

# NIGHT TIME ECONOMY STRATEGY

2025 - 2030

For the  
future  
Lambeth  
Now



A borough of  
equity and justice

  
Lambeth



DJ at Brixton's Raw Material - credit: Raw Material/Oliver McKenzie

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Cover image - South Bank - credit: Mickey Lee



# Foreword

**Lambeth comes alive at night. From South Bank's cultural institutions to the nightlife of Vauxhall, Brixton, and Clapham, and the strong communities in Streatham and West Norwood – Lambeth offers something for everyone after dark.**

I'm proud to introduce Lambeth's first Night Time Economy Strategy, our bold commitment to protect and grow the experiences, businesses and spaces that make our evenings so vibrant. This strategy is about more than entertainment - it's about ensuring that our night time economy continues to offer unforgettable moments, good jobs, and welcoming places for everyone.

Lambeth is a uniquely 24-hour borough. Our world class culture, nightclubs, transport, hospitality, healthcare and other services operate around the clock. The night time economy is a vital part of London's identity and a major driver of inclusive growth. It creates first jobs and long careers, supports wellbeing, and gives communities space to come together.

Despite these strengths, we recognise the challenges facing businesses operating between

6pm and 6am. Safety remains a concern, especially for women and Black, Asian, and Multi-Ethnic communities. Businesses face rising costs and complex regulations, with one in four late-night venues closing since 2020.<sup>1</sup> Night workers need better access to services. And we must do more to ensure our public spaces, transport and cultural offer are accessible and inclusive after dark so that no one is excluded from a brilliant night out.

We share the government's determination to see the night time economy serve as a major driver of economic growth, delivering on the opportunities identified in the London Growth Plan and our own [Lambeth Growth Plan](#).

This strategy sets out clear actions to respond to these challenges by supporting businesses, improving safety, expanding low-cost cultural options, and celebrating

Lambeth's unique night time character. It's shaped by the voices of our residents, businesses and community partners, and it will be delivered in partnership with them.

Together, we're building a borough where everyone can connect to a vibrant, safe and inclusive night time experience. Lambeth after dark is full of possibility - and this strategy helps us make the most of it.



**Cllr Marcia Cameron, Cabinet Member for Economic Inclusion**





# Introduction

**Working hand in hand with businesses, we'll protect and grow Lambeth's world class night time economy, helping people feel safer and celebrating our unique character after dark.**

Lambeth is one of the UK's most vibrant, culturally rich destinations at night. We are home to globally renowned venues, diverse local businesses, and late-night clubs, attracting visitors from across London and around the world.

Our night time economy encompasses more than typical nightlife: we have two major hospitals, eight leisure centres, public spaces and local businesses where residents and visitors work, study, and socialise.

Our night time offer is essential to ensure our town centres are vibrant destinations and great places to live, in line with Lambeth Growth Plan goals. Many businesses' main revenue is earned at night, and we rely on overnight activities to prepare our days, from wholesale food deliveries to bus repairs to office cleaning.

We are a leading local authority for night time policy and will continue to work in partnership with the Greater London Authority to help us achieve their 24-hour London objectives.

We want Lambeth to be the home of London's best nights out – where people enjoy social and cultural activities that speak to them, feel included in our venues, and get home safely and easily, throughout the night.

**LAMBETH'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE BOROUGH – PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SERVICES, IRREPLACEABLE SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH.**

A strategic approach to growth will help protect our night time economy for the future and for the borough's many night time workers

Cllr Claire Holland OBE, **Leader of Lambeth Council**

**LONDON'S WORLD CLASS NIGHT TIME ECONOMY DEPENDS ON STRONG LOCAL LEADERSHIP TO PROTECT AND CELEBRATE OUR VENUES AND CHAMPION OUR NIGHT WORKERS.**

We welcome Lambeth's Night Time Economy Strategy to recognise and support the borough's diverse, unique night time offer.

Howard Dawber OBE, **GLA Deputy Mayor for Business**

Performance at Streatham Festival - credit: Frank Balbi Hansen

## Why are we creating a Night Time Economy Strategy for Lambeth?

Our Night Time Economy Strategy will protect, grow and strengthen our night time offer, whilst addressing the challenges that residents, visitors, night time businesses, and night workers experience at night.

London's night time economy contributes over £40 billion<sup>2</sup> in value. Lambeth's neighbourhoods are recognised as significant destinations for London's experience economy in the London Growth Plan and our own Lambeth Growth Plan, and a strategic approach will help Lambeth maximise this potential.

Our town centres need a coordinated approach to maintain safe, thriving spaces, and the design of spaces, transportation, and buildings significantly impacts how safe people feel at night. Night workers encounter specific health concerns associated with night shifts and need services to be designed with them in mind.

The Night Time Economy Strategy is the first borough-wide approach to proactively address night time challenges and opportunities in Lambeth. It builds on our success as one of the Mayor of London's first Night Time Enterprise Zones in Vauxhall, where our pilot programme attracted over 15,000 people to night time events, increased footfall by 17% on event nights, engaged with 400 businesses and delivered 24 new business safety accreditations.

Now, we aim to widen this activity so that the whole borough benefits from a thriving night time economy. The strategy will support the London and Lambeth Growth Plans to strengthen local business growth and inclusive economic opportunity for all, including the Lambeth Growth Plan's aim to protect and celebrate our vibrant neighbourhoods.

This strategy is also crucial to achieving our Lambeth 2030 ambitions - from public realm improvements that help make Lambeth neighbourhoods fit for the future, to working with night time businesses on making Lambeth one of the safest boroughs in London, to investing in our culture to make Lambeth a place we can all call home.

Our commitment to being a borough of equity and justice is woven throughout, as we aim to make Lambeth a more inclusive place at night.

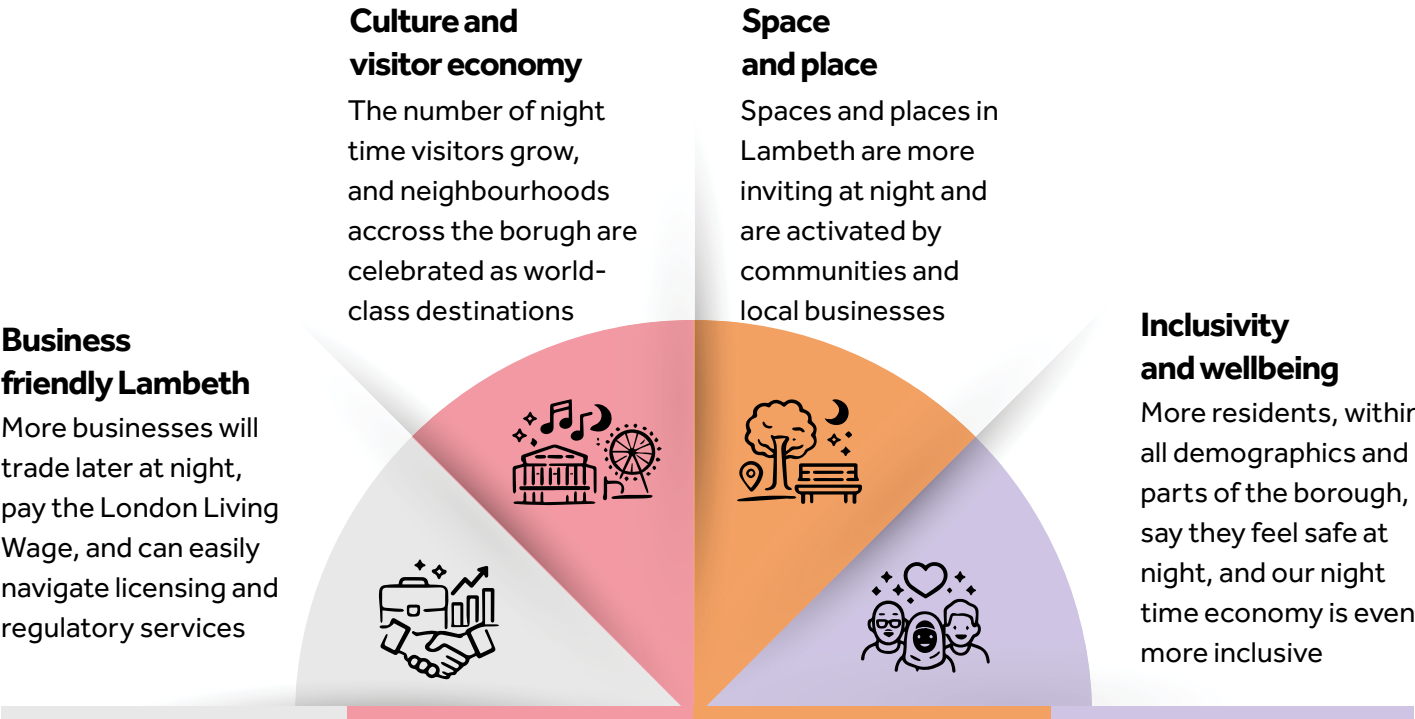


# From protecting our venues, to improving public spaces at night

Our definition of night time is all activity between 6pm and 6am, from the leisure and entertainment that customers enjoy, to the behind-the-scenes work that make these happen such as logistics, healthcare and transport.

