



Late Night Levy – zoned proposal Inclusion of late-night food outlets

Report by Consultation & Engagement Team

January 2024

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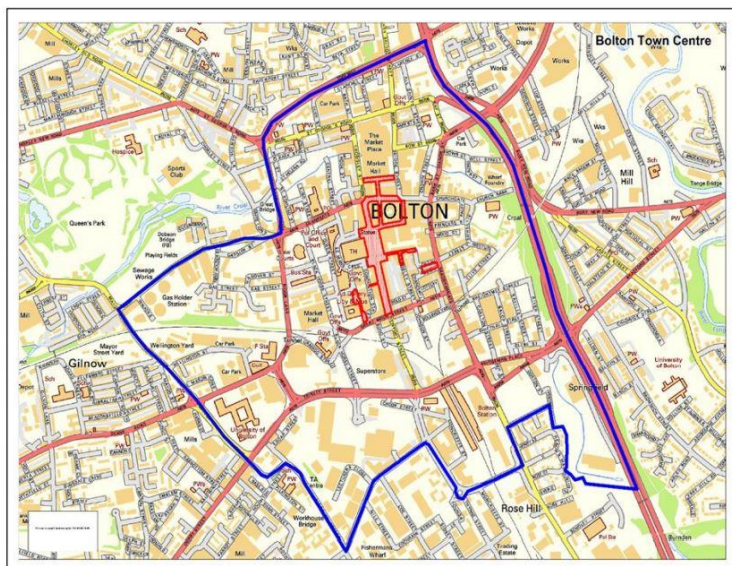
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1. Background and methodology

Between the 11th December 2023 and 22nd January 2024, the Council ran a public consultation, seeking to engage the hospitality sector, wider stakeholders and residents in sharing their reflections on the proposal to introduce a zoned Late Night Levy for licenced businesses serving hot food refreshments between the hours of 3am – 6am. The consultation built on the proposal from June 2023, that explored introducing a Late-Night Levy for premises licenced to serve alcohol in Bolton between 3am – 6am. The findings of which can be found on the [Closed Consultation webpage](#).

Following this consultation, in July 2023 the government amended the Policing and Crime Act 2017 for all local authorities to include late night refreshment premises (hot food and drink) in the Late Night Levy and removed the need to apply the levy to the whole local authority area. Following this change and reflecting upon the feedback from residents and stakeholders, Bolton Council amended the proposal to apply the levy to licenced premises in a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre only. In addition, the council also propose to include licenced late night hot food refreshment premises.

Table 1: Recommended revised targeted zone:



Map showing zoned area of Bolton Town Centre [outlined in blue] to be included in the proposed Late Night Levy.

As Bolton Council have already consulted on the proposal for a Late Night Levy on businesses who are licenced to sell or supply alcohol between 3am and 6am, the consultation undertaken in December and January focused specifically on the inclusion of businesses who are licenced to sell or supply hot food refreshments between 3am and 6am in a zoned area in Bolton Town Centre.

The consultation outlined how the proposal would raise additional funds from those licenced businesses as a means to fund additional public sector officers, who are required to deal with night-time economy challenges.

During the consultation period a comprehensive communication plan was implemented to raise awareness of the proposal across the borough, with a strong emphasis on engaging industries involved in the hospitality sector. A letter was distributed to all food refreshment outlets within the zoned town centre area and follow-up face to face engagement was also undertaken by the Licensing and Town Centre Team. In addition, an email was distributed to licenced businesses across the borough.

Information was also distributed to all stakeholders, including the Vision Partnership, Elected Members, charities and equality groups. Supporting documentation was made available on the Council's consultation webpages and social media was heavily utilised throughout the period to share key messages about the consultation. A press release was also distributed to local media outlets on the 11th December 2023.

Participants were surveyed using a questionnaire tool made up of open and closed questions, over a period of 6 weeks, providing respondents the opportunity to reflect and share their thoughts on the proposal. The questionnaire was made available both digitally and offline, with the questionnaire being accessible on the council's consultation web page, as well as in hard copy format, on request.

2. Consultation responses

A number of open-ended questions were included in the questionnaire to give respondents the opportunity to comment on the proposal and outline any opportunities and challenges as a result of the proposal.

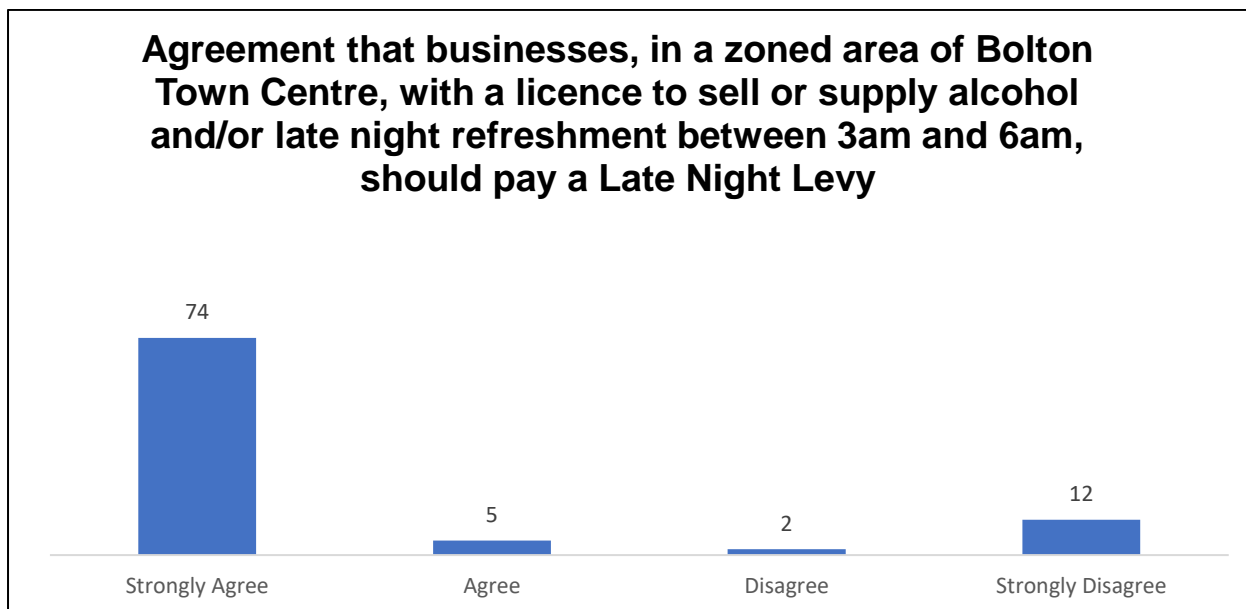
A total of 93 residents and stakeholders took part in the digital survey, outlining their reflections on the proposal to include licenced late night refreshment outlets within a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre. Further to this, 1 official response was received from CAMRA (refer to Appendix B).

Analysis notes

- Results are presented in the questionnaire format with 'Don't know' type responses removed unless stated.
- Comments have been categorised where feasible. Unless otherwise stated, categories with 3 or more responses are shown. Categories may overlap and a comment from one respondent included in multiple categories. A sample of comments [verbatim] are included in the report. Comments may be abbreviated so that only the relevant extract is included. One comment may be coded into multiple categories, and each category may only cover a certain aspect of the comment, for example a respondent may have made both positive and negative comments about the same aspect.
- Base: unless otherwise stated the base is the number of respondents to a particular question.
- Data has been cleansed where appropriate, e.g., comments moved into existing responses.

3. Late Night Levy principle

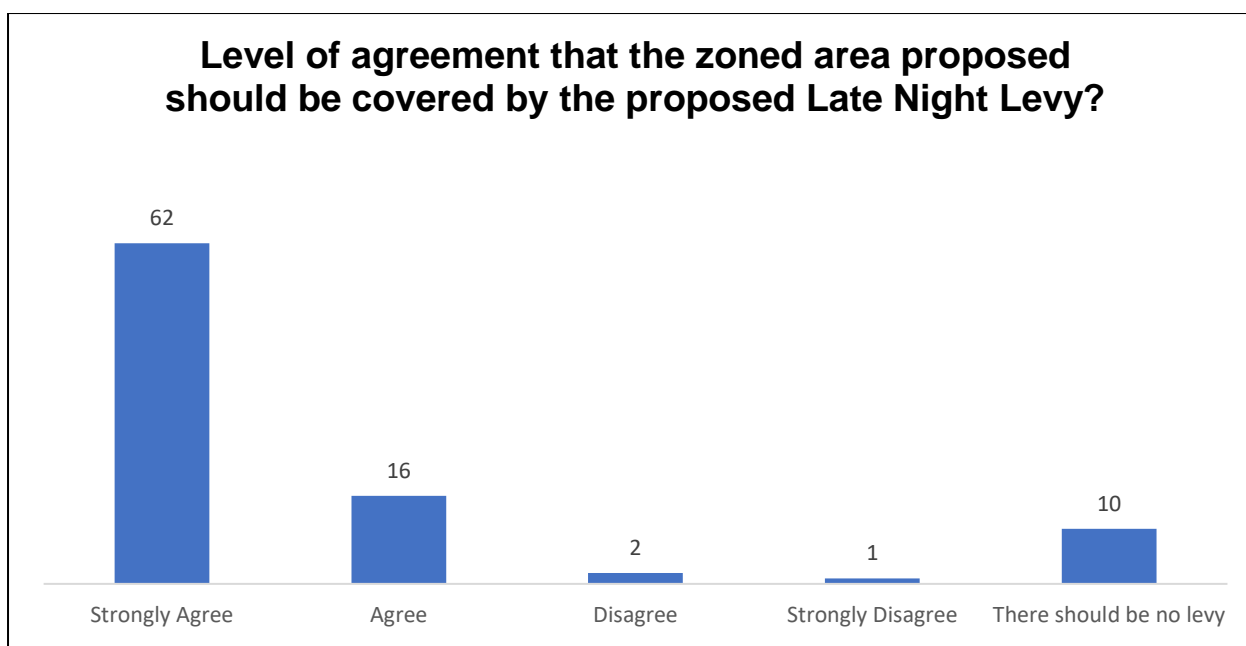
Stakeholders were asked to reflect on whether licenced hospitality businesses should pay a levy to support the additional demands resulting from the night-time economy in a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre. Of the 93 responses received, 79 (85%) agreed that licenced businesses should contribute to a levy.



