

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL  
LICENSING  
04 APR 2014

Late Night Levy  
Licensing Department  
Tamar Building  
Eastcroft Depot  
London Road  
Nottingham  
NG2 3AH

February 2014

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing in response to the consultation on Nottingham City Council's proposals to introduce a Late Night Levy.

I do not believe it is appropriate for Nottingham City Council to introduce a Late Night Levy, for the following reasons:

1. The levy is fundamentally unfair.
2. The levy is an additional burden on premises already operating in difficult financial circumstances.
3. Licensed businesses already contribute substantially to Nottingham's services through the payment of business rates, tax and other duties.
4. The levy penalises responsible operators.
5. The levy is not targeted at problem premises.
6. Other powers already exist to deal with problem premises.
7. The levy is collected by the Council but the Police gain the most benefit.
8. There is no specific requirement for the majority of the funds collected to be spent on policing and management of the night-time economy.
9. There is no specific requirement for the majority of the levy to be spent on services in the area in which it is paid.
10. Nottingham City Council propose to use their share of the levy monies to fund three CPO posts. The council have confirmed that these are to be deployed across the whole of the City Council area, not just in the city centre, so the resource will be stretched and of minimal impact.
11. Operators are being required to make up the shortfall created by financial cut-backs imposed on the public sector.

12. The Late Night Levy is a threat to the existence of the Nottingham Business Improvement District (BID). Businesses will not be able to afford to pay the Late Night Levy and the BID levy.
13. Should the BID cease to exist or cease to operate in the night time economy, the initiatives that would be lost such as Taxi Marshals, Best Bar None, Business Crime Reduction in the night time economy and Street Pastor sponsorship would fall to the City Council to provide, or would simply be lost. This would have a detrimental effect on crime in the night time economy, which would not be offset by the introduction of the three CPO posts spread across the whole City Council area.
14. The introduction of a Late Night Levy in Nottingham projects a negative image of the city to the public, as it suggests that there is an issue with alcohol related crime and disorder.
15. The Late Night Levy will have a negative impact on unemployment in the city if premises choose to reduce their hours or close altogether.
16. The Late Night Levy could deter potential investors to the city, who may favour an alternative location where a Late Night Levy is not in operation.
17. The Late Night Levy is not supportive of the partnership approach to alcohol related crime reduction that has proven successful in the city in recent years, and does not recognise the achievements to date of this partnership approach.
18. The amount of levy likely to be spent on additional measures in the night time economy is not substantial. It is questionable whether the supposed benefits it will bring will offset what will potentially be lost.
19. The diversity of the late night economy could be detrimentally affected if premises choose to reduce their hours of operation to avoid paying the levy.

Should the City Council introduce a levy, a full exemption should apply for those businesses within the Nottingham BID.

I am a person involved in the licensed trade in Nottingham City Centre.

SQUARES