Although we recognise that many factors impacting the night time, such as businesses' energy costs and policing allocations, aren't in the council's remit, this strategy will focus on our interface with businesses and help us bring together partners to deliver a positive impact.

## The strategy is built around four themes, with clear outcomes to be delivered by 2030



**Mission Statement**

Working hand in hand with businesses, we'll protect and grow Lambeth's world class night time economy, helping people feel safe and celebrating our unique character after dark



Young performer at Raw Material, Brixton - credit: Oliver Mckenzie



# Understanding Lambeth at Night

Lambeth's night time economy is one of our greatest strengths, yet the sector is vulnerable.

A third of all spend happens after 6pm, above the London average, showing how essential night activities are to our economy.<sup>3</sup> Cultural organisations at South Bank and Waterloo generate £500 million annually and, pre-pandemic, employed around 3,400 staff.<sup>4</sup>

In 2025, more than 760,000 people visited the O2 Academy<sup>5</sup> and Electric Brixton<sup>6</sup>, driving

footfall that sustains nearby bars, restaurants, and grassroots venues including Hootananny, Brixton Jamm, and the Windmill.

The night time economy has strong growth potential. In 2024, independent evening-economy businesses grew twice as fast as chains across the UK.<sup>7</sup>

However, the sector faces significant challenges. Independent operators have seen higher closure rates post-pandemic,<sup>8</sup> due to the cost-of-living crisis, rising commercial

rents, business rates and national insurance changes, alongside shifting consumer behaviour.

While Lambeth protects pubs and cultural venues through Assets of Community Value and our Local Plan, trends show closures continue year on year nationally<sup>9</sup> and locally.<sup>10</sup>

**WE WELCOME THIS STRATEGY RECOGNISING GRASSROOTS MUSIC VENUES' VITAL ROLE IN GENERATING ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND WELLBEING VALUE.**

Stronger cross-departmental protections are essential to retain them in our communities, and MVT is ready to collaborate for Lambeth's unique network of venues.

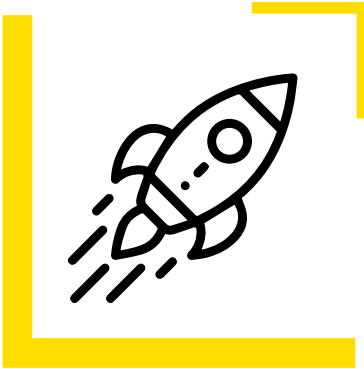
Sophie Asquith, Venue Support Manager, Music Venue Trust



Audience members enjoy a theatre performance at Streatham Space Project - credit: David Monteith-Hodge

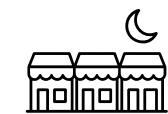


# Lambeth at night...in numbers



**£500 million**

The annual contribution of the major cultural organisations at South Bank and Waterloo



**3,932**  
Estimated number of Lambeth businesses in night time sectors



**2,000**  
Approximate number of licensed premises in Lambeth



**£28 million**  
O2 Academy Brixton's estimated annual economic contribution



**1 in 3**  
Pounds spent after 6pm in Lambeth



**99.3%**  
of Lambeth's businesses in the four night time sectors are small and medium businesses

## THE BEST MOMENTS ARE UNEXPECTED AND UNSCHEDULED.

Like music or ad hoc karaoke with a busker outside the Ritzy, stumbling on a pop up DJ, someone playing music...The unexpected becomes magic. There's always a buzz.

Residents, Visitors and Workers survey response



The National Theatre



# Who is using the borough at night?

Lambeth's night time landscape has been shaped by diverse communities, making it unique.

Brixton and Streatham are known for Afro-Caribbean culture, Stockwell and Oval for Portuguese-speaking communities, and Vauxhall

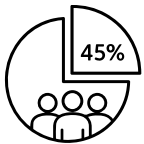
and Clapham for LGBTQ+ communities.

45% of residents are from Black, Asian, Mixed or other non-White backgrounds, compared to 18%<sup>11</sup> nationally, and nearly one in ten residents identifies as LGBTQ+, the largest proportion in London.<sup>12</sup> Lambeth's communities are the

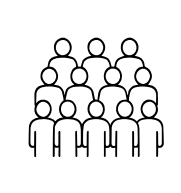
heart of who we are, and this strategy reflects our diversity, protecting spaces<sup>13</sup>, supporting inclusion, and addressing barriers faced by disabled residents, Black residents, women, older people, and social renters.<sup>14</sup>



**1 in 10 residents** identifies as LGBTQ+, the largest proportion in London



**45%** of Lambeth residents are from Black, Asian, Mixed or other non-White backgrounds



**11 million** Lambeth's weekly average of night time footfall across our town centres



**200+** Night time businesses operate in Brixton, more than any other area in Lambeth



**30 24/7 bus routes** and 7 Night Tube stations served on weekends



**76,300** people work in Lambeth's night time industries, mainly in food, culture, and health

**WHAT I LIKE ABOUT THE EVENING AND NIGHT TIME IN LAMBETH, ESPECIALLY IN BRIXTON, IS THE VIBRANT AND CULTURALLY RICH COMMUNITY...WITH A STRONG MIX OF CULTURES, TRADITIONS, AND LOCAL CHARACTER.**

This gives the area a unique atmosphere that makes it stand out at night, with its live music, food, and sense of community.

Residents, Visitors and Workers survey response

Traders at a Summer Streets Fund event, Atlantic Road, Brixton - credit: Sergio Lopez





# Lambeth's night time economy is dominated by culture and health

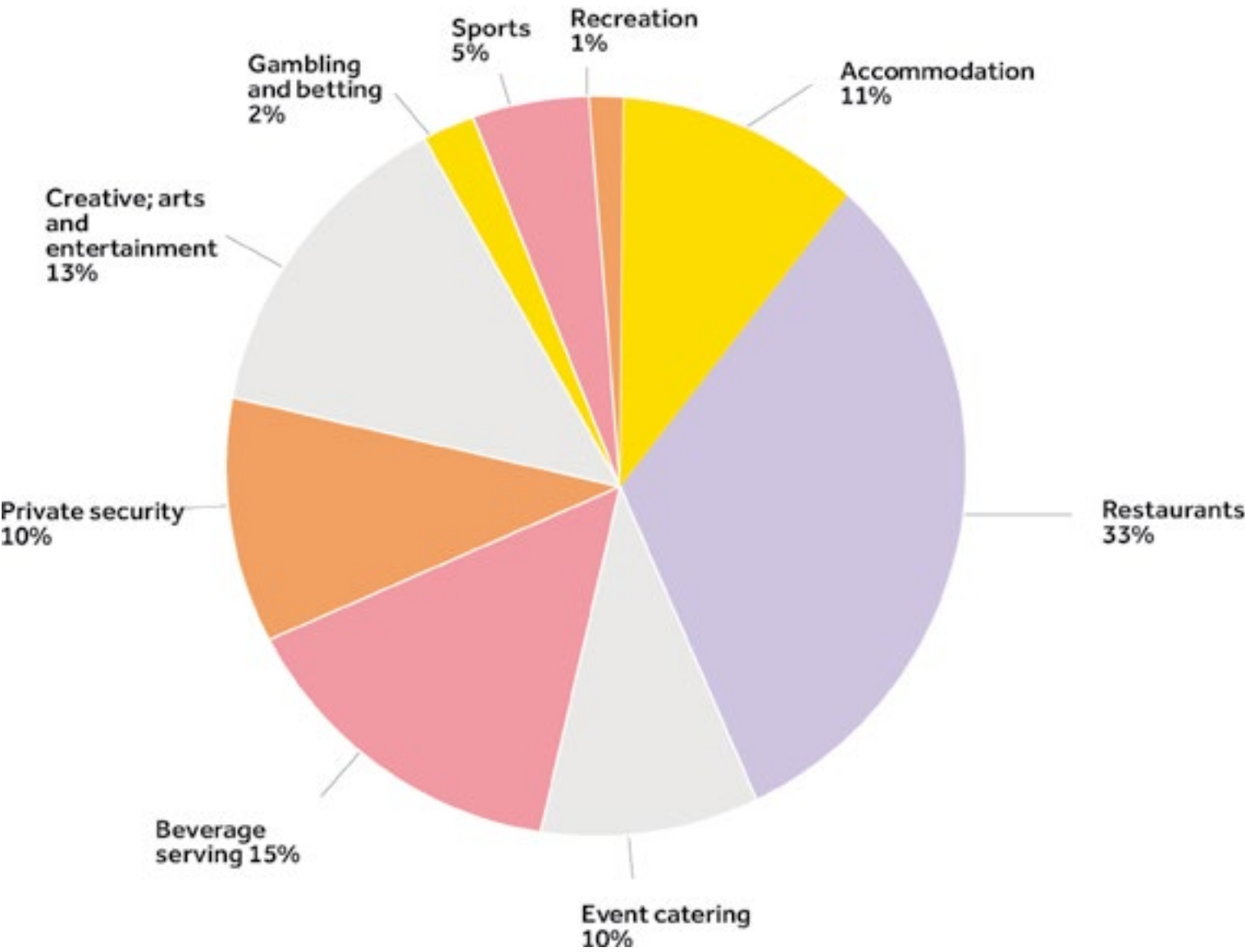
The data highlights Lambeth's strong night time economy, with an estimated 76,300 employees working in night-time industries; more than double the local authority average in England.