Base: 93

4a. Late Night Levy – Town Centre Zone

All stakeholders were asked to reflect upon whether the proposed zoned area should be covered by a Late Night Levy between the hours of 3am – 6am. Of the 91 responses received, 78 respondents agree with the zoned proposal. 3 respondents disagree and 10 respondents state there should be no levy introduced. For those that disagree with the proposal, one respondent stated that it should apply to “Bolton Town Hall only”.



Base: 91

4b. Inclusion of late night refreshment premises within the zoned proposal

All respondents were asked to reflect upon the proposal to include licenced late night refreshment premises within the zoned Late Night Levy. 53 stakeholders provided additional reflections, which have been categorised into 4 key themes. These are outlined in the table below.

Comment theme	Number of comments received
Anti-Social Behaviour & Crime	23
Demand on service industries	17
Impact on hospitality industry	13
Opening hours	11
Late Night Levy zoned area	6

Anti-Social Behaviour & Crime: 23 stakeholders referenced the impact on anti-social behaviour in the town centre, referencing specifically the challenges the late night economy are already facing with premises opening between the hours of 3am – 6am.

- *“As someone who works night time economy in the town centre the crime and anti social behaviour vastly increases between the times of 3am and 6am as people are staying out later when they don't need to, consuming vast amounts of alcohol which affects the safety of members of the public and people working in the town centre”.*
- *“I would never go to Bolton due to the amount of trouble they cause and would much rather go to to Bury and or trafford centre or manchester. Bolton is not a safe place to visit, especially at these times.”*
- *“Since licensing became 24 hours, the issues caused by licence premises is now spread out over the evening and early morning.”*
- *“I fully agree that the businesses who benefit financially from staying open until these late hours should pay a levy due to the impact of ASB and associated litter.”*
- *“I strongly get agree that food establishments should be included in the levy. I sit on the Licensing Committee and see how often these type of premises are involved in issues occurring in the town centre.”*
- *“It really needs to be done. Bars and clubs blast out music so loud that it affects residents normal lives as it is. There are so many incidents that we report the the police at night because of drunk behaviours. I think it's only fair that at a minimum bars and clubs start paying for their lack of duty and keep serving drunks.”*
- *“Night time economy in Bolton has gotten to a point where members of the public including myself who do not engage in criminal behaviour no longer feel safe to attend and travel elsewhere. The level of crime from ASB to serious assaults and sex crimes had risen significantly in the last 12-18 months.”*
- *“The cost proposed will make no difference to anything. The moneys raised will not contribute anything to the amount of ASB caused by the punters out at that time. The crowds present at that time further draw in drug dealers.”*
- *“the people who drink/eat out at the proposed times are usually the people who cause the most issues so I would suggest the levy is a good idea to help clean up the area at weekends.”*
- *“This is a sensible idea considering the amount of crime considered at the latter part of night due to alcohol abuse.”*

Demand on service industries: 17 residents and stakeholders made specific reference to the demand on service industries that support the nighttime economy, namely the police and paramedic services. Stakeholders outline how the late night licence puts an additional pressure on an already stretched sector and therefore support the proposal for additional resources to be made available to support these services.

- *“Bolton town centre and the licence premises are a drain on the resources of the Police and the local authority.”*
- *“Businesses have an obligation to not serve people too intoxicated and should share joint responsibility for the chaos that is caused from their actions.”*
- *“I believe the late night levy is a great idea, however I do not believe that the levy should mean the police officers deployed to the area proposed in order to maintain order during the night should be ringfenced to solely deal with those areas. If there is high demand across the town, the levy should not mean that businesses have any claim or "ownership" of police resource”.*
- *“I believe this is a fair proposal as the strain on not only the police but ambulance and fire is unmanageable due to the marked zones being open so late.”*
- *“It causes so much work for the police and partner agencies due to the amount of people that stay in the town centre late at night into the early morning.”*
- *“This levy would also assist the council to provide street clean up services, pay for extra police costs and could be used to provide on street safety / medical officers and council late night taxi rank marshals and street wardens.”*
- *“Most police resources are needed at that time of the morning in the proposed area. If the said businesses weren't there the extra police resources wouldn't be needed so they should fund this.”*

Impact on hospitality industry: 13 comments were received that highlight the impact the overall proposal of a zone Late Night Levy would have on the hospitality industry. Some stakeholders likened the proposal to an additional tax on the sector.

- *“These proposals are just another money grab by the council which will result in businesses closing and will not make any difference to anti social behaviour or the quality of life of residents.”*
- *“Bolton night life has takem a hit from covid the buiness rates dont take in consideration the lack of people coming into bolton it has lessend throughout the years the footfall is not as great to then add a levy is to kill the town further.”*
- *“Bolton town centre businesses are fighting to keep the town centre as active as possible..we all pay council tax and businesses pay there taxes and now imposing an extra business rates for trying to survive.”*
- *“The town is run down now this could run it into the ground this could force more businesses to give up on the town and close their doors the pubs,clubs,buses,trains and taxis companies will all be affected.”*
- *“NO- it is harmful to local business”.*

Opening hours: 11 stakeholders referenced a need to review the levy times, stating that the late night economy should stop at an earlier time.

- *“I actually think it's disgraceful that Bolton council allow businesses to stay open after 3am.”*
- *“I think that should be extended to cover a broader time”.*
- *“There is no requirement for Bolton as a town to have these premises open between 3-6am however an appropriate charge may assist in this change”.*
- *“The aim should be to stop bars being open past 3am”.*
- *“The crimes that are recorded as occurring in the zone during this period would not have happened if the town centre businesses shut at 02:00 in respect of licensed premises and shortly afterwards with food premises due to lack of custom.”*

Late-Night Levy zoned area: 6 comments were received that reflected on the zone proposal. Respondents called for the zoned area to be geographically extended and include other late night industries, including entertainment.

- *“I am unsure if the whole of Bradshawgate was covered on the map but the zone should include Bradshawgate, Churchgate, Deansgate and Nelson Square.”*
- *“I would like the zone extending to cover the area both sides of St. George’s Road up to the junction with Chorley Old Road / Chorley New Road / Chorley Street and then to go down Chorley Street to Spa Road to meet up with the present blue line. Also if the blue line can be extended after it goes over Orlando Bridge and meets Manchester Road, to turn right along Manchester Road up to the junction with Rose Hill, and then to go straight along Rose Hill to St. Peters Way - this would follow the line of the Ward boundary line which goes along Rose Hill. It would mean that part of Manchester Road is also covered within the zone.”*
- *“Late night Levy should be applied to all businesses within the area that operate for entertainment/alcohol/food/refreshment purposes”.*

Other comments received focus on installing additional resources to support the night time economy, including installing additional CCTV and investing in better lighting schemes across the town and in areas used by visitors, including taxi ranks, *“a police van parked in Nelson Square and many more street cameras installed and actively operated can be a solid deterrent”* and *“lighting costs should also be considered as part of the levy”*. An additional comment focused on better communication links to highlight when challenges occur *“consider creating shopwatch groups, and possibly linking in to any pub watch groups so information and intel can be shared so known trouble makers are denied access”*.

5. Licenced premises

4 stakeholders indicated that they hold a late night licence, with 1 of them stating they were likely to apply to vary their licence if the proposal to introduce a Late Night Levy was introduced. 3 stated that it was unlikely they would vary their licence:

- *“We currently have a licence until 3:30am monday-sunday and our trade generally centres around a tail off in trade at 1am-1:30am as such we are unlikely to request the extension if permitted for use”.*
- *“Our opening hours are from 11am to 7.30 pm despite our extended to 4.30 am licence”.*

If the proposed levy is approved how likely / unlikely are you to apply to vary your licence?

