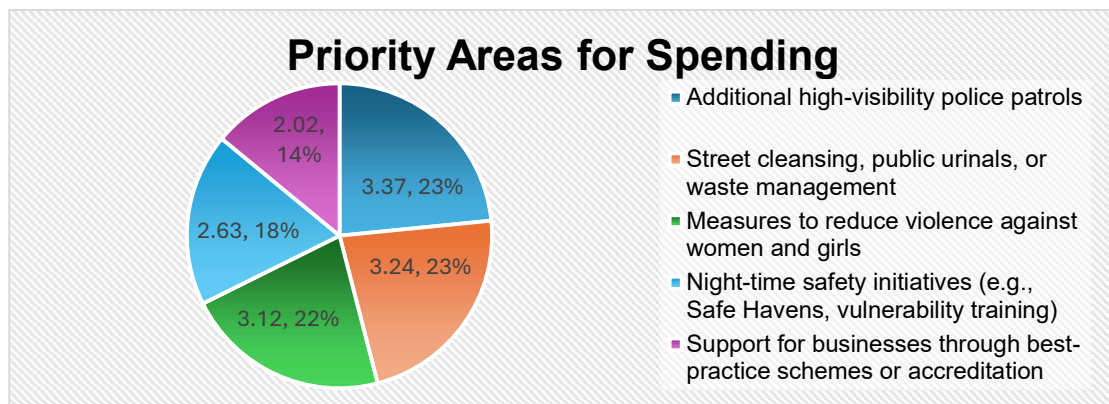
4.6. On transparency of Levy spending, 18 respondents (43.9%) reported they do not have enough information about how Levy funds are spent and what results they achieve; 11 (26.8%) reported they do; and 12 (29.3%) were unsure.

4.7. On extending the Levy to late-night refreshment premises, 24 respondents (58.5%) supported/strongly supported the proposal, 13 (31.7%) opposed/strongly opposed it, and 4 (9.8%) did not know.

4.8. On whether the Levy should apply borough-wide or be targeted geographically, responses were mixed: 13 (31.7%) favoured borough-wide application; 10 (24.4%) favoured applying only in high-impact areas; 8 (19.5%) favoured a zoned approach; and 10 (24.4%) did not know.

4.9. 30 respondents (73.2%) considered it important/very important that Levy-payers and local stakeholders have access to regular updates on Levy spending and outcomes; 10 (24.4%) considered it not important/not very important.

- 4.10. When asked to rank spending priorities, respondents tended to prioritise additional high-visibility police patrols and street cleansing/public facilities, with measures to reduce violence against women and girls most frequently selected as the single top priority.



5. Key Themes from Consultation Feedback

- 5.1. The consultation feedback highlighted several key themes. These have been grouped under public safety and crime, fairness and equity, transparency and governance, geographic targeting, and priorities for Levy spend.
- 5.2. **Public safety and crime reduction:** Views on the Levy's effectiveness were mixed. A significant proportion of respondents reported uncertainty about the Levy's impact locally, with others citing either perceived benefits from additional policing or a lack of visible change. Several respondents called for clearer evidence of outcomes and wider visibility of enforcement activity.
- 5.3. **Transparency and accountability:** A consistent theme was limited awareness of how Levy funds are spent. Respondents requested clearer financial reporting, information on the allocation of funds, and demonstrable outcomes (for example, crime reductions and improvements in cleanliness or safety).
- 5.4. **Fairness of who pays:** Responses were divided on whether the current payer base is fair. Some respondents supported the principle that late-night alcohol businesses should contribute to management costs, while others described the Levy as burdensome and questioned whether it duplicates costs already met through private security or other charges.
- 5.5. **Inclusion of late-night refreshment premises:** A majority supported extending the Levy to late-night refreshment premises, often on the basis that such premises contribute to late-night footfall and associated impacts. Opposing views emphasised the financial pressure on smaller operators and suggested any extension should be proportionate and tightly aligned to late-night operating hours.
- 5.6. **Borough-wide versus area-based application:** Respondents expressed mixed views, with support for borough-wide application driven by fairness and the view that impacts can disperse across the borough, while support for targeting reflected a desire to align charging with where impacts are most acute. Several respondents

highlighted the need for clear definitions and an evidence base if a zoned approach is pursued.

- 5.7. **Use of Levy funds:** Across the responses, there was support for spending that delivers visible, practical benefits, including policing, street cleansing/public toilets, and night-time safety initiatives. The ranked question suggests comparatively lower priority for business support/accreditation when compared with policing and environmental measures, although some respondents favoured a balanced approach that includes prevention and partnership activity.
- 5.8. **Equalities and community impacts:** Some respondents identified potential positive impacts for women, older residents, disabled people and LGBT+ communities through improved safety. Others raised potential negative impacts related to noise and sensory overload, and economic impacts where additional costs might affect business viability or employment opportunities.

6. Further changes proposed to the Levy reforms

- 6.1. Having regard to the consultation responses, officers propose the following refinements to Option A (retain the Levy with significant reforms). These refinements are intended to address the strongest themes raised by respondents, particularly transparency, governance and proportionality.
- 6.2. **Transparency and reporting:** publish an annual Levy income and expenditure statement with a clear narrative of funded activity and outcomes and provide a mid-year update to the Licensing Committee and Levy-payers. Reports should include metrics (e.g., Levy-funded patrol hours, deployment locations, and relevant crime/disorder indicators) and a clear explanation of Council-retained spend.
- 6.3. **Oversight arrangements:** review the Levy consultative group's terms of reference, membership and meeting schedule to strengthen business and community oversight while avoiding undue administrative burden. Outputs from the group should be summarised and published alongside the annual report.
- 6.4. **Geographic targeting:** maintain borough-wide charging, while using evidence to target deployment and interventions in high-impact areas.
- 6.5. **Late-night refreshment extension:** progress the extension of the Levy contribution to relevant late-night refreshment premises, with scheme designed to focus on proportionality. It is anticipated that widening the LNL scheme to include late-night refreshment venues will generate additional revenue in the region of £38,000.
- 6.6. **Spend priorities:** align council-retained Levy spend to deliver visible environmental and safety improvements (including public toilets/cleansing and night-time safety initiatives), informed by the ranked priorities expressed by respondents and consistent with the statutory purposes of Levy spend.

- 6.7. **Communications:** implement an approach to improve awareness of the Levy, how it is spent, and how stakeholders can engage, including direct communication to Levy-payers and accessible public reporting.

7. Next Steps

- 7.1. Subject to the Licensing Committee's comments and recommendation, this report will be submitted to Council on 2 March 2026 for a consideration and recommends that Council retain the late night levy.
- 7.2. If Council approves, officers will implement the updated reporting and governance arrangements and undertake any required statutory steps to give effect to the revised Levy scheme.

8. Finance Comments of the Director of Finance

- 8.1. 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.

9. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 9.1. The Borough Solicitor has been consulted, and legal comments have been provided in this report.
- 9.2. 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.
- 9.3. The decision to introduce, vary or end the requirement for the levy must be made by the full council.
- 9.4. 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.

- 9.5. 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.

10. Environmental Implications

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

11. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 11.1. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been produced in relation to the proposed changes.
- 11.2. The EIA has not identified that the proposed changes will adversely affect licence holders, applicants, responsible authorities, Council officers, or existing and potential residents of the borough.
- 11.3. The proposed changes are anticipated to have a positive impact by aligning with the priorities of the Council including 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.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of consultation responses (quantitative results)
Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix 3 – Review of the Camden Late Night Levy Report
Appendix 4 – All Consultation responses (survey output)

REPORT ENDS