A significant share of these workers are in the arts, entertainment, and health sectors, with Lambeth having almost seven times the national average concentration of

employees in the creative, arts, and entertainment sector (the highest in London, above Camden and Westminster)<sup>15</sup> and more than double the national average in health.

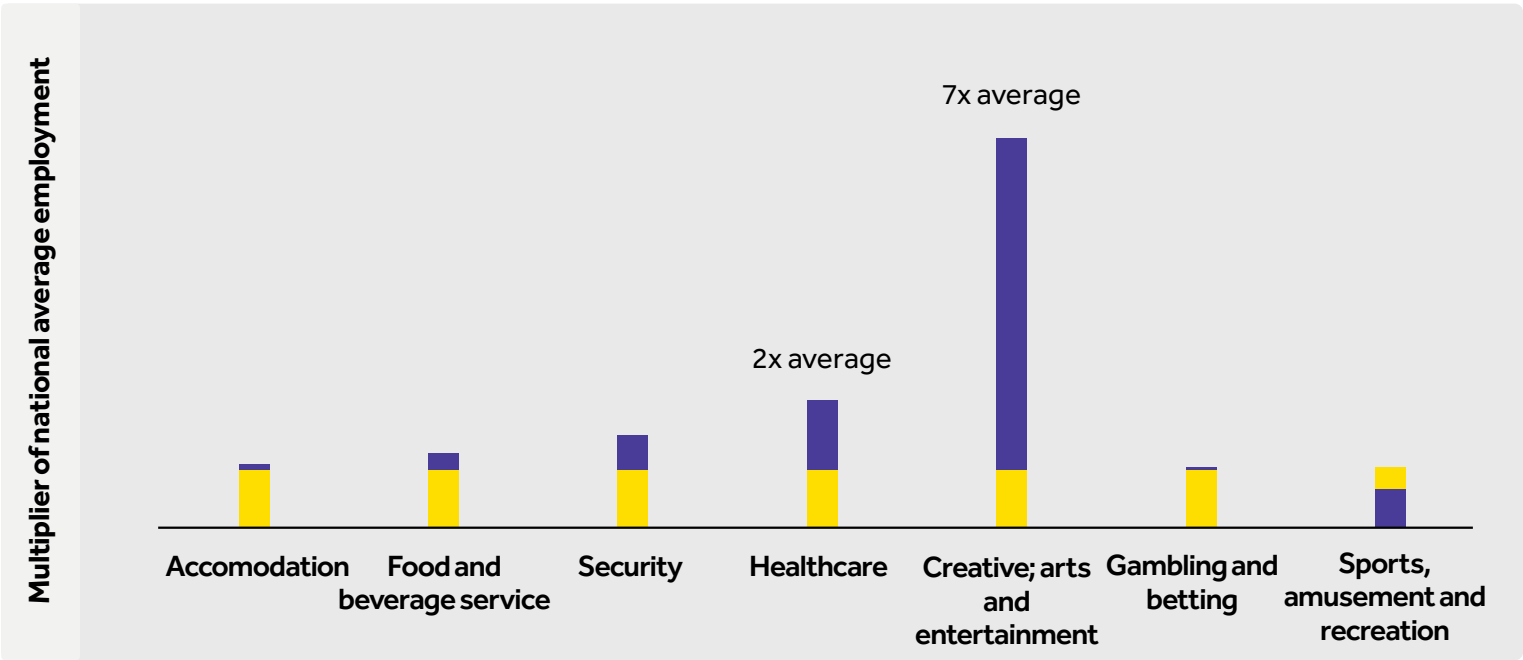
## Where do employees within the culture and leisure sector work?

Data source: Inter-Departmental Business Register



## How does Lambeth's night time employment compare to national averages?

■ National average concentration of jobs per sector  
■ Lambeth concentration of jobs per sector



These figures reflect Lambeth's cultural offer - dominated by restaurants and arts and entertainment linked to areas

such as the South Bank, Waterloo, Brixton, Clapham, and Vauxhall - and its health sector, reinforced by two NHS

trusts and major hospital infrastructure in the borough.







BFI Southbank at night

## We are home to multiple world-class visitor destinations

Lambeth has high levels of night time footfall within London: Waterloo, Brixton, Vauxhall and Clapham High Street are all in London's top 20 visitor night time hotspots.<sup>16</sup>

Compared to all London boroughs, Lambeth has the fifth-highest level of visitors at night, seeing nearly 200,000 extra visitors per weekend

night, and over 135,000 visitors on weeknights.<sup>17</sup>

Brixton sees an average of 50,000 visitors every night<sup>18</sup> - more than double other known night time hotspots like Dalston. Data from the South Bank shows that 17% of visitors to the area are international tourists, while 63% are from elsewhere in London or the UK.<sup>19</sup>

South Bank, Waterloo, Clapham and Brixton are recognised in the London Growth Plan as major international visitor destinations.

By working with partners to promote these areas and tackle safety concerns, we can help Lambeth's night time businesses grow and keep the borough's reputation strong.

**152**  
Arts and cultural spaces

**134**  
Pubs

**127**  
Bars

**25**  
Hotels

**44**  
Nightclubs

**285**  
Restaurants

All figures are accurate as of the publication of this strategy.

## Lambeth has a very high number of licensed premises

Lambeth has nearly 2,000 licensed premises, the third highest of any London borough, and just over 100 24-hour licenses, the second highest in London.<sup>20</sup>

The concentration of licensed premises highlights Lambeth's strongest cultural and leisure destinations, including the South Bank, Waterloo, Vauxhall, Clapham and Brixton.

### DENSITY OF LICENSED PREMISES BY WARD

**Concentration of licensed premises**

Less premises

More premises

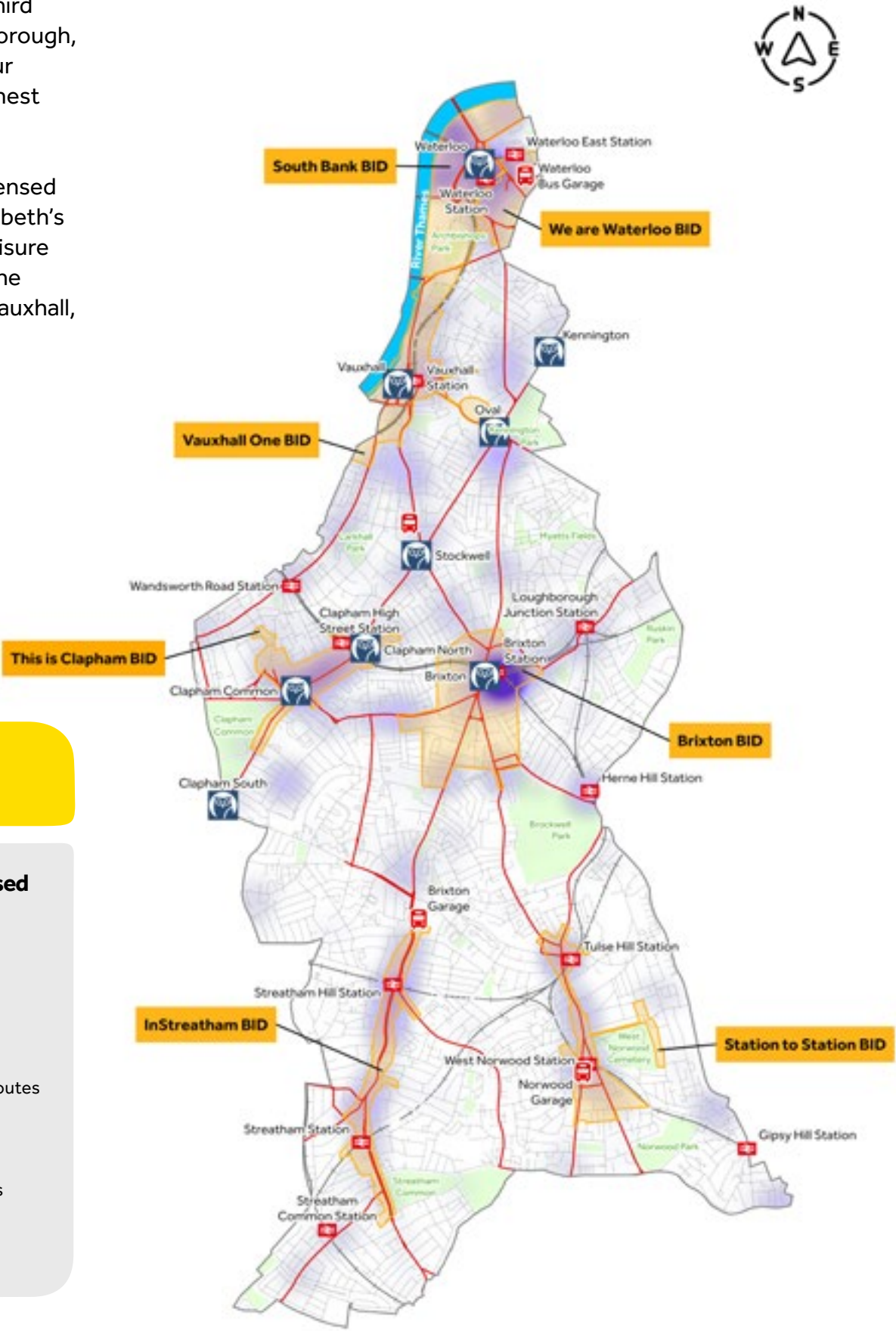
Bus garages

Night and 24hr bus routes

Night Tube stations

National Rail stations

BID areas





# Night workers are an underrepresented group that needs more support




**17% vs 12%**  
Night workers are more likely to experience lower pay



**18% vs 9%**  
Night workers are more likely to experience insecure work <sup>21</sup>



**£50 billion**  
The annual cost of sleep disruption linked to night work <sup>22</sup>



**37%**  
Night workers are more likely to have a heart attack <sup>23</sup>

Due to the unique makeup of Lambeth’s night time workforce, with high numbers of health, cultural and leisure workers, local policy must support these employees.