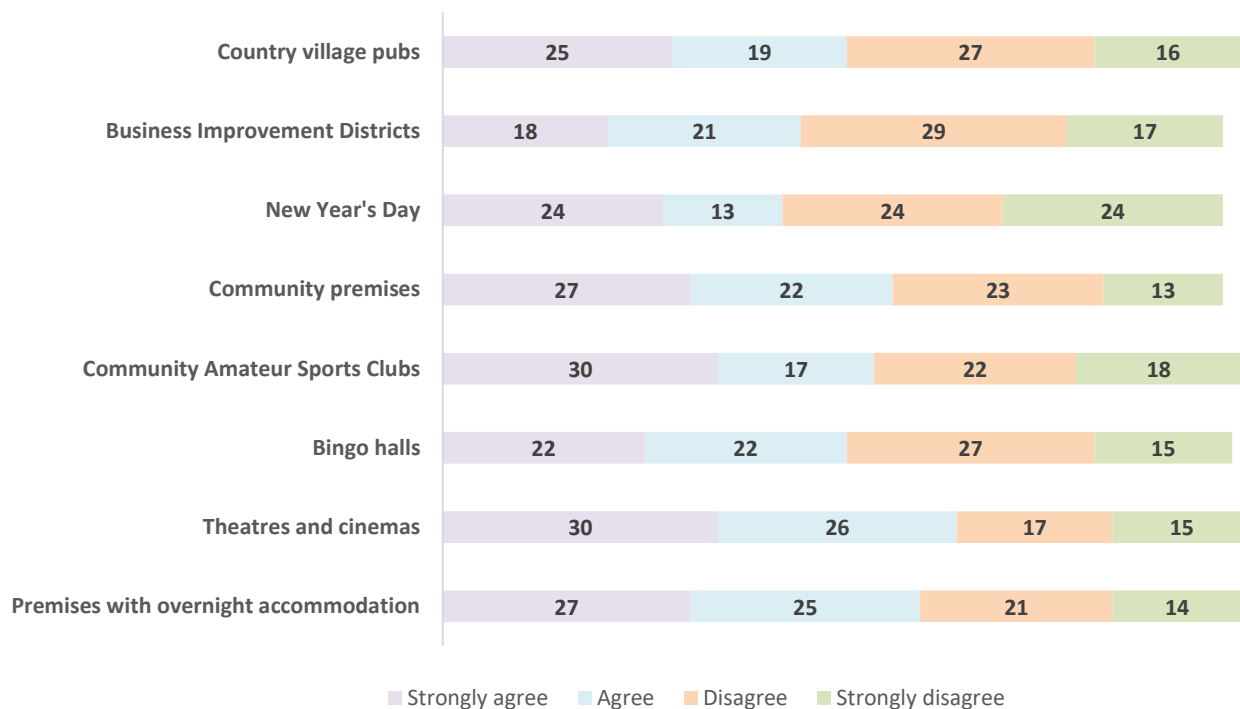


Base: 4

6a. Exemptions

Respondents were asked to consider which industry sectors should be except from paying the levy. Of the 8 industries proposed, the areas seeing greatest agreement for exemption include theatres and cinemas (56 responses); premises with overnight accommodation (52 responses) and community premises (49 responses). Industries and celebrations seeing the greatest disagreement to be included in exemptions are New Year's Day (48 responses); Business Improvement Districts (46 responses) and country village pubs (43 responses).

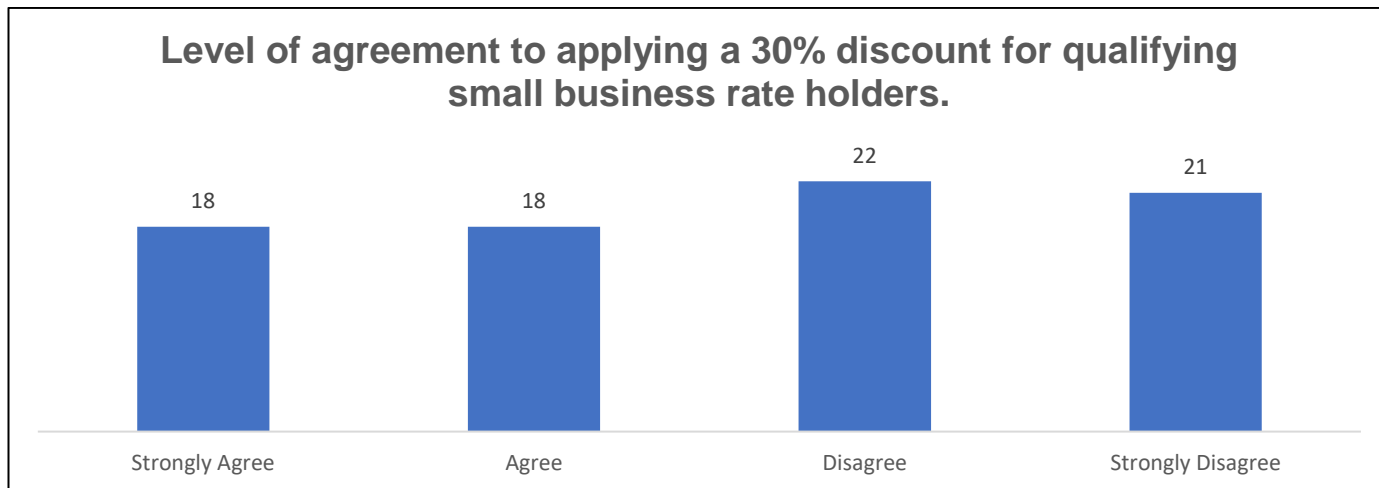
Level of agreement that the following should be exempt from paying the levy within the zoned area of Bolton Town Centre



Base average: 86

6b. Qualifying small business rate holders – Levy discount

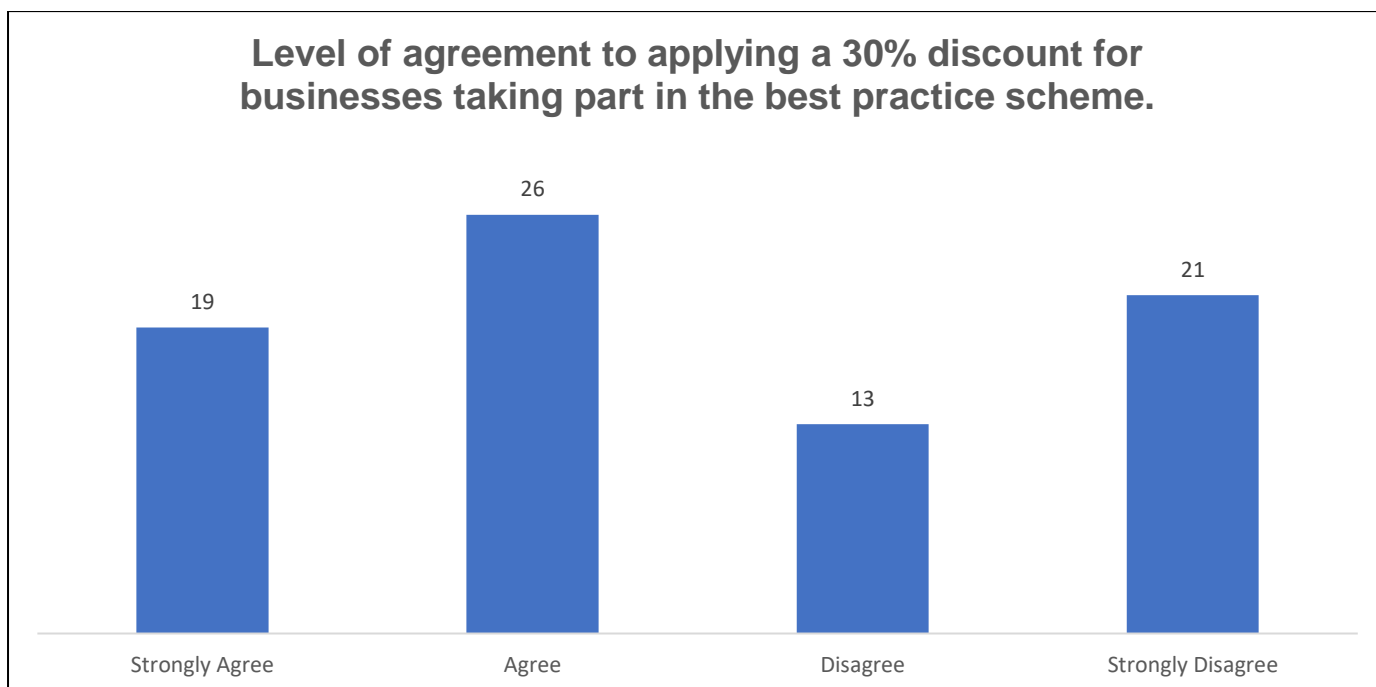
Respondents were asked to consider where there should be a 30% levy discount for business holders qualifying for small business rates. Of the 79 responses received, 36 (46%) agree that a discount should be applied. 43 (55%) respondents disagree with the proposal to apply a discount.



Base: 79

6c. Best Practice Scheme – Levy discount

Respondents were asked to consider where there should be a 30% levy discount for businesses taking part in the Best Practice Scheme. Of the 79 responses received, over half agree that a discount should be applied (45 / 57%). 34 (43%) respondents disagree with the proposal to apply a discount.



Base average: 79

6d. Best practice Scheme exemptions – comments

Stakeholders were asked to reflect on Best Practice Scheme exemptions. 18 comments were received which have been categorised into the following 2 themes:

Restriction on opening hours: 5 comments were received calling for a reduction in opening hours within the town centre, *“If they are serving food or alcohol after 3am there should not be an reductions”, “I don't agree with any alcohol serving business being open after 3am”* and *“irrespective of how well run they are they still generate the demand by simply been open as everybody attending by that point is blind drunk”*.

Exemptions: 4 comments focus on offering exemptions if businesses undertake activities to reduce anti-social behaviour, including *“door staff displaying SIA licence, CCTV working and operating, participation in the town centre radio”*. A comment was received stating that new businesses should be exempt from the levy. Whilst other comments focus on exemptions for businesses signed up to schemes to reduce challenging behaviour, *“Shopwatch, Good Night Out Campaign, Women's Safety Charter, Ask for Angela”* or offer safe spaces, *“businesses who offer space for street pastors/safe haven workers”*.

Other comments reflect concern with anti-social behaviour; disagreement with implementing exemptions; and disagreement with the principle of a levy.

6e. Other exemptions – comments

32 additional comments were made by stakeholders wanting to reflect further on the proposal to offer exemptions. These comments have been categorised into 3 key themes.

Comment theme	Number of comments received
No exemptions should be applied	16
Exempt all or have targeted exemption	15
Opening hours	6

No exemptions should be applied: 16 comments were received that outline opposition to the proposal, stating that the proposal should offer no exemptions to any of the licenced premises operating between the hours of 3am and 6am.

