

Subject:	Report of the Live Music Venues Policy Panel		
Date of Meeting:	29th November 2016		
Report of:	Executive Director, Finance & Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Annie Sparks	Tel: 292436
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 A petition was presented to Full Council on 26 March 2015, calling for the council to review its procedures and protocols in respect of noise abatement notices served on live music venues across the city. It had been signed by 4698 people. Full Council noted the petition and referred the matter to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration. At the Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee of the 7th July 2015 the petition was noted and it was agreed that a Policy Panel be established, consisting of one member from each political Group.
- 1.2 The Policy Panel members were Councillors Joe Miller (Chair), Peter Atkinson, and Lizzie Deane.
- 1.3 The findings of the Policy Panel can be found in full at **Appendix 1** to this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee considers the recommendations of the Live Music Venues Policy Panel (attached at Appendix 1) and determines whether to agree these recommendations.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 At the Panel's first meeting on 1st October 2015 panel members agreed their Terms of Reference:
 - Understand the current situation of live music venues in Brighton & Hove and their position in the community
 - Provide an independent cross party review of the issues which relate to live music venues in Brighton & Hove, including noise abatement
 - Review national and local legislation, and policies, procedures and protocols that relate to music venues and noise
 - Look at good practice in other areas of the country which relates to this issue

- To be informed by evidence provided by a balanced representative cohort of interested parties. This will include council officers, other local authorities, council members, members of parliament, community representatives, industry representatives such as band promoters and music venues, and Mark Stack the originator of the petition
- Report findings in a written report that is submitted to the Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee.

3.2 The report of the Live Music Policy Panel has now been completed and is attached at **Appendix 1**. The report has seven recommendations, including a proposal that Brighton & Hove Connect brings together a range of partners to establish a Night Time Economy Partnership. It is proposed that the Partnership will provide a structure enabling members to:

- Review the effectiveness of existing policies and develop new policies as appropriate
- Provide oversight of the Live Music industry and its place within the overall night time economy
- Ensure effective communication between stakeholders and encourage positive resolution of any differences or disputes that may occur
- Ensure that the role of support services is considered in the development of new initiatives that could result in extra demand on those services
- Communicate to the city stakeholders as a whole the positive impact of the Night Time economy and the live music scene in particular.
- Act as an umbrella group to pursue joint funding and other opportunities as they become available
- To provide links to other partnerships as appropriate and also to ensure that key council Committees are kept up to date with any developments with this work.
- Introduce cross service information, good practice, advice and links for the sector on the Brighton & Hove City Council Website.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 If following consultation the proposal to create a Partnership is not considered the most effective approach, then the Committee will be asked to identify the most effective alternative approach to addressing the recommendations of the panel.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

5.1 The panel held a day-long evidence gathering session to hear from those working in the live music sector, locally and nationally, as well as council officers who are responsible for regulating this sector. Local Action Teams are important representatives of our communities and were encouraged to attend the day and also submit written evidence.

5.2 All Councillors, local MPs and Local Action Team (LAT) Chairs were invited to the proposed evidence gathering day. They were also informed of the terms of reference of the Policy Panel, as were other local authority Environmental Health teams. The limited number of responses received have been used by the Panel to develop their report.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Members are asked to consider the Policy Panel recommendations.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

7.1 The Night Time Economy Partnership will be set up using existing resources within the Corporate Policy partnerships budget. However, as it evolves and develops, funding arrangements will need to be kept under review to ensure that these costs can still be met from current budgets.

Finance Officer; Monica Brooks

Date: 15/11/16

Legal Implications:

7.2 There are no legal implications arising from the report at this stage. If future reports are brought to Committee for decision regarding planning policy or other matters, these will need to address the legal implications of any new approaches proposed.

Lawyer Consulted; Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 1/11/16

Equalities Implications:

7.3 The panel carried out an Equalities Impact Assessment for the issue of live music venues and used this to inform their recommendations.

Sustainability Implications:

7.4 There are none arising directly from this report.

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.5 There are none arising directly from this report.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. The report of the Policy Panel on Live Music Venues