Restaurants and creative industries, for example, have higher proportions of insecure working conditions, so targeting these sectors can have a greater impact on improving night work.

Planning, transport, and regeneration activities can also better support hospital night workers, particularly through projects in Waterloo and South Bank.

The concentration of evening employment highlights which activities are most significant in Lambeth after 6pm. This shows the strength of our leisure offer, while also underlining the importance of health

and care services delivered at night. Evidence makes clear that night work impacts health and wellbeing.

Night workers are 44% more likely to develop diabetes, and six times more likely to divorce compared with daytime workers.<sup>24</sup> Improving night work conditions benefits both individuals and society.

**NIGHT WORKERS ARE TOO OFTEN THE “FORGOTTEN SHIFT” – THEY ARE THE BACKBONE OF MANY INDUSTRIES, YET THEIR UNIQUE CHALLENGES ARE EASILY OVERLOOKED.**

Policy makers and employers together have a huge opportunity to boost wellbeing, engagement and productivity by thinking strategically about how to help night workers thrive.

**Ben Lumley, Co-Head of Programme, Night Club**



**HEALTH SERVICES ARE A VITAL PART OF LAMBETH’S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY, SUPPORTING RESIDENTS, WORKERS AND VISITORS AROUND THE CLOCK.**

A well-planned night time environment helps ensure staff can travel safely, access essential services, and work in a borough that values wellbeing alongside culture and economic activity.

**Bach Luu Kaparia, Health & Care Hub Manager, South East London Integrated Care System**

Worker opening Clapham North Underground station - credit: Jim Grover Photography



# Developing the Night Time Economy Strategy

## Hearing community voices

The voices of our residents, businesses, and partners are central to this strategy. We used a range of methods to engage our communities and understand what they want to see at night.

### Community dinners:

We invited residents to enjoy a free meal and discuss their experiences of the borough at night. Over 150 people joined us across three community dinners. Older residents were well represented, aligning with our Age Friendly Lambeth goals and demonstrating that people of all ages have an interest in night time activity.

Over half of attendees were from Black, Asian or Multi-Ethnic backgrounds, in line with the borough's demographics. Conversations were facilitated by our Night Time Connectors, a diverse group of residents with different backgrounds and experiences of the night time.



Community dinner event at Streatham Space Project - credit: Samuel Sowemimo

### Community evening events

We funded six community evening events, delivered by local organisations, that reflected on experiences of Lambeth at night. The events centred communities including unpaid carers and people receiving care, older LGBTQ+

people, disabled people, young people, Black residents, Portuguese speakers, and asylum seekers. Over 400 people attended to enjoy the events and share their views.



Black British Ballet performance at Clapham Library - credit: Oxygen Arts

### ELEVATE

Lambeth's Elevators (young creative leaders) created a short film about young people's experiences in Lambeth at night that was screened to 20 residents under 25, with youth

leaders facilitating discussions. 90% of attendees surveyed were from Black, Asian, or Hispanic or Latin American backgrounds, and 40% identified as LGBTQ+.



ELEVATE engagement event at The Advocacy Academy - credit: Joe Twigg

### Business engagement

Each of Lambeth's seven Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) led walks around their areas at night. We heard from business owners and night workers about opportunities and challenges in the night time economy and held one-on-one conversations with

some of Lambeth's biggest night time businesses and organisations like TfL, the Metropolitan Police, the O2 Academy, Electric Brixton, the Kia Oval, and King's College Hospital. Overall, we spoke to over 80 night time businesses and organisations.



Portuguese-speaking business engagement - credit: Alex Bowie

### Surveys

We also used a more traditional approach of conducting surveys. We received over 450 responses from residents, visitors, night workers and businesses. Over half of business responses were from small businesses The top three items that residents, visitors and workers wanted to see at night

were more lighting, more cultural activities, and more public events, while businesses said the top three items that would help them grow were an improved local environment, growing a customer base, and access to business support.



Online survey responses - credit: Mark Field photography





Community Dinner at the Karibu Centre - credit: Samuel Sowemimo

## Case study: **Brixton Community Dinner**

The Brixton Community Dinner was held at the Karibu Centre, a wheelchair-accessible community venue with a long-standing reputation for hosting inclusive local events.

The evening featured a Caribbean menu with vegetarian and halal options, ensuring everyone could enjoy a welcoming and relaxed meal together. More than 60 residents attended, representing a wide mix of ages, cultures, and backgrounds from across Brixton. The dinner was designed as a space for open and honest

discussion about what the night time in Lambeth means to local people, from safety and accessibility to culture, social life, and business opportunities.

A team of Night Time Connectors, who were members of the local community employed to facilitate conversations and gather feedback, played a key role throughout the evening. Their presence helped ensure every voice was heard, particularly those who might not usually attend public consultations.

The event succeeded in bringing people together in a meaningful way, helping residents feel part of shaping Brixton's night time future and reinforcing the importance of inclusive, community-led dialogue in the development of Lambeth's Night Time Economy Strategy.



Night Time Connectors briefing at the Streatham community dinner - credit: Samuel Sowemimo



# Lambeth's Neighbourhoods at Night

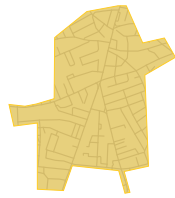
**Each of Lambeth's neighbourhoods has its own unique character and night time needs.**

We will work with our BIDs and local partners to champion businesses and empower communities - tailoring support to meet the distinct night time opportunities in every part of the borough.



Ritzy cinema, Brixton





# Brixton: Unique nightlife growing from global cultures

Brixton is one of Lambeth’s most iconic neighbourhoods - rich in heritage, creativity and community spirit. Recognised in the London Growth Plan as a potential future internationally significant visitor destination, Brixton’s night time offer is already world-class.

From legendary music venues like Electric Brixton, Phonox, Hootananny, the O2 Academy and the Windmill, to cultural institutions like 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning and the Ritzy Cinema, the area has a wealth to offer in the evenings. The Brixton Rec

is a growing sports and leisure destination, with an expanding range of night time activities like karaoke. This is complemented by other 24-hour gyms, climbing gyms and fitness classes across the area.

Brixton’s identity is deeply rooted in its Afro-Caribbean heritage, shaped since the arrival of the Windrush Generation. It’s a place where culture is lived and celebrated daily - through food, music, art and activism. Independent bars and restaurants line Coldharbour Lane, Atlantic Road, Pop Brixton and Brixton Market and Village, staying open

late and offering a vibrant mix of experiences alongside retail anchors like Morleys Department Store.

The area’s transport connectivity, including the Victoria Line Night Tube, night buses and National Rail, make Brixton a true 24-hour destination. Each year, over 13 million visitors arrive between 6pm and 6am, drawn by its unique blend of culture.<sup>25</sup>

## Opportunities to strengthen Brixton’s night time experience

Our engagement with residents and businesses confirmed what many already know: Brixton is a cultural hub with a strong sense of local identity. Spaces like Windrush Square and the markets are seen as vital community assets, with huge potential for inclusive night time programming from outdoor performances to community-led events.

But we also heard concerns. Some people feel unsafe navigating Brixton at night, citing issues such as poorly lit routes,

vacant shopfronts, crowding on streets and buses, and visible drug and alcohol use. These challenges are real and must be addressed with care and collaboration.

Our commitment is to strengthen Brixton’s vibrant night time offer while ensuring it works for everyone. We will not introduce unnecessary limits on the number of licensed premises, instead assessing each application on their contribution to a safe and bustling town centre.

We will work in partnership with local communities, businesses and public safety partners to activate public spaces, improve the local environment, and ensure that Brixton remains a place where creativity grows, businesses are thriving, and everyone feels welcome after dark.



DJ night at Electric Brixton - credit: Robert Stainforth

## Local case study: Electric Brixton

Electric is more than a music venue - it’s a cultural landmark and a vital stepping stone for emerging artists.

As one of London’s few mid-size venues, it plays a critical role in the UK’s music ecosystem, offering artists a space to grow their audiences and take the next step in their careers. Each year, it welcomes over 175,000 visitors across nearly 180 events, with programming that reflects Lambeth’s diversity - from reggae festivals and Latin club nights to LGBTQ+ celebrations.

The venue’s impact goes beyond the stage. It supports the local economy by employing 16 full-time staff and up to 40 part-time workers, many of whom live in Lambeth. It also leads on best practice in safety and inclusion, with enhanced cleaning and security measures that support quiet dispersal and provide reassurance for women travelling alone.