- *“Exemptions shouldn't be made for any business wanting to open during very unsociable hours, as they should be contributing towards the services that operate to keep control and people safe during this time.”*
- *“I don't think offering exemptions will contribute towards solving the problem. I think a blanket rate is required for these sorts of businesses who are open during these hours and who contribute towards the issues to also contribute towards solving the issues they cause.”*
- *“I don't think this goes far enough to resolve the issues to local residents who live in the town center. There are bars and clubs that need investigating for noise, anti social behaviour, poor door staffing, more police presence.”*
- *“No exceptions should be in place if you are penalizing you have to be fair and honest and penalties should be across the board”.*
- *“Premises operating past 3am should not be liable to any discounts, as the issues caused with anti social behaviour, drunkenness and criminality are disproportionate throughout the night, with the majority of issues being caused after 3am.”*

Exempt all or have targeted exemption: 15 comments were received that suggest that all impacted businesses should be exempt or have targeted exemptions in place for businesses that meet certain requirements.

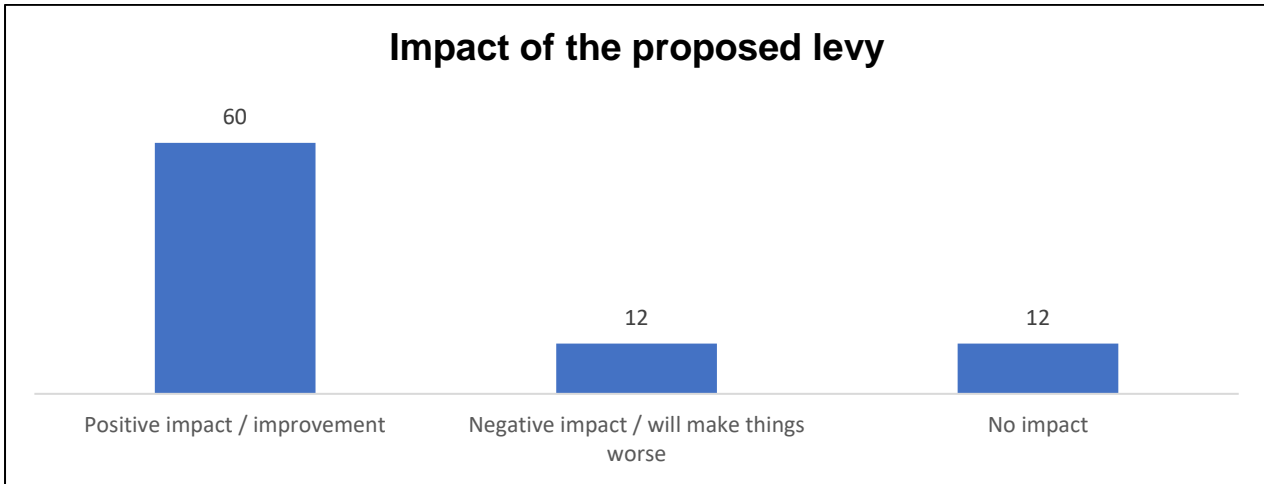
- *“All businesses should be exempt from this charge”.*
- *“The only exemptions that should be for considered are for businesses serving breakfast at 6am, and therefore the timeframe should be reconsidered”.*
- *“I like the idea of a 30% discount for those who engage in promoting good/best practice. It should help encourage businesses to adopt and promote them, which should help bring about change in culture.”*
- *“If a premises can evidence that there is no increase in crime and disorder/welfare needs between 3am - 6am then an exemption may be suitable as they are managing the premises correctly.”*
- *“The levy should only apply to problematic premises such as town centre bars / pubs and clubs”.*

Opening hours: 6 stakeholders refer to the greater restrictions needed on operating hours, calling for the late night economy to close earlier.

- *“Bolton should not have a 3am - 6am license this is why bolton is a very unsafe town to visit. Any businesses serving alcohol should not be open at these times.”*
- *“No business should be allowed to open past 3am.”*
- *“There is no reason for night time economy passed 3am-6am unless it is a special night, in which a special license can occur for such occasions (eg NYE).”*

7a. Impact

Respondents were asked to consider what impact the proposal would have if introduced. 84 stakeholders responded to this question. 60 (71%) believe that the proposal would have a positive impact. 12 stakeholders (14%) state that it would have a negative impact. Whilst a further 12 (14%) stakeholders state that no impact would occur as a result of the proposal.



Base: 84

7b. Reflections of anticipated impacts

30 stakeholders provided additional reflections on anticipated impacts. These comments are categorised into 4 key themes.

Comment theme	Number of comments received
Anti-Social Behaviour	15
Impact on hospitality businesses	12
Impact on service industries	9
Opening hours	3

Anti-Social Behaviour: 15 stakeholders reflected on the impact of reducing anti-social behaviour, which could have positive benefits for the town centre.

- *“Late night refreshment areas are a congregating point for revellers waiting to go home, awaiting a taxi or meeting friends. On paper this appears to be a good idea, however when realistically looking at the food outlets the number of issues occurring in and around the takeaways is higher than would be expected. These outlets also attract lingering street robbers who know that lone and vulnerable revellers will be in this area prior to seeking a taxi home.”*
- *“I think it could have a great impact on safety if it is implemented properly and businesses are audited on a regular basis to ensure they are promoting safety strategies, modelling good practice, etc.”*
- *“It will make Bolton a safer place because the handful of premises that cause all the issues will probably reconsider opening.”*
- *“Less violence, less sexual offences against women who are scared to go out.”*
- *“The levy , dependant on how its used will help keep the area crime free and clean”*
- *“This will help to reduce the number of incidents that occur at this time of the night and help to reduce the number of highly intoxicated people that can be subject to predatory behaviour in an environment that makes it easier to occur.”*

Impact on hospitality businesses: 12 stakeholders highlight the impact the proposal could have on the hospitality sector currently operating in the town centre. Some outline that the proposal could increase the

risk of reducing town centre investment; others thought it could encourage more hospitality businesses to apply for the licence, thus increasing the impact on anti-social behaviour; whilst others thought it would deter premises from opening.

- *“Businesses will close early which will make Bolton a less attractive night out. It will mean less wages for those that work in these businesses and it’ll cause more problems with places closing at the same time and lots of drunk people all together at 3am.”*
- *“Hopefully some of the worse establishments will cease to trade.”*
- *“I believe that businesses will take their duty of care much more seriously if contributing to the levy and may also be more likely to be involved in best practice schemes.”*
- *“Just going to drive even more businesses out of Bolton”.*
- *“Maybe other venues will ask for a late licence so they can also stay open late. Which will cause absolute mayhem between these hours.”*

Impact on service industries: 9 comments were received that emphasise the positive impact the introduction of the levy could have on emergency services and wider industries supporting the night time economy.

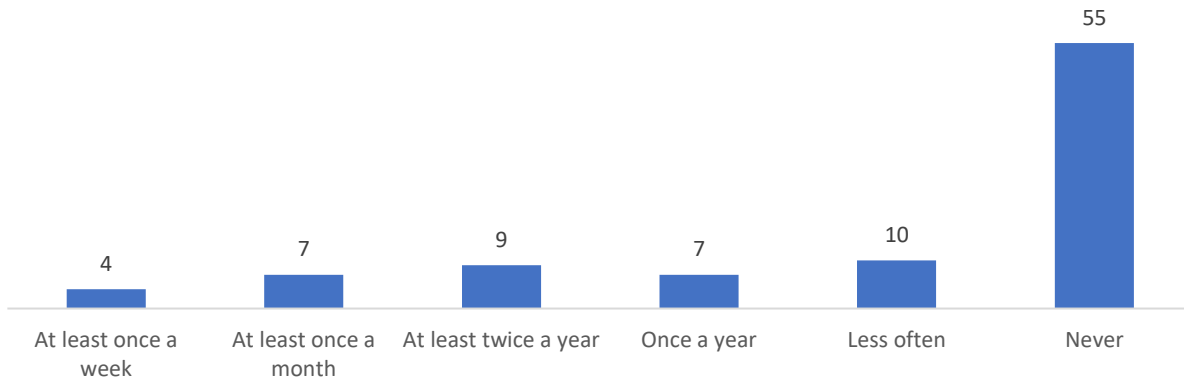
- *“Help to provide police patrols in or near to premises at 6am. Help the council provide clean up services.”*
- *“The additional funds raised will also allow the Local Authority and Police more resources to tackle any antisocial and criminal behaviours.”*
- *“If they have to pay, hopefully the money will go towards policing and reducing crime, therefore having a positive impact.”*
- *“It will provide more support to services and reassurance to visitors and residents.”*
- *“Will fund the extra police resources needed. They will also help to mitigate this behaviour if they had to pay a charge.”*

Opening hours: Several comments focused on the proposed levy having a positive effect on encouraging businesses to reflect on whether to apply or continue with a late night licence, *“hopefully it will give businesses the opportunity to think whether it’s worth staying open beyond 3am to serve late night party goers”*.

8. Stakeholder engagement with the late night economy

All respondents were asked to reflect upon their engagement with the late night refreshment economy, considering how often they purchase food and beverages between 3am and 6am. Of the 92 responses received, 55 respondents never purchase refreshments at this hour. 27 have engaged with the economy within the last 12-months, and 10 respondents say their engagement is less frequently.

How often do you buy hot food and drinks in the proposed zoned area of Bolton Town Centre between 3am and 6am?

