

## Deputation to Culture & Environment Scrutiny Committee – 23/02/2026

### Subject: GLA Consultation on London Strategic Licensing Policy – Closing date 26/03/2026

Last week the GLA published, for consultation, its first Draft Strategic Licensing Policy for London. Up until now responsibility for Licensing has been subject to Statements of Licensing Policy published by each local authority, including Camden. Several members of this Committee also sit on the Licensing Committee and its sub-committees and so are responsible for granting, amending and refusing applications.

In 2017 the Mayor published “From good night to a great night, A Vision For London As A 24-Hour City”. The Mayor’s introduction ends by saying the following.

*A balance must be struck between work, rest and play for London’s eight million residents. No matter what time we go to bed, we all need good sleep. Nothing we do must compromise that basic right.*

The Mayor apparently thinks that this is no longer a basic right. The GLA’s Draft Policy significantly tips the balance in Licensing in favour of businesses and so will make it much more difficult for residents living in Camden South of the Euston Road and in Camden Town to get good sleep.

- It requires any representations, including those from EH and the Police, to be supported by hard evidence, which is difficult to provide when discussing something that hasn’t happened yet.
- It requires Committees considering applications to take into account the London Plan designation of certain areas as ones suitable for night-time uses, and so implies you should ignore concerns from residents in these areas about ASB and noise that might result.
- It emphasises economic growth, implying that the need for this outweighs the need of residents for a good night’s sleep.

The Mayor is also likely to receive the power to call in applications that are of “Strategic Importance” and overturn a decision reached by Camden. This power will apply to most of the South of Camden, so applies to the majority of Licensing decisions which are made by the Council. The proposed definition would apply not only to a venue like Koko or the Electric Ballroom but also to a small takeaway on a side street in Kings Cross.

We believe that this Draft Policy is a significant power grab by the Mayor. Camden has, in the last 2 years, agreed an Evening & Night-Time Strategy and published a renewed Statement of Licensing Policy. We believe that these documents broadly get the right balance between businesses that want to operate at night and residents who are impacted by them. The Mayor’s proposed Draft Policy and associated call-in powers would hugely change this balance.

The Mayor’s Strategy was published after the last Licensing Committee meeting, which would have been the obvious place to start. Because of this I am making a Deputation to this Committee to request that **you ask officers to review the GLA Draft Proposal in detail and make a detailed consultation response that makes clear the concerns of residents, especially those that live in the key Night Time Economy areas and so ensure that Camden can maintain the existing balance between ENTE businesses and those who live in the vicinity of them.**

We attach a document setting out our concerns in more detail.