Electric Brixton is a valued community asset, and we are working closely with the venue to safeguard its future.

Through planning protections and Asset of Community Value designation, we are committed to ensuring that Electric Brixton and other venues are protected within Lambeth’s night time economy.

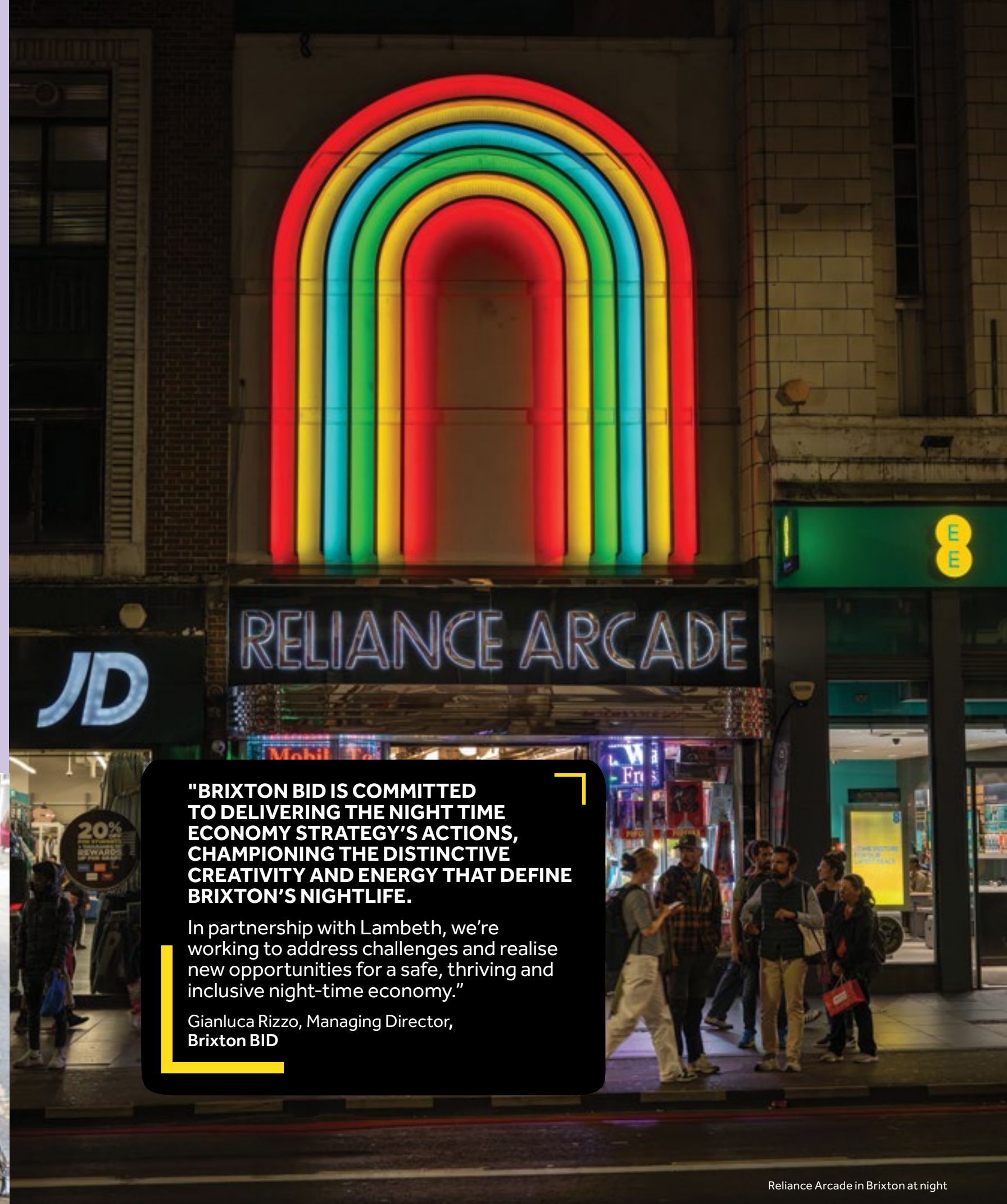


# What we'll do

- **Support and champion Brixton's nationally important cultural and nightlife venues**, such as Electric Brixton and the Windmill, by advocating for venues, promoting Asset of Community Value designation and signposting to grant opportunities
- **Promote Brixton's unique nightlife on the international stage** with London and Partners, delivering on the London and Lambeth Growth Plan's aim to build Brixton's reputation as an internationally significant visitor destination
- **Activate Brixton's public spaces for everyone to enjoy at night** by expanding business activity into the evening with al fresco dining and entertainment aligned with Licensing and Street Trading objectives
- **Bring exciting new night time activities to Brixton** through the Brixton Rec's night time offer, such as the new bowling alley and karaoke rooms
- **Improve Brixton's public spaces so everyone feels welcome and able to navigate the area at night**, through the Brixton Day and Night Framework and potential High Street Rental Auctions to bring long-term vacant units in areas like Coldharbour Lane back to life
- **Seek external funding to pilot a night time wellbeing hub** for Brixton's night time economy users, including access to phone charging, water and toilets
- **Create a safer experience in Brixton at night** through continuing our coordinating work between Lambeth Public Protection, BID security, and an increased Safer Neighbourhood Policing team
- **Showcase and support Brixton's diverse night time cultural offer** through the Brixton Creative Enterprise Zone programme



Brixton Chamber Orchestra at a Summer Streets event on Brixton Station Road- credit: Magnus Andersson



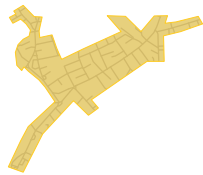
**"BRIXTON BID IS COMMITTED TO DELIVERING THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY STRATEGY'S ACTIONS, CHAMPIONING THE DISTINCTIVE CREATIVITY AND ENERGY THAT DEFINE BRIXTON'S NIGHTLIFE."**

In partnership with Lambeth, we're working to address challenges and realise new opportunities for a safe, thriving and inclusive night-time economy."

Gianluca Rizzo, Managing Director,  
Brixton BID

Reliance Arcade in Brixton at night





# CLAPHAM: From clubbing to fine dining

Clapham blends vibrant late night activity and a more relaxed cultural offer. Recognised in the London Growth Plan as an internationally significant visitor destination, it offers a mix of experiences from late-night clubbing to al fresco hospitality.

Clapham High Street is the heart of the area's night time economy, home to iconic venues like Infernos and the Two Brewers, alongside a growing cluster of independent LGBTQ+ businesses on Voltaire Road and one of the

UK's leading contemporary art galleries in Studio Voltaire. The area's energy continues into the early hours, with some venues open until 4am on weekends, drawing visitors from across London and beyond.

Clapham Old Town is home to independent pubs, the Omnibus Theatre, and the Michelin-starred Trinity restaurant, which all offer opportunities for evening socialising, typically winding down around midnight.

Clapham's excellent transport links include three Tube stations with Night Tube services, Overground access, and multiple night buses, making it one of Lambeth's most well-served destinations after dark.

## Opportunities to strengthen Clapham's night time experience

Our engagement found that Clapham's appeal is broad and international, with connections to communities from Ireland, South Africa and Australia. Residents and visitors alike praised the area's diverse nightlife, high-quality restaurants, and cultural offer.

The Clapham Night Hub was highlighted as an incredible asset that significantly improves community safety and wellbeing at night.