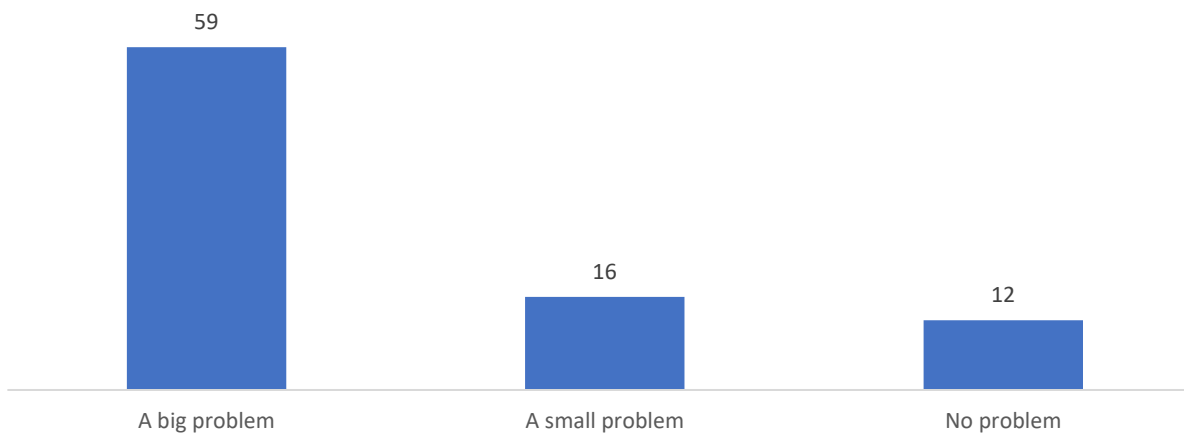


Base: 92

9. Overall proposal

Stakeholders were asked to consider whether selling late night hot food refreshments between the hours of 3am – 6am, within a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre, created a level of challenge. Of the 87 stakeholders responding, 59 state that selling refreshments during those hours is a ‘big problem’. 16 state that it is a ‘small problem’ and 12 state that there is ‘no problem’.

Level of challenge selling late night refreshments between the hours of 3am - 6am has on the zoned area within Bolton Town Centre



Base: 87

33 residents and stakeholders went on to provide additional comments on the challenges faced by selling refreshments during the early hours of the morning. These comments are themed into 5 key areas.

Comment theme	Number of responder comments
Anti-Social Behaviour and the negative impact on Bolton Town Centre	19
Opening hours	10
Impact on service industries	8
General agreement / disagreement	6
Support for hospitality businesses and residents	3

Anti-Social Behaviour and the negative impact on Bolton Town Centre: 19 comments outline the challenges around anti-social behaviour in the town centre.

- *“Bolton town centre is a 'no go' area for the majority of decent members of the community because of the violence and general disruption that's caused by drunken and aggressive individuals.”*
- *“Driving through town and can see people still fighting and unconscious at 6am.”*
- *“Intoxicated people gathering in the same location, verbal abuse to staff, levels of anti social behaviour in and around the premises.”*
- *“The late licences attract all the wrong people. All the nice restaurants have gone, no one would take their family out for a nice meal in the centre!”*
- *“Litter from food waste and packaging is a huge issue, and something that would be helpful to include as part of the licensing, that businesses are required to keep their shop fronts litter free.”*
- *“The town needs cleaning up. It does not feel safe to be out late anymore in Bolton. It used to be OK, since the introduction of very late licences its got much worse and unappealing to socialise there.”*

Opening hours: 10 comments focus specifically on the anti-social opening hours and the challenges of staying open later.

- *“I think late night 4am - 6pm should be closed. It attracts the wrong crowd which in effects causes a lot of problems for business, trade and police.”*
- *“If the premises closed at an earlier time, people would leave the area more quickly, assisting with any issues with crime & disorder.”*
- *“When places used to close at 2am there was a fixed flow to the night time economy that made things easier to predict and manage. Now there is no such structure and it causes massive problems over a prolonged duration as a result.”*
- *“I think clubs/establishments should close no later than 2.00am. Too much trouble around people that can't control themselves.”*
- *“Boltons night life has a poor image, and part of this image comes from revellers being out on the street, fighting, being sick and being rowdy post 6am when people that arent part of the night time economy are beginning their day”.*

Impact on service industries: 8 comments were received that outline the challenges on service industries, including the emergency services.

- *“Late night refreshment premises are happy to reap the profits from operating until 6am but not prepared to assist with street clean up’s, policing of drunken behaviour in and around their premises.”*
- *“Consideration should also be given to whether funding can be given to create an assessment area staffed by medical professionals to reduce the number of A&E admissions and pressure on the ambulance service to transport severely intoxicated people, or those who have suffered a minor injury, to A&E”.*
- *“People drinking alcohol until that time causes a lot of issues for all the emergency services whether it be due to crime or a medial matter.”*
- *“The late night refreshments are a big problem for a small percentage of the time. There should be stringent measures in place to assist this in being reduced and to reduce demand on police services to allow resources to be deployed elsewhere in the town”*

General agreement / disagreement: 6 comments were received that reflect a general agreement or disagreement with the proposal.

- *“Introducing something that can clean up Bolton Town Centre and get businesses thinking about whether to stay open at this time in the morning is a good thing.”*
- *“The levy is a short term fix to a long term issue.”*
- *“The problem needs solving, this will help solve it”.*

Support for hospitality businesses and residents: Several comments were received that highlight the challenges for the hospitality sector, as well as local residents, *“it’s hugely disrupting to people who live in the town center, during hot summers we have our windows open”* and *“More incentives should be given to the hospitality sector to offer a better offer during the day, funding for bands, comedy events, etc, not staying open after 3am.”*

10. Hospitality sector engagement in the consultation

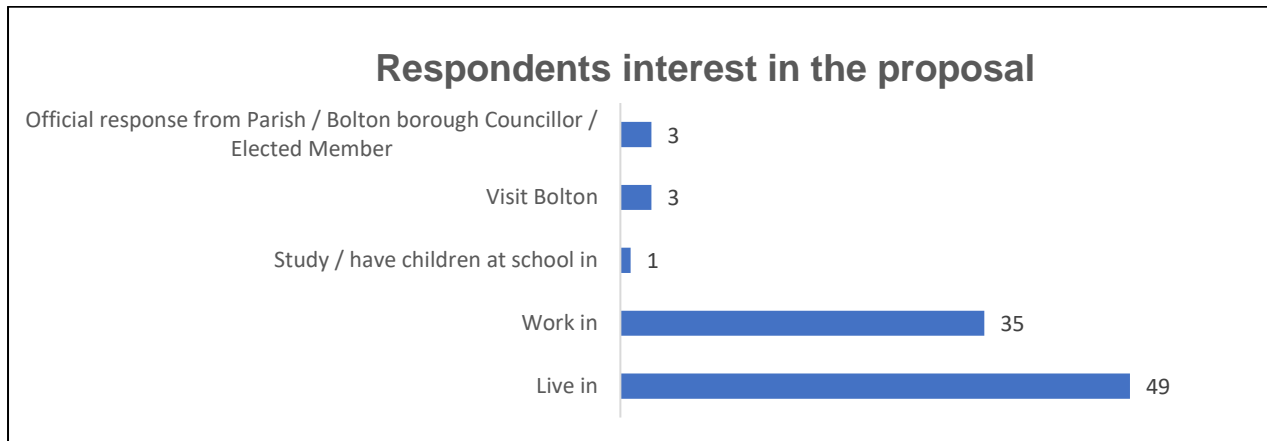
4 hospitality businesses responded to the consultation. This includes 3 respondents who own / manage a premises licenced to provide late night refreshment in the proposed zoned area of Bolton Town Centre between 3am to 6am; and 1 respondent who owns / manage a premises licenced to provide late night refreshment, but not between 3am to 6am.

Owners and managers from these businesses, impacted by the proposal, were asked whether they wanted to be kept informed of future developments and contribute to further discussions. All 4 business stakeholders provided their details for further engagement.

11. Interest in the proposed Late Night Levy

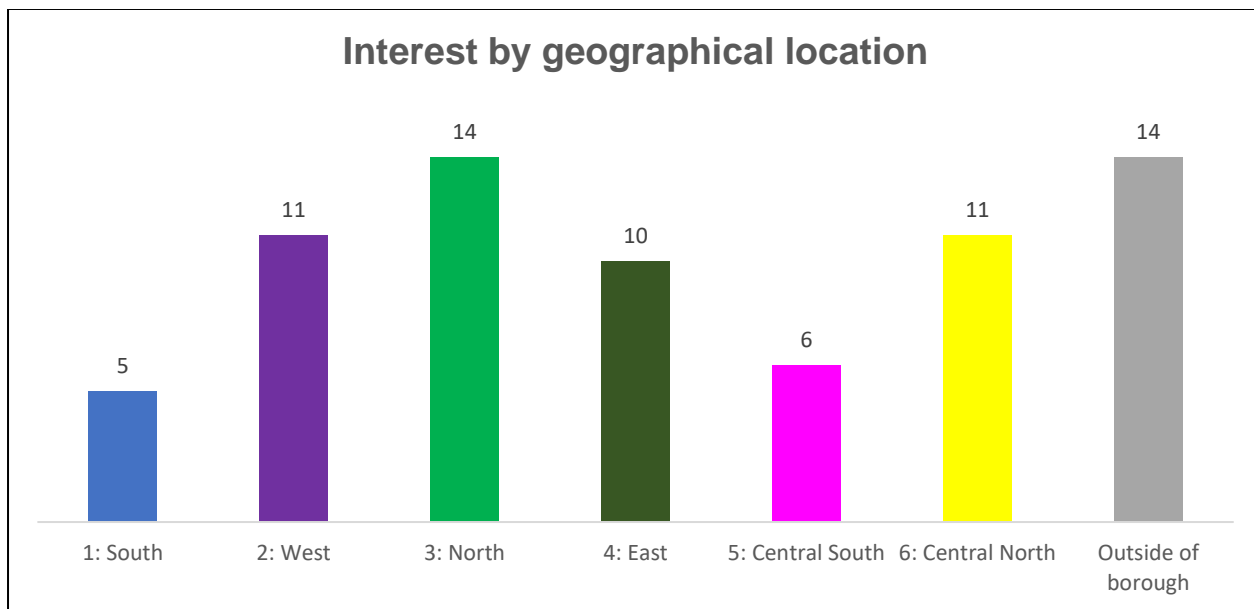
91 individuals highlighted their interest in the proposal to include licenced premises that serve late night hot food refreshments in a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre in a Late Nigh Levy. This includes 49 stakeholders being resident in the borough. 35 respondents working within the Bolton borough. 3 visiting the borough, 1 respondent studying or having children being educated in Bolton, and 3 official responses.

