



# Committee Report

Date	<b>28 November 2017</b>
Classification	<b>For General Release</b>
Title or report	<b>Inclusion in the Evening and Night Time Economy Policy and Scrutiny Task Group</b>
Report of	<b>Director of Policy, Performance and Communications</b>
Decision maker	<b>Licensing Committee</b>
Wards involved	<b>All</b>
Financial summary	<b>The costs associated with this task group will be funded via the Scrutiny budget and all staffing resources required will come from existing budgets.</b>
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## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 the City Management and Public Protection Policy and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a task group to investigate inclusion in the evening and night time economy. This report presents the terms of reference of the task group to the Licensing Committee.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee note the terms of reference of the Inclusion in the Evening and Night Time Economy Task Group.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 In June 2018, anecdotal reports surfaced that some nightclubs in the West End had discriminatory admission policies. As part of the council's response to these reports, the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Licensing requested that the City Management and Public Protection Policy and Scrutiny Committee carry out an investigation into inclusion in the evening and night time economy.

3.2 At its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September the committee established a task group to undertake this investigation. The task group will be led by Councillor Iain Bott.

#### The scope of the task group

3.3 The task group will focus on addressing the key questions identified in the scoping document with the aim of making recommendations to public agencies and partners, including the council.

3.4 The proposal for the task group is the investigation will cover all of the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010. However, it is likely that the focus will be on age, disability, race, sex and sexual orientation. In order to focus the scope of the review, the task group will only examine Westminster's dance entertainment venues (nightclubs) which operate within the evening and night time economy.

#### Westminster City Council's responsibilities in this area

3.5 The Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

3.6 The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. Under the Equality Act there are 9 protected characteristics:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation.

3.7 As a licensing authority, the council should be mindful of requirements and responsibilities placed on it by legislation, including the Equality Act when carrying out licensing functions.

#### The council's vision for the night time economy

3.8 The council is currently developing a vision for the evening and night time economy. The vision will include commitments to promoting an inclusive offer in the evening and night time economy. The task group's findings will feed into this work.

## The Hate Crime Commission

3.9 The task group's work is separate to the work of the Hate Crime Commission. The Hate Crime Commission has been established by the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Licensing in order for the Council, the MET and the community itself to be held accountable for tackling Hate Crime within Westminster. The Commission itself will consist of a panel that will represent to the best of its ability, the protected characteristics that are affected. Additionally, there will be members who are professionals in the area or of the groups to be invited to provide insight and evidence, from which recommendations will be made.

## Task group timetable

3.10 The task group is currently in the research phase of its work. As well as evidence gathering sessions with relevant witnesses and desktop research, the task group is currently planning primary research to gather the experiences of residents and visitors with regards to inclusion in the evening and night time economy. The intention is for the task group to report its findings to the City Management and Public Protection Policy and Scrutiny Committee in April 2018.

## **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 The costs associated with this task group will be funded via the Scrutiny budget and all staffing resources required will come from existing budgets.

## **5. Legal implications**

5.1 Legal comments will be added prior to publication.

## **6. Equalities Impact**

6.1 Although this report has no specific impact on equalities the purpose of the task group is to seek to identify if there is any evidence that there are barriers to inclusion within and access to Westminster's dance entertainment venues (nightclubs) for any group.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Inclusion in the Evening and Night Time Economy Task Scoping Document

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

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Background Papers