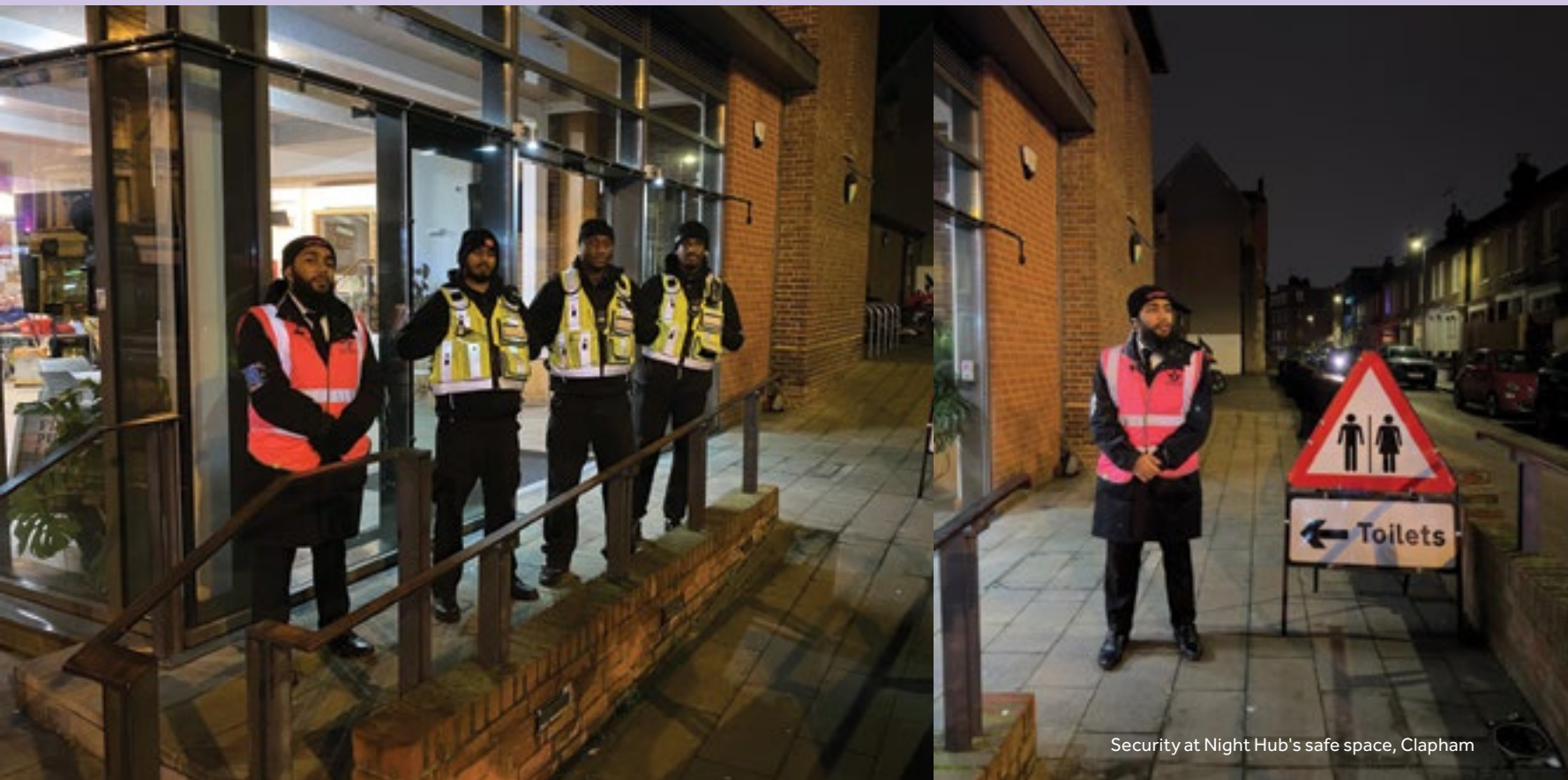
However, theft and robbery along the high street remain challenges for customers, and the street's layout - wide, busy and heavily trafficked - limits opportunities for outdoor activation and creates road safety risks. Previous licensing restrictions under the Cumulative Impact Zone have also constrained the growth of new businesses.

We are committed to unlocking Clapham's full potential by creating safer, more vibrant streetscapes, supporting inclusive cultural programming, and removing barriers to growth.

By working in partnership with local businesses, residents and public safety teams, we will ensure Clapham continues to be a prominent destination in London's night time economy.

## What we'll do

- **Strengthen our existing work with the Safer Business Network** to address the challenges of phone theft and robbery at night on Clapham High Street
- **Continue to provide best-in-class safety for night time economy customers** through the Clapham Night Hub supported by BID and business contributions, and collect learnings to replicate this across the borough
- **Create vibrant streetscapes to support night time businesses**, for example through the innovative Venn Street and Voltaire Road Shared Space Agreements, or the "Reimagined" projects to transform side streets
- **Broaden the diverse cultural offer in Clapham** and continue the council's support for venues like Studio Voltaire, Omnibus Theatre and the Clapham Library
- **Encourage the growth of new night time economy activities in Clapham**, such as "sip and paint" or adventure activity businesses, by reforming the Cumulative Impact Zone in our updated Licensing Policy



Security at Night Hub's safe space, Clapham





Customers enjoying the Venn St Records terrace at night - credit: Aaron Ryan

## Local case study: Venn Street

Venn Street in Clapham exemplifies how local businesses can lead the way in transforming public space.

In 2023, Lambeth Licensing partnered with This is Clapham BID and Venn St Records to introduce an innovative licensing agreement empowering businesses to take ownership of their street environment.

Through this agreement, Venn St. Records now manages the road closure, conducts regular cleaning, and liaises with the council on behalf of four neighbouring businesses. This collaborative model has unlocked improvements that might

otherwise have been out of reach, especially for smaller businesses with limited capacity.

It's a powerful demonstration of how licensing can be used not just to regulate, but to enable creativity and community benefit. The Greater London Authority have used Venn Street as a case study to inspire other boroughs to transform night time streets.

On weekends, Venn Street comes alive with a daytime market from 9am to 6pm, followed by vibrant outdoor hospitality from 6pm to 11pm. New festoon lighting and the pedestrianised space has helped address safety concerns in what was previously a dark and underused street.

This initiative shows what's possible when a council uses its statutory role to work with businesses to reimagine public space and create safer, more welcoming environments for night time activity.

**WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE WORKING WITH LAMBETH COUNCIL AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO ENHANCE CLAPHAM AS A NIGHT TIME DESTINATION AND SUPPORT THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR.**

This Is Clapham BID seeks to nurture a safe, vibrant and inclusive night-time economy.

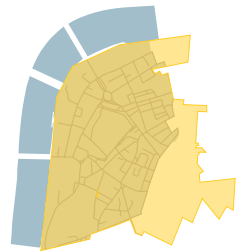
By bringing businesses, partners and the community together, we champion initiatives that enhance safety, support local venues, and enrich the cultural life of Clapham after dark.

Jeremy Keates, BID Manager, This is Clapham BID



Clapham High Street during nightlife hours - credit: Jim Grover Photography





# SOUTH BANK: World class culture and the best of the Thames

South Bank is one of London’s most celebrated cultural destinations and an internationally recognised hub for creativity, tourism and innovation. Nestled along the Thames within the Central Activities Zone, it is home to some of the UK’s most iconic institutions, including the South Bank Centre, Ballet Rambert, National Theatre, British Film Institute, and the London Eye. With over 3.2 million monthly visitors - more than

a third arriving after 6pm - the area is a cornerstone of Lambeth and London’s night time economy. The riverside offers more than scenic views as a place where people gather, connect and experience the best of London’s culture. Bars and restaurants stay open until midnight, cultural venues host performances late into the evening, and major hotels and St Thomas’s Hospital operate around the clock.

Upcoming developments like Royal Street and Vista (72 Upper Ground), alongside the recently completed 76 Southbank, will further strengthen South Bank’s role as a centre for jobs, creativity and inclusive growth.

## Opportunities to strengthen South Bank’s night time experience

Residents and visitors told us they see South Bank’s well-managed public realm along the river as the ideal night time outdoor environment, which feels safe and lively through events and activations. The riverside’s lighting, layout and programming make it feel welcoming and energetic after dark. But we also heard that navigating between Waterloo Station and key cultural venues, especially the BFI IMAX, can be confusing and disjointed.

Improved wayfinding and clearer routes are needed to help people move confidently through the area. As a major tourist destination, South Bank also faces challenges around theft and pickpocketing. While there is strong security provision, we will continue working with partners to strengthen safety measures and ensure that residents, workers and visitors can enjoy the area with confidence.

South Bank is a place where the night time economy supports both our local identity and global reputation. We will enhance this offer to make it more accessible, inclusive and connected so that South Bank continues to be a beacon of creativity and opportunity after dark.

## What we’ll do

- **Promote and grow the world-leading night time cultural offer** at South Bank through destination marketing and promoting programmes like Festival 75 that will connect residents and visitors into free cultural opportunities
- **Address safety challenges and pickpocketing at night** by promoting the local Business Watch, additional security support through BID provision, increasing Safe Havens in 24-hour hotels and advocating for increased public safety provision with partners
- **Transform public spaces along the Spine Route**, improving the environment around to ensure a high-quality experience for over 1.1 million night time visitors each month
- **Transform under-used undercroft spaces into night time destinations**, such as the Vinegar Yard development under Waterloo Bridge
- **Integrate the night time economy** into the Waterloo Station Vision and opportunities to transform the surrounding area
- **Deliver a high-quality environment** that contributes to South Bank’s status as a leading visitor destination by improving wayfinding and navigation across the arts cluster through the Waterloo Wayfinding Strategy



South Bank skyline at night – credit: Stuart Tree





South Bank Market - credit: India Roper Evans



**THE SOUTH BANK HAS A WORLD-LEADING NIGHT TIME ECONOMY, FULL OF INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT CULTURAL DESTINATIONS AND LOCAL FAVOURITES.**

Attracting over 35 million annual visitors, it's also home to a diverse mix of residents, workers, businesses, students, and community organisations. This strategy supports our shared aims for a world-class South Bank for everyone.

Nic Durston, Chief Executive, **South Bank Employers' Group** and **South Bank BID**

# Local case study: Let's Do London campaign

The Let's Do London campaign was London's largest ever tourism initiative, launched in 2021 to accelerate the tourism industry's recovery from the pandemic. South Bank BID and Merlin Entertainments, owners of the London Eye and London Aquarium, played a pivotal role in shaping and funding the campaign.

Through bold digital storytelling and a series of free outdoor events, the campaign

reconnected Londoners and visitors with the city's cultural offer. Highlights included the Winter Lights programme - a stunning display of light and video installations that transformed the South Bank into a glowing riverside experience.

These activations boosted footfall and increased spend in local restaurants, shops and venues. The campaign saw over 330,000 additional visitors and £81 million in extra spending<sup>26</sup> across the

city. For Lambeth, it was a clear demonstration of how creative placemaking and strategic collaboration can drive inclusive growth, support local businesses, and reimagine public space.