Official responses were received from Ward Councillors representing Kearsley Ward, Queens Park & Central Ward, and Tonge with the Haugh.



12a. Demographics: Geographical location

The table below outlines the demographics of respondents by geographical neighbourhood. A total of 71 respondents provided their full postcode, with engagement taking place from across the borough. The greatest engagement is from residents and stakeholders in the North of the borough and outside of the borough (14 stakeholders each). Residents and stakeholders located in Central North (11), West (11) and East (10) had an even spread of engagement. The lowest engagement came from residents and stakeholders in Central South (6) and South (5).

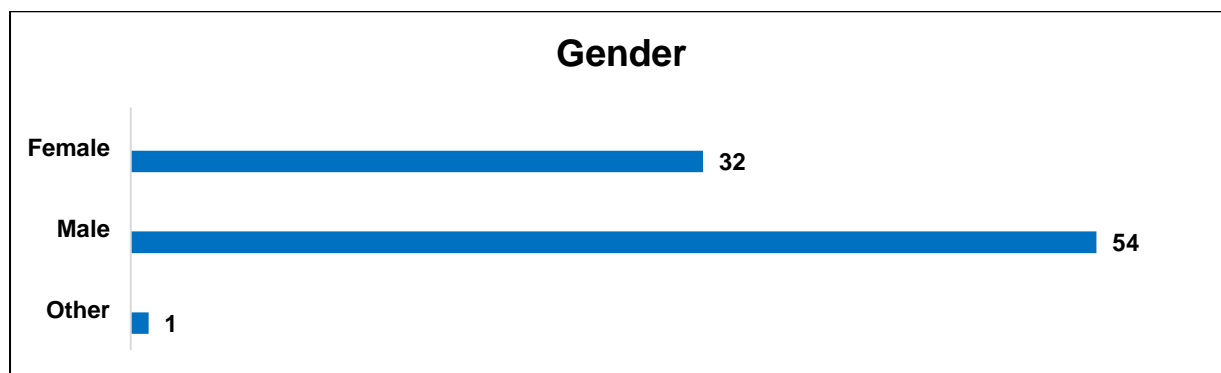




*Neighbourhoods are a local geography for integrated health and social care; all have a population of around 50,000 residents.

12b. Gender

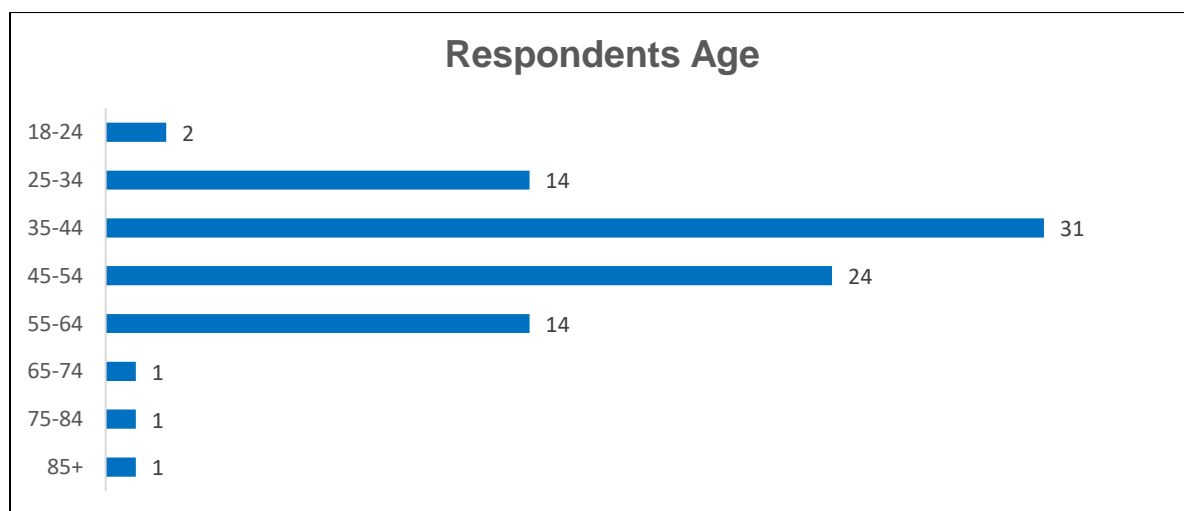
87 responses were received providing the respondent's gender. 32 respondents identify as being female, 54 identify as male and 1 respondent identifies as 'other'.



Base: 87

12c Age

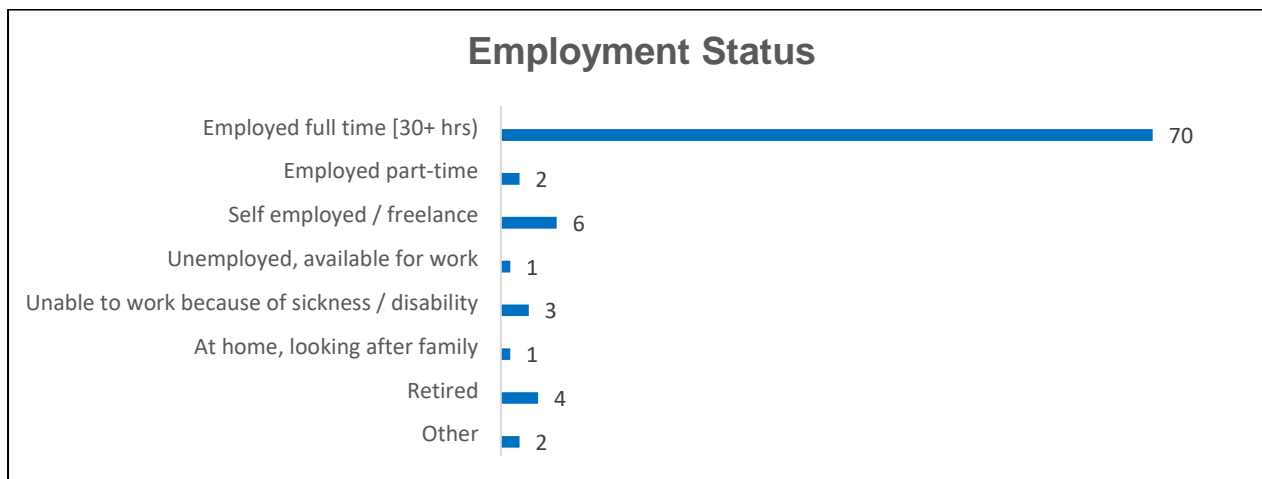
Responses were received from individuals in all age categories. 2 respondents are under the age of 24 years. 83 respondents are aged between 25 – 64 years. 3 responses are from individuals above the age of 65 years.



Base: 88

12d. Employment Status

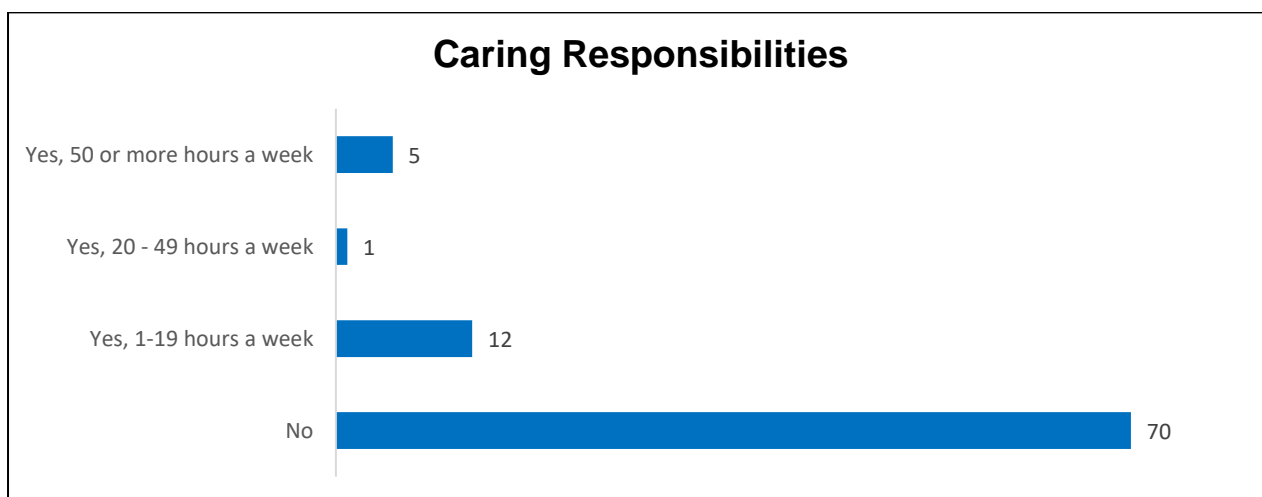
89 responses were received indicating the employment status of stakeholders. 78 (88%) responses were received from individuals in some form of employment. 4 respondents are unemployed or unable to work due to sickness or a disability. 1 respondent stays at home to look after family members and 4 responded as retirees. 1 response was also received from a carer.



Base: 89

12e. Caring responsibilities

Respondents were asked whether they provide any care or support to individuals with long term physical and mental health difficulties. Just over one-fifth of the 88 responses received had a caring responsibility (18 respondents / 21%). 70 (80%) don't have any form of caring responsibility.



