



# Licensing Committee Report

Date	<b>20 March 2019</b>
Classification	<b>For General Release</b>
Title or report	<b>Developing an Evening and Night Time Vision</b>
Report of	<b>Director of Policy, Performance and Communication</b>
Decision maker	<b>Licensing Committee</b>
Wards involved	<b>All</b>
Financial summary	<b>There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. All costs associated with the development of the Evening and Night Time Vision will be met through existing budgets.</b>
Report author and telephone	<b>Mr Kerry Simpkin, Interim Licensing Policy and Strategy Manager. Tel: 020 7641 1840</b>

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the approach to the development of the councils Evening and Night Time Vision. The vision will enable the council to set out how it wants to see the evening and night time economy develop over the next 20 years. The proposed vision would become a pro-active tool which will focus future policy and strategy development and guide operational and service delivery.
- 1.2 The Committee is requested to consider the proposals for the councils Evening and Night Time Vision and provide any feedback or comments to assist officers in its development.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 City for All commits the council to introduce a new Licensing Policy by 2021 to ensure that Westminster remains a major night time destination, balancing the needs of residents, visitors and businesses. A key enabler of this is articulating the council's vision of the evening and night time. The council has defined the evening as the hours between 6pm and 11pm and night time between the hours of 11pm and 6am.

### 3. Rationale and Purpose

- 3.1 Our City is one of the most popular evening and night time (ENT)<sup>1</sup> destinations in the world and through our planning, licensing, culture, regeneration, community safety and economic powers, our role has been vital in shaping our city at night. However, the council does not have a clearly articulated vision or strategy that directly provides a framework for an aspirational ENT environment.
- 3.2 Growing visitor volumes, recent changes to transport availability and capacity, the diversity of leisure options available at night and ongoing pressure to better balance economic growth against residential amenity to ensure Westminster continues to be a place where people can live and visit, as well as do business - has afforded us the opportunity to rethink what type of City we want to be at night.
- 3.3 We want to design an ambitious 'Evening and Night Time Vision' that clearly articulates what we want our City to be able to offer by 2040. This vision will:
- 3.3.1 **Allow us to focus on what is most important to us and our community.** There is a number of ongoing and established international and national Night Time visions (most recently the GLA), strategies and academic research that cover a vast breadth of knowledge and recommended actions for improving cities at night. Therefore, by creating a locally focused set of priorities this will enable us to focus on what we want for our city and community and dismiss other recommendations which do not contribute to our ambition.
  - 3.3.2 **Act as the basis for all decision-making about our City at night between now and 2040.** This will ensure that every significant change or action we seek to do whether it be future Policy and Strategy Development (such as the Licensing Policy Review), our Public Realm Design and Projects, as well as Operational and Service Responses are contributing together towards achieving an agreed long-term goal.
  - 3.3.3 **Create a memorable, inspirational and succinct statement about what the council and our community is trying to achieve.** This will help third parties such as business investors or the media better understand the rationale for the decisions we take.
  - 3.3.4 **Provide the framework for an Evening and Night Time Strategy.** Following the vision, the council can then begin to focus on what evidence we need to gather to support the development of a shorter-term strategy and action plan to begin working towards our goals.

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<sup>1</sup> Evening and Night Time (ENT) reflects the hours between 6pm and 6am.

#### 4. Proposed goals to include within our vision statement

- 4.1 Based on officer research, as well as previous engagement with the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Licensing and the Chair of the Licenisng Committee, officers propose that any vision should include the following five themes, which are reflective of our City for All aims:

*By 2040 we want our city at night to offer:*

- 4.1.1 **A diverse & inclusive array of entertainment and opportunity:** where more experiential activities attract families and older people; where new venues and activities emerge in underused spaces, and where traditional spaces by day take on new uses at night; where cultural offers are extended later into the evening and night, and where welcoming public spaces encourage strolling and exploring; a place where workers can access basic services and later into the night and venues are inclusive to all regardless of age, race, disability, gender, and sexual orientation.
- 4.1.2 **A safe and welcoming place to live, visit and work:** where public spaces are safe and free of anti-social behaviour and violence; where streets are free from clutter and way finding in the city is easier; where travelling into and around our city attracts older people and families; where public spaces and lighting design out opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour; where night workers, women and vulnerable people feel as safe at night as they should during the day; where businesses, authorities, our community and the public work together to protect those most vulnerable at night; where there is respect between visitors and residents; where finding information and signposting is easily accessible at all times of the night.
- 4.1.3 **Business growth is balanced with residential amenity and good regulation:** where planning and licensing supports innovation and creativity for opening businesses later or where running an event late at night is easier; where there is effective enforcement and monitoring and poorly managed venues are held accountable; where compliance information is easily accessible and the complaint-making process is clear and simple; where residents are guaranteed peace and respite from disturbance late at night.
- 4.1.4 **Local solutions that reflect local character:** where problems are solved in proactive partnership at a local level; where services are tailored to support our neighbourhoods; where our community has more say in the decisions we take.

4.1.5 **A greener and more sustainable environment:** where more consumers and late-trading businesses, especially pubs, clubs and restaurants improve environmental outcomes through the use reduction of one use plastics, where businesses and public spaces ensure more efficient and energy-saving lights are used; where the majority of commercial waste is recyclable or compostable; where the streets are kept free of litter and waste.

## 5. Next Steps and timeline

- 5.1 Officers will begin consulting with all council directorates and Members to help shape the vision into a usable document.
- 5.2 The Mayors Night Time Commission report, “Think Night: London’s Neighbourhoods from 6pm to 6am” has now been published and the development of this vision will be considered in light of the recommendations from that report. However, some of the recommendations from this report may not support the council’s local vision for its ENT. Where that is the case, the reasons for not adopting the recommendations will be highlighted. A copy of the Night Time Commissions report can be found via [www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/arts-and-culture/mayors-cultural-vision/london-night-time-commission](http://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/arts-and-culture/mayors-cultural-vision/london-night-time-commission).
- 5.3 Officers intend to undertake a public consultation exercise on the draft vision before formally publishing the council’s Evening and Night Time Vision in Summer 2019.

<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update to all directorates and get their early input through ELT</li> <li>• Invitation to Members to input through informal cabinet (25<sup>th</sup> March)</li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft vision and design</li> </ul>
<b>May – June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public consultation (6 weeks)</li> </ul>
<b>July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption by full Cabinet</li> <li>• Publication</li> </ul>

- 5.4 Once the Evening and Night Time Vision is published it will be one of the main documents used to drive the revision of the councils Licensing Policy for Alcohol, Regulated Entertainment and Late-Night Refreshment. It is planned that the revision to the councils Licensing Policy will be focused on delivering this vision. The revised Licensing Policy must be published by January 2021 to meet the statutory 5-year revision period.

## 6. Staffing Implications

- 6.1 There are no staffing implications as a result of this decision.

**If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect any of the background papers, please contact:**

Miss Kirsty Munro, Principal Policy Officer or Mr Kerry Simpkin, Interim Licensing Policy and Strategy Manager - Policy, Performance and Communications

**Background Papers**

Cabinet Member Briefing Note “Developing an Evening and Night Time Vision - 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Night Time Commission Think Night: London’s Neighbourhoods from 6pm to 6am report – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019