South Bank at night - credit: Mickey Lee





# STREATHAM: A high street of hidden gems

As Europe’s longest high street, Streatham High Road is home to a rich mix of amenities, from a major leisure centre to independent food spots and music venues that bring the area to life after dark.

While its night time rhythm is quieter than some of Lambeth’s other town centres, Streatham’s offer is full of character, with venues like Porky’s and the

White Lion hosting reggae, soul and community-led events that reflect the area’s cultural roots. Streatham is home to large green spaces, most notably the historic Rookery at Streatham Common, which offer opportunities for evening activity outside.

Three railway stations and a 24-hour bus interchange connect residents and visitors to the rest of London. Although the area’s cultural offer is more targeted to locals, the former Streatham

Space Project site presents a major opportunity to introduce a new cultural anchor to the high street.

## Opportunities to strengthen Streatham’s night time experience

Through our engagement we heard a clear message: Streatham residents and businesses are proud of their neighbourhood and want to see it thrive at night. There’s a strong appetite to bring more attention, investment and activity to the area, especially in ways that reflect its identity and support local businesses.

The cost of living crisis, competition from nearby centres like Balham, and changing consumer habits - such as the rise of food delivery apps - have all impacted footfall and created

challenges for the night time economy. The high street’s length and busy traffic create long gaps between clusters of activity, and some residents have raised concerns about safety and visible street drug use in these quieter stretches.

We are committed to working with the community to unlock Streatham’s potential. That means supporting existing businesses, activating underused spaces, and creating new opportunities for culture, food and social connection after dark.

With the right investment and partnerships, Streatham can continue to provide a night time offer that is valued by residents and visitors alike.

## What we’ll do

- **Attract a new cultural anchor** at the former Streatham Space Project site with a night time offer tailored to the community
- **Increase cultural activities for Streatham communities** through organisations like the Artists Studio Company, ensuring that the renovated space provides regular free cultural programming for the public
- **Work with the Safer Business Network** to respond to safety challenges, helping businesses tackle incidents by sharing intelligence, and ensure policing allocations through reporting
- **Raise the reputation of Streatham’s unique local night offer** through BID plans to invest in sector-focused marketing
- **Improve Streatham’s local green space** through projects like Transforming Streatham Green, making spaces more accessible and safer for a range of community uses, day and night
- **Secure a community offer** at the Streatham Hill Theatre site that includes evening and night time activity



Performers at Streatham Festival - credit: Frank Balbi Hansen





Audience in Streatham Space Project theatre - credit: David Monteith-Hodge

# Local case study: Festivals in Streatham

Streatham has an exciting collection of local festivals that enliven the area at night and show how activities showcasing local character can build the reputation of the night time economy, even in areas less known for nightlife.

The InStreatham Food Festival, delivered by the BID, is a highlight of the local calendar and includes a restaurant tour map that guides people through the area’s culinary gems alongside the Food Fair on Streatham Green that runs into the evening.

It’s a celebration of local hospitality and flavour.

The volunteer-run Streatham Free Film Festival transforms everyday spaces into pop-up cinemas, pairing screenings with food, performances and parties. The Streatham Festival rounds out the offer with a programme of music, visual arts and entertainment. From the art trail in local businesses to the “Streatham Strut” - a 10-hour music crawl featuring 10 live acts in 10 venues - it’s a grassroots celebration of

creativity that puts local artists and businesses centre stage.

Together, these festivals drive footfall, support the night time economy, and create platforms for cultural participation in an area with fewer dedicated venues. They show how community-led programming can unlock the potential of public and business spaces and strengthen local identity.



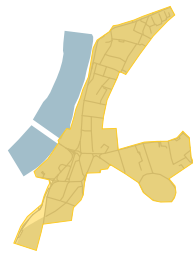
**INSTREATHAM IS PROUD TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LAMBETH COUNCIL TO DELIVER THE NIGHT TIME STRATEGY, SUPPORTING STREATHAM’S UNIQUE EVENING ECONOMY.**

Together we address local challenges and unlock opportunities, strengthening safety, culture and business growth across Streatham’s diverse night time offer.

**InStreatham BID Board**

Attendees at Streatham Festival - credit: Frank Balbi Hansen





# VAUXHALL: A 24-hour buzz and proud history

Vauxhall is one of London’s most vibrant late-night destinations and one of the Mayor of London’s first Night Time Enterprise Zones.

Its renowned nightclubs, including FIRE, attract clubgoers from across London, whilst the Royal Vauxhall Tavern and The Eagle offer LGBTQ+ cabaret and club nights that reflect the area’s rich heritage. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens hosts popular open-

air film screenings and summer events, attracting over 12,000 visitors accross the summer, and the Oval Cricket Ground and Vauxhall City Farm are expanding their evening programmes.

The area’s food scene is equally vibrant, with street food halls and new Asian restaurants joining the established Portuguese eateries that give ‘Little Portugal’ its name. The neighbourhood is evolving rapidly, with new residential,

office and hospitality developments alongside longstanding businesses.

Vauxhall also has exceptional night time transport connections with Southwestern Rail, the Victoria Line with weekend Night Tube, and a 24/7 bus hub, active throughout the night.

## Opportunities to strengthen Vauxhall’s night time experience

Our engagement revealed that Vauxhall is full of not only renowned nightlife spaces but also hidden gems, with venues and spaces that matter deeply to Lambeth’s communities.

However, we also heard that more needs to be done to ensure everyone can benefit from the area’s night time offer. Office workers often leave the area after work hours, missing opportunities to engage with local businesses.

Families and residents want more inclusive evening activities in community spaces. Safety remains a key concern, particularly for clubgoers leaving venues and navigating the journey home.

We will build on Vauxhall’s strengths while addressing these challenges by improving walking routes, creating safer journeys for nightlife customers, and activating public spaces with

art, events and community-led programming.

We’ll also celebrate the area’s unique cultural identity - highlighting Oval and Stockwell’s Portuguese-speaking communities and supporting venues that serve Lambeth’s LGBTQ+ residents.

## What we’ll do

- **Increase safety within Vauxhall’s busiest late night destinations** by expanding guidance for customers in their onward journey, increasing BID security support and creating rideshare pickup zones
- **Create an exceptional night time environment through interventions like the Low Line Vision** to improve walking and cycling along the railway arches, creating licensed trading pitches to bring more eyes to the streets, and public art|
- **Transform Goding Street into a night time destination**, working with businesses and the BID to create new seating areas, trading pitches, and events on the street
- **Showcase the unique local culture in Oval and Stockwell, building on the “Welcome to Little Portugal”** mural at Wilcox Close through additional placemaking interventions that celebrate the unique Portuguese-speaking hospitality businesses on Wilcox Road
- **Maximise Vauxhall’s reputation as a summer outdoor night time destination** by promoting the BID’s summer activities in the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens that include film screenings, karaoke sessions, and community festivals
- **Support the Kia Oval to promote** their growing night time activity, building on the 2026 T20 Women’s World Cup



Love Vauxhall light installation, Vauxhall





Queermas event at FIRE Nightclub - credit: Mariana Feijo

# Local case study: Best practice safeguarding at FIRE Nightclub

FIRE Nightclub in Vauxhall is a model for how nightlife spaces can prioritise safety, wellbeing and community leadership, that we can point to for other nightlife businesses.

As one of London’s most prominent LGBTQ+ venues, FIRE has built a reputation not only for its vibrant programming but also for its commitment to safeguarding clubgoers and supporting the wider night time economy.

Accredited by the Good Night it also serves as a Safe Haven with a first aid room and trained staff to support vulnerable clubgoers. The venue offers regular Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) training both to its own staff and local public workers like traffic wardens.

This approach helps build a safer, more informed night time workforce across the area. FIRE has enhanced dispersal policies, with security staff stationed

between the venue and transport links to support safe travel and deter crime.

Its team actively prevents and deescalates incidents during early weekend hours. FIRE plays a convening role amongst local businesses and has hosted emergency training for LGBTQ+ venues, showing strong community leadership and championing best practice within the sector.



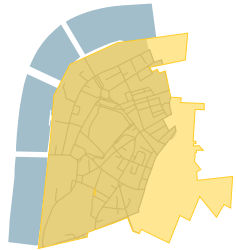
**WORKING ON THE NIGHT TIME STRATEGY LETS US SPOTLIGHT THE MAGNIFICENT NIGHTLIFE VAUXHALL IS KNOWN FOR.**

At a time when 50% of London’s LGBTQI+ venues have closed, Vauxhall’s have stayed open, resilient and welcoming — continuing to draw visitors from across the city.

Bernard Collier, Chief Executive Officer,  
Vauxhall One

FIRE Nightclub - credit: FIRE London





# WATERLOO: A cultural gateway and al fresco hotspot

Waterloo is a densely built and vibrant centre with much to offer. Anchored by Waterloo Station, the area is active day and night with a mix of hospitality, retail, education and cultural venues that make it a true 24-hour neighbourhood.

Lower Marsh and The Cut are key pedestrian and cycling routes, known for their independent

businesses, diverse eateries and growing outdoor dining which is especially active until 11pm in summer. The Old Vic and Young Vic theatres bring world-class performances to local audiences, while Morley College offers evening education that supports lifelong learning.