Base: 88

12f. Health and disability

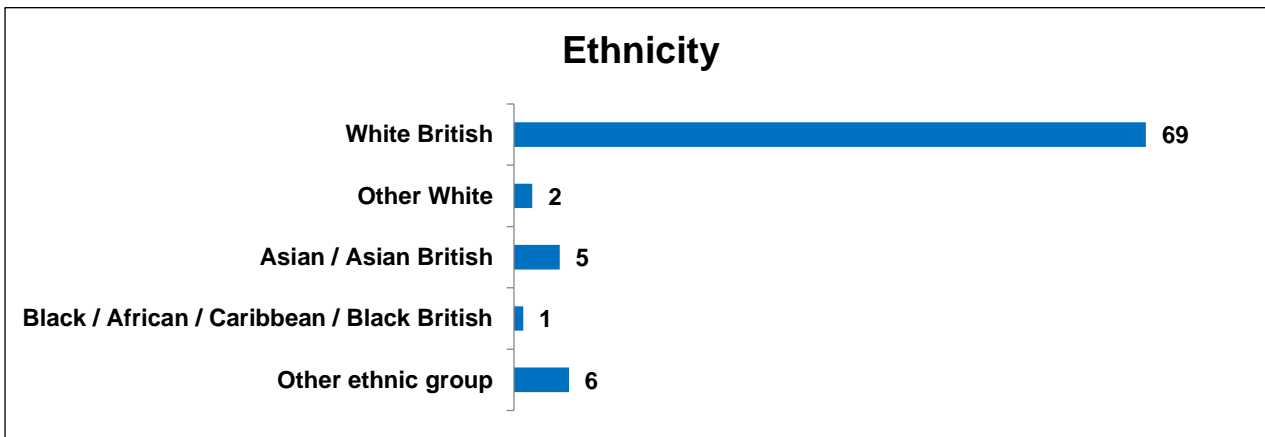
Respondents were asked if they had any long term physical or mental health challenges. 13 respondents (15%) stated they had a health or disability challenge. 74 respondents did not.



Base: 87

12g. Ethnicity

83 respondents provided their ethnicity when undertaking the consultation. 69 (83%) report as being white British. 14 (16%) report as being from other ethnically diverse communities.




Base: 83

13. Summary

Following the Late Night Levy consultation in June 2023, which proposed to introduce a levy for licenced premises in Bolton serving alcohol between 3am and 6am, Bolton Council are now seeking to apply a zoned levy in Bolton Town Centre and incorporate licenced hot food premises that operate between the hours of 3am – 6am.

Between the 11th December and 22nd January 2024, Bolton Council ran a public consultation seeking to engage a range of stakeholders in sharing their reflections on the amended proposal. The consultation did not seek to gain further insight on the inclusion of licenced alcohol premises. During that period, 94 responses were received, including an official response from CAMRA, who outlined their concern with introducing a Late Night Levy.



In principle the majority of stakeholders (79 respondents) agree with the proposal to introduce a Late Night Levy in a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre. Furthermore, 79 respondents agree with the zoned area proposed.

When asked to consider the inclusion of late night hot food refreshment premises, respondents outlined the impact the industry already has on anti-social behaviour and the subsequent demand it has on service industries supporting the evening economy. However, some respondents were particularly concerned by the potential negative impact of the proposal on the night time hospitality industry, a sector disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Of the 4 licenced businesses engaged in the consultation, only 1 indicated that they would be likely to apply to amend their licence, should the proposal be introduced.

When asked to reflect on exemptions to the proposal, respondents generally agree that theatres and cinemas, overnight accommodation premises and community venues should be exempt. When asked to consider whether there should be a 30% discount for business holders qualifying for small businesses rates, the majority of stakeholders disagree (34 respondents / 55%). However, the majority agree that a 30% discount should be applied for businesses taking part in the Best Practice Scheme (45 respondents / 57%). When asked to reflect further, a number of comments were received that stated that no exemptions should be offered; some thought that a targeted approach should be applied; and some stakeholders thought that all businesses should be exempt given the challenges faced by the sector.

Overall, the majority of stakeholders (60 respondents / 71%) believe the proposal could have a positive impact on the town centre, citing that it has the potential to reduce anti-social behaviour, resulting in less intervention needed from services supporting the night time economy.

Consultation on the proposal for zoned area Late Night Levy [Bolton Town Centre]

Consultation closes on 22 January 2024

Proposal

Bolton Council are proposing that all businesses with a licence to sell or supply alcohol and/or Late Night Refreshment (hot food and drinks), between 3am and 6am in a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre, pay a Late Night Levy to contribute towards the cost of policing the night time economy.

Reason for consultation

In summer 2023, Bolton Council consulted on a proposal to introduce a Late Night Levy on all businesses who were licensed to sell or supply alcohol between 3am and 6am.

On 13 July 2023, the UK government amended the Policing & Crime Act 2017 to allow Local Authorities to include Late Night Refreshment premises in the Late Night Levy, and removed the need to apply the Levy to the whole Local Authority area.

Following this change, we are now proposing that the Late Night Levy should apply to businesses in a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre who are licensed to sell or supply alcohol and/or late night refreshment between 3am and 6am. We would like your views on this change to the original proposal.

Background

Bolton Town Centre has a vibrant night-time economy which draws in people from all over Bolton and beyond. It's a major part of the lively and inclusive atmosphere in Bolton. We're committed to supporting this and working with businesses to ensure that Bolton is a great place to go out.

However the late night economy can also bring crime, antisocial behaviour, litter and leave people in need of support. The Council and Police currently fund officers who deal with many of these issues.

As our background documents show, a significant number of anti-social behaviour and crime takes place inside or very near to business which are licensed to sell or supply alcohol and/or late night refreshment food between 3am and 6am in Bolton Town Centre.

Because of this, we're now proposing that Late Night Levy would only apply to businesses in a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre who have a licence to sell alcohol or supply and/or late night refreshment between 3am and 6am.

The Late Night Levy is a small charge which is set by government. Money raised from the Late Night Levy would be used to fund officers from Greater Manchester Police and Bolton Council who help keep everyone safe in Bolton Town Centre during the evening. Any additional money raised would go towards other initiatives to support a safer night time environment.

Businesses who don't want to pay the Late Night Levy can alter their hours of operation so that they no longer sell or supply alcohol and/or late night refreshment between 3am and 6am. We're also consulting on other exemptions that are permitted under the legislation. These are outlined in this questionnaire, with more detail in the background documents.

Regulations

- Policing & Crime Act 2017.
- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- Chapter 2 of Part 2 The Late Night Levy (Application and Administration) Regulations 2012.
- The Late Night Levy (Expenses, Exemptions and Reductions) Regulations 2012.

Your views

We invite you to give your views on the proposal to apply a Late Night Levy to businesses with a licence to sell or supply alcohol and/or late night refreshment between 3am and 6am within a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre.

Please read the background documents for more information.
www.bolton.gov.uk/directory/13/consultations/category/195

Your views will be considered alongside the results from the previous consultation and other information to help Bolton Council decide whether or not to go ahead with this proposal.

Your response - keeping your data safe

Most questions are optional so you can miss out any you prefer not to answer.

The results of this consultation may be made public, however if you're responding as an individual you won't be identified in any report as your responses will be anonymised and grouped with those from other people.

If you're responding in an official capacity your response may be published but no personal details will be included.

Any personal data you provide will be held securely, in line with our retention schedule and privacy policy
www.bolton.gov.uk/data-protection-freedom-information/privacy-notice

We use Snap Surveys professional software to collect and process your data. Their privacy policy can be found here www.snapsurveys.com/survey-software/privacy-policy-uk/. Snap Surveys Ltd. follow the UK General Data Protection Regulation.

Proposed Late Night Levy

Bolton Council are proposing that businesses with a licence to sell or supply alcohol and/or late night refreshment in a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre between 3am and 6am should pay a Late Night Levy unless exempt, so that they contribute directly towards the costs of policing the night time economy.

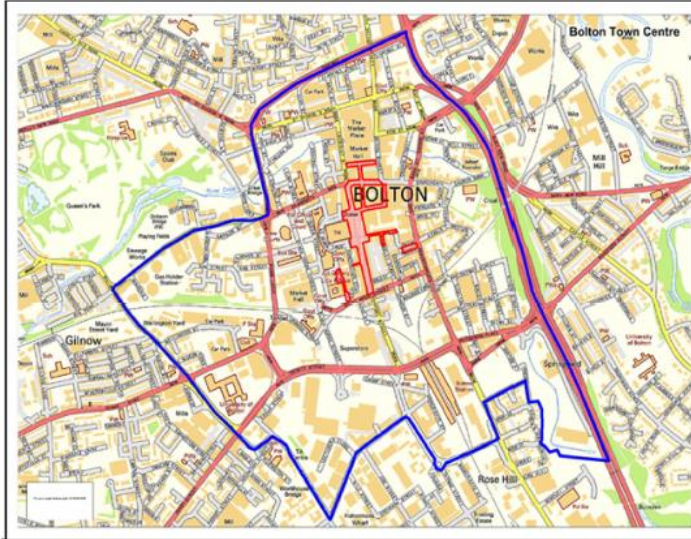
The Late Night Levy amount is set by the government, and is based on the rateable value of the business property.

For 2023/24, this would be between £5.75 and £28.72 a week for businesses in our area.

The Late Night Levy would only apply to businesses who are licensed to sell or supply alcohol and/or late night refreshment between 3am and 6am in a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre. The potential revenue would be used to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour, as well as clean-up operations. Any surplus would go towards other initiatives which will help provide a safer night time environment.

If the Late Night Levy is approved, affected businesses could apply for a free variation. If they no longer had a licence to sell or supply alcohol and/or late night refreshment between 3am and 6am they wouldn't pay the Late Night Levy. We are also considering other exemptions, which are covered later in this questionnaire.

Map showing zoned area of Bolton Town Centre [outlined in blue] to be included in the proposed Late Night Levy



How strongly do you agree / disagree that businesses in a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre, with a licence to sell or supply alcohol and/or late night refreshment between 3am and 6am, should pay a Late Night Levy to help fund the Police and the Council to deal with any issues caused by the late night economy?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

How strongly do you agree / disagree, that the area outlined in blue in the map above, covers the zone that should be covered by the proposed Late Night Levy?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- There should be no Late Night Levy
- No opinion

If you disagree with the proposed zoned area, please describe the area that the Late night Levy should cover

Please use this space for any comments about the proposal to apply the Late Night Levy to businesses in a zoned areas of Bolton Town Centre who are licensed to provide late night refreshment between 3am and 6am. You will be asked about exemptions later in this questionnaire.

Do you hold a premises licence to provide late night refreshment in the proposed zoned area of Bolton Town Centre between 3am and 6am?

- Yes
- No

If the proposed levy is approved how likely / unlikely are you to apply to vary your licence?

- Very likely
- Likely
- Unlikely
- Very unlikely

Please use this space for any comments about varying your licence

Exemptions to the Late Night Levy

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 states that the Council can exempt certain kinds of business from paying the Late Night Levy. We would like your views on whether or not to apply these exemptions. The Late Night Levy wouldn't apply to temporary events, such as Bolton Food & Drink Festival.

Premises with overnight accommodation

The exemption would only apply to any premises who **ONLY** serve food to guests who are staying overnight. It can't be applied to hotels etc with a public bar, or restaurants who serve people who aren't staying overnight.

Theatres and cinemas

These must be genuine theatres or cinemas in the normal sense of the words. Food must only be served to ticket holders or invited guests who are there to see a play, film, show or similar entertainment.

Bingo halls

Any exemptions would only apply to bingo halls that are licensed and regulated under the Gambling Act 2005.

Community Amateur Sports Clubs

This legal term applies to clubs which meet certain conditions, such as its main purpose being to encourage people to take part in sport, open to everyone and run by amateurs. It doesn't include clubs which are registered as charities.

Any exemption would only apply to Community Amateur Sports Clubs which qualify for a reduction in business rate relief.

Community premises

This means a community hall, village hall, or church / chapel hall or similar.

Any exemption would only apply to community premises which had demonstrated that they operate responsibly and have successfully applied for the removal of a designated supervisor.

New Year's Day

An exemption could be given to licence holders who only sell food between 3am and 6am on New Year's Day. They may sell food at other times, but not between 3am and 6am.

Business Improvement Districts

A Business Improvement District is one in which business pay additional business rates and benefit extra services and investment.

Any exemption would only apply to business within a Business Improvement District and has taken steps to reduce crime and disorder.

Having read the descriptions, how far do you agree / disagree that businesses with a licence to provide late night refreshment within the zoned area of Bolton Town Centre should be exempt from paying the Late Night Levy?

Premises with overnight accommodation

--Click Here--	▼
Strongly agree	
Agree	
Disagree	
Strongly disagree	
No opinion	

Theatres and cinemas

--Click Here--	▼
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Bingo halls

--Click Here--	▼
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Community Amateur Sports Clubs

--Click Here--	▼
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Community premises

--Click Here--	▼
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New Year's Day

--Click Here--	▼
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Business Improvement Districts

--Click Here--	▼
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Country village pubs

--Click Here--	▼
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30% reduction

If the Late Night Levy is introduced, we could offer a 30% reduction to certain kinds of businesses. The reduction and the kinds of businesses that can apply are set down by national legislation. The reduction can apply to businesses which are part of a best practise scheme such as Pubwatch or Best Bar None, and business that receive small business rate relief.

How strongly do you agree / disagree that, if the levy is brought in, a 30% discount should apply to businesses that qualify for small business rate?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

How strongly do you agree / disagree that, if the levy is brought in, a 30% discount should apply to businesses that take part in a best practise scheme?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- No opinion

Are there any other best practice schemes that you think should be included?

Comments about exemptions

Please use this space for any comments about exemptions for businesses with a licence to provide late night refreshment between 3am and 6am in a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre

Impact

What, if any, impact will there be if businesses with a licence to provide late night refreshment, within a zoned area of Bolton Town Centre between 3am and 6am, should be included in the Late Night Levy unless exempt.

- Positive impact / improvement
- Negative impact / will make things worse
- No impact
- No opinion

Please tell us about the impact

Your experience

How often do you buy hot food and drinks in the proposed zoned area of Bolton Town Centre between 3am and 6am?

- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- At least twice a year
- Once a year
- Less often
- Never

Overall

Thinking about overall challenges, do you think that providing late night refreshment between 3am and 6am in the proposed zone area of Bolton Town Centre is...?

- A big problem
- A small problem
- No problem
- No opinion

Please use this space if you'd like to make any further comments about the proposal to introduce a Late Night Levy for businesses that provide late night refreshment, between 3am and 6am, in the proposed zoned area of Bolton Town Centre

Businesses

Do any of the following apply to you?

- Own / manage a premises licensed to provide late night refreshment in the proposed zoned area of Bolton Town Centre between 3am to 6am
- Own / manage a premises licensed to provide late night refreshment between 3am to 6am within Bolton borough, but outside the proposed zoned area
- Own / manage a premises licensed to provide late night refreshment, but not between 3am to 6am
- Own / manage a premises without a licence to sell or supply alcohol and/or provide late night refreshment
- None of the above


Late Night Levy business panel

If you are a Bolton Town Centre business licensed to sell alcohol or supply and / or provide late night refreshment, you may wish to join our panel to help us make sure the Late Night Levy is effective.

If you join the panel you may be invited to share your views by email, online or face-to-face meetings or telephone calls. You can take part as much or as little as you like. If you express an interest, this won't commit you to anything. You can change your mind at any time by letting us know when we contact you, or by emailing: licensing.umat@bolton.gov.uk.

Are you interested in joining this panel?

- Yes
- No
- Already a member



Business details

Please give your details below. They will not be used to contact you, unless you have expressed an interest in joining the panel. If you aren't interested in joining the panel and you prefer to remain anonymous just leave this section blank.

Premises licence number

Full name

Business name

Business address

Email address

Telephone number

Your interest

Which of the following best describes you / your family's interest in this consultation?

- Live in Bolton borough
- Work in Bolton borough
- Study / have children at school in Bolton borough
- Visitor to Bolton
- Official response from Parish / Bolton borough Councillor / Elected Member
- Official response from a business / organisation / community group. You must have permission to submit an official response on their behalf
- None of the above

Please say what your interest is

Please say which ward, business organisation or community group you represent

Please say what your role is - in what official capacity do you represent the business, organisation or community group?

About you

Your answers in this section help us to make sure we are getting views from different types of people. They won't be used to contact or identify you.

Please give your full postcode

Are you...?

- Female
- Male
- Identify in another way

Which most closely describes you?

- Employed full time [30 hours or more a week]
- Employed part-time [up to 30 hours a week]
- Self employed / freelance
- Unemployed, available for work
- Unable to work because of sickness / disability
- Full time student
- At home, looking after family
- Retired
- Other - please explain below

If 'other' please explain

Which age group are you in?

- Under18
- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 - 74
- 75 - 84
- 85 or over

Do you look after, or give any help of support to family members, friends, neighbours or others who need help because they have a long-term physical or mental ill-health / disability, or have problems relating to old age?

Please don't count anything you do as part of paid employment.

- No
- Yes, 1-19 hours a week
- Yes, 20 - 49 hours a week
- Yes, 50 or more hours a week

Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a long-term physical or mental health condition / illness?

- Yes, limited a lot
- Yes, limited a little
- No

What is your ethnic group?

- White British
- White other
- Mixed or Multiple ethnic group
- Asian or Asian British
- Black, Black British, Caribbean or African
- Other ethnic group

Thanks! Please click 'submit' to send your response through to us

Appendix B – Official feedback from stakeholders

Hello,

I am writing to you as the Chair of the Bolton Branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA). I responded on behalf of the Campaign to your original consultation on the introduction of a Late Night Levy (LNL) in summer 2023.

CAMRA does not take a specific view on whether premises providing Late Night Refreshment (LNR) should be subject to some form of levy. However, we do not believe that the Late Night Levy is fit for purpose in its current form. Well run pubs, social clubs and taprooms, both in town centres and suburban areas, play an important part in the late night economy and in enriching local communities and personal wellbeing. The Government has consistently recognised the vital role that pubs and hospitality businesses play in local communities through business rate reliefs, community ownership funding and most recently the introduction of the new draught duty rate as part of the Alcohol Duty Review.

The Late Night Levy is in direct contradiction to the wider approach of the Government, where a licensee has a charge levied on them simply because of their licenced hours, regardless of whether they use those full licenced hours or contribute to issues within the local late night economy.

Only nine local authorities had a Levy in place by March 2022. Three local authorities have also removed their Levies: Cheltenham, Nottingham and Southampton (with Nottingham removing their Levy in 2022, following the publication of the statistics used in the consultation document).

Reasons cited for removal included reducing the financial burden on hospitality businesses, lower than expected Levy income, and using partnership working schemes (for example Business Improvement Districts) instead.

Despite the existence of optional exemptions for local authorities to apply, including for those premises only licenced past midnight for New Years Eve, few do this because it impacts upon the potential income that an authority receives from a Levy.

Data also highlights the relatively small levels of funds that levies raise overall, despite the individual fees representing a significant burden for small businesses and pubs that may only use their full licenced hours once a week, or just a few times a year.

Now more than ever, with high inflation, energy costs and the imminent rolling back of energy support schemes, local authorities and central government need to work together to support the licenced trade. There are many successful examples of this outside of the LNL, for example Business Improvement Districts and schemes like Best Bar None, where licenced premises work with local authorities to tackle issues, rather than the local authority imposing a Levy without engagement with those operating businesses.

In summary, we believe that the Levy should not be applied, owing to its detrimental impact on pubs and wider hospitality businesses.



Kind regards,

Chair, Bolton CAMRA