Hospitality venues stay open late, and the area's mix of residential, hotel, commercial and transport

infrastructure creates a lively, round-the-clock environment.

## Opportunities to strengthen Waterloo's night time experience

Through our engagement, residents and businesses told us they value Waterloo's cultural offer and outdoor spaces, but they also highlighted areas for improvement.

Many want to see better promotion of local discounts and events, especially those offered by venues like the Young Vic.

The outdoor dining areas on Lower Marsh were celebrated, but navigating licensing and planning

processes remains a challenge for businesses.

Safety and accessibility are also key concerns. People want to feel confident walking between the station and cultural venues, and improvements to the public realm, lighting and wayfinding are needed to support this.

Phone theft along busy roads was raised as an ongoing issue, and businesses are keen to see more support in tackling this. We are

committed to making Waterloo a safer, more connected and culturally vibrant place after dark.

We'll work with partners to invest in public realm improvements, support businesses to navigate planning and licensing processes, and amplify the area's cultural assets.

## What we'll do

- **Create an outstanding night time environment for visitors,** workers, night time economy users and businesses through the Waterloo Station Vision, Wayfinding Strategy, and The Cut visioning work
- **Transform the heart of the Waterloo area** through the Emma Cons Gardens scheme, which will overhaul the gardens with public art, improved seating, and new activities
- **Strengthen safety provision across Waterloo** by increasing the number of Safe Havens available in the area's many 24-hour hotels, and working with the BID to increase uptake of their free online learning offer on safety practices for night time businesses
- **Grow the vibrant outdoor dining, drinking and entertainment** offer on Lower Marsh and The Cut, through outdoor screenings and supportive traffic amendments that promote pedestrian use of the street
- **Deliver The Old Vic's Backstage project** to enhance and safeguard their cultural offer for future generations through new creative workspace, doubling the amount of artist and community development participants they engage



A performer in Leake Street arches, Waterloo - credit: Oliver Rudkin





Lower Marsh Lates summer film screening - credit: Oliver Rudkin

# Local case study: The Cut and Lower Marsh

Lambeth Transport’s collaboration with We Are Waterloo BID has helped transform Lower Marsh and The Cut into vibrant destinations at night, attracting new businesses, footfall and spend.

The programme shows how intentional changes to managing street traffic can create beloved destinations. During the pandemic, the BID maximised opportunities from the council’s more flexible tables and chairs licensing policy.

They supported the streets’ many hospitality businesses to apply for licenses and create outdoor

dining areas. Lambeth Transport pedestrianised Lower Marsh and introduced traffic restrictions on The Cut.

On The Cut, this activity has helped bring more of a buzz to the area at night, giving more dining options for theatregoers at the Young and Old Vic. On Lower Marsh, it has increased footfall into the evening, after the daytime street market closes.

The BID introduced popular summer outdoor screenings of classic films and big-ticket sports matches; by 2023, the BID found that weekend footfall on Lower Marsh had risen 9% compared

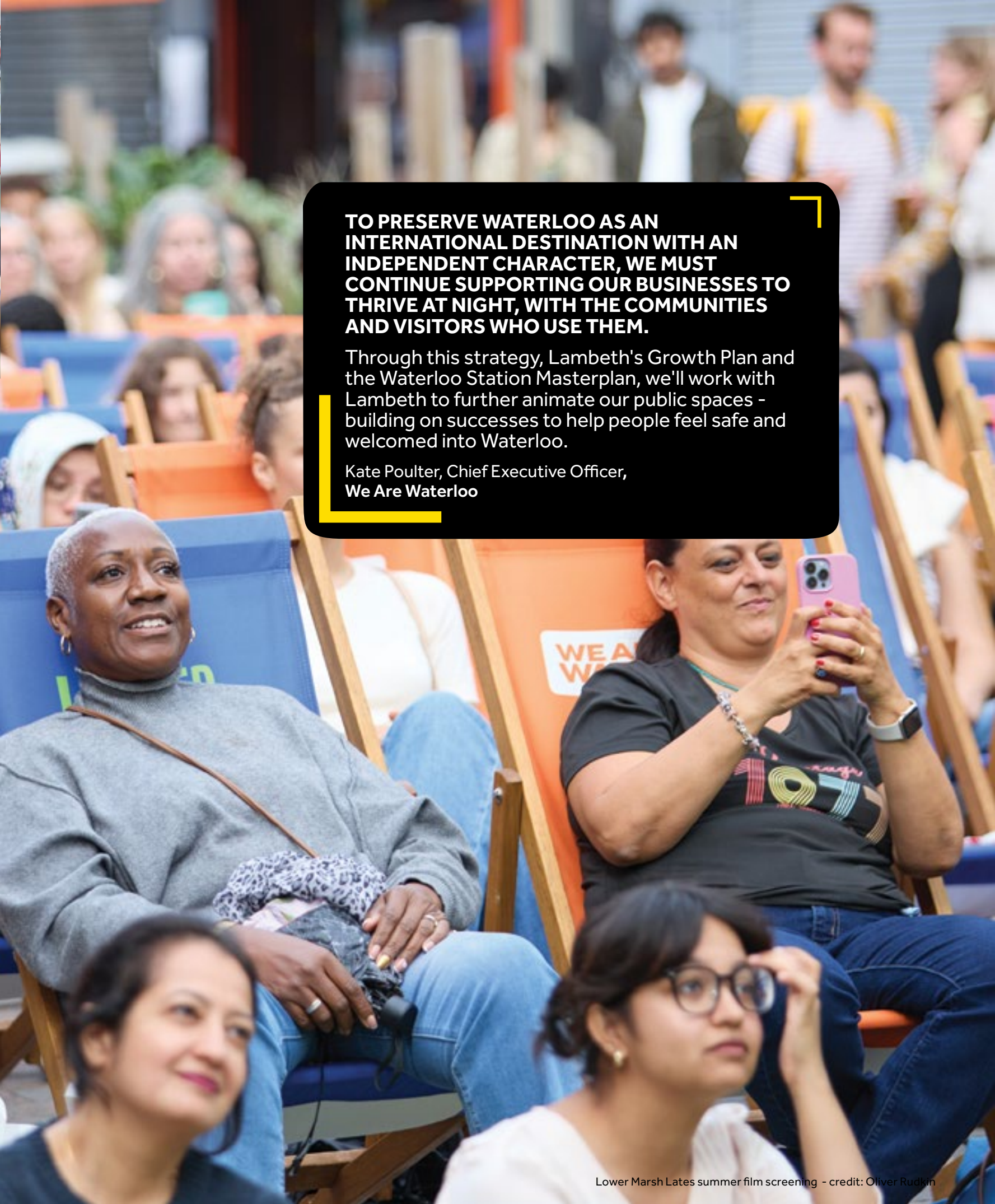
to 2019, and weekend spend across the whole BID area had increased by 115% compared to 2019.

The BID are building on this success by continuing to support businesses through tables and chairs licensing, while the council are exploring further improvements to the environment on The Cut and Emma Cons Gardens.

**TO PRESERVE WATERLOO AS AN INTERNATIONAL DESTINATION WITH AN INDEPENDENT CHARACTER, WE MUST CONTINUE SUPPORTING OUR BUSINESSES TO THRIVE AT NIGHT, WITH THE COMMUNITIES AND VISITORS WHO USE THEM.**

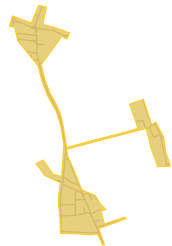
Through this strategy, Lambeth's Growth Plan and the Waterloo Station Masterplan, we'll work with Lambeth to further animate our public spaces - building on successes to help people feel safe and welcomed into Waterloo.

Kate Poulter, Chief Executive Officer,  
We Are Waterloo



Lower Marsh Lates summer film screening - credit: Oliver Rudkin





# WEST NORWOOD AND TULSE HILL: A community-driven night time offer

West Norwood is known for its strong community feel and independent businesses. The night time offer is tailored to the needs of residents and is centred around pubs, restaurants, grocery shops and beloved cultural institutions like the South London Theatre, Portico Gallery, and West Norwood Library and Picturehouse.

New venues such as Badger Badger and Great North Wood are expanding the area’s evening offer with DJ nights and film screenings, while traditional pubs like The Hope and existing venues like Knowles, The Horns and Railway Tavern are investing in growth.

The area also plays a vital role in Lambeth’s infrastructure, hosting a 24-hour bus garage and the borough’s largest Key Industrial Business Area.

## Opportunities to strengthen West Norwood and Tulse Hill’s night time experience

Our engagement showed that residents and businesses are very proud of their independent offer and want to see it celebrated and supported.

There’s a clear appetite for more cultural activity and better use of local spaces - particularly green spaces like St Luke’s Gardens and West Norwood Cemetery which hold potential for evening events and community programming.

Safety and accessibility were also raised as concerns. Some residents feel uneasy walking home at night due to low footfall and poorly lit areas off the main high street.

There’s a need for practical solutions that help people move confidently through the neighbourhood and access local businesses after dark. We want to grow the night time offer across

West Norwood and Tulse Hill in ways that reflect local character and community priorities. We will support events and festivals, promote local businesses, activate public spaces, and address feelings of safety when travelling home.

These neighbourhoods are already rich in culture and community - our role is to help this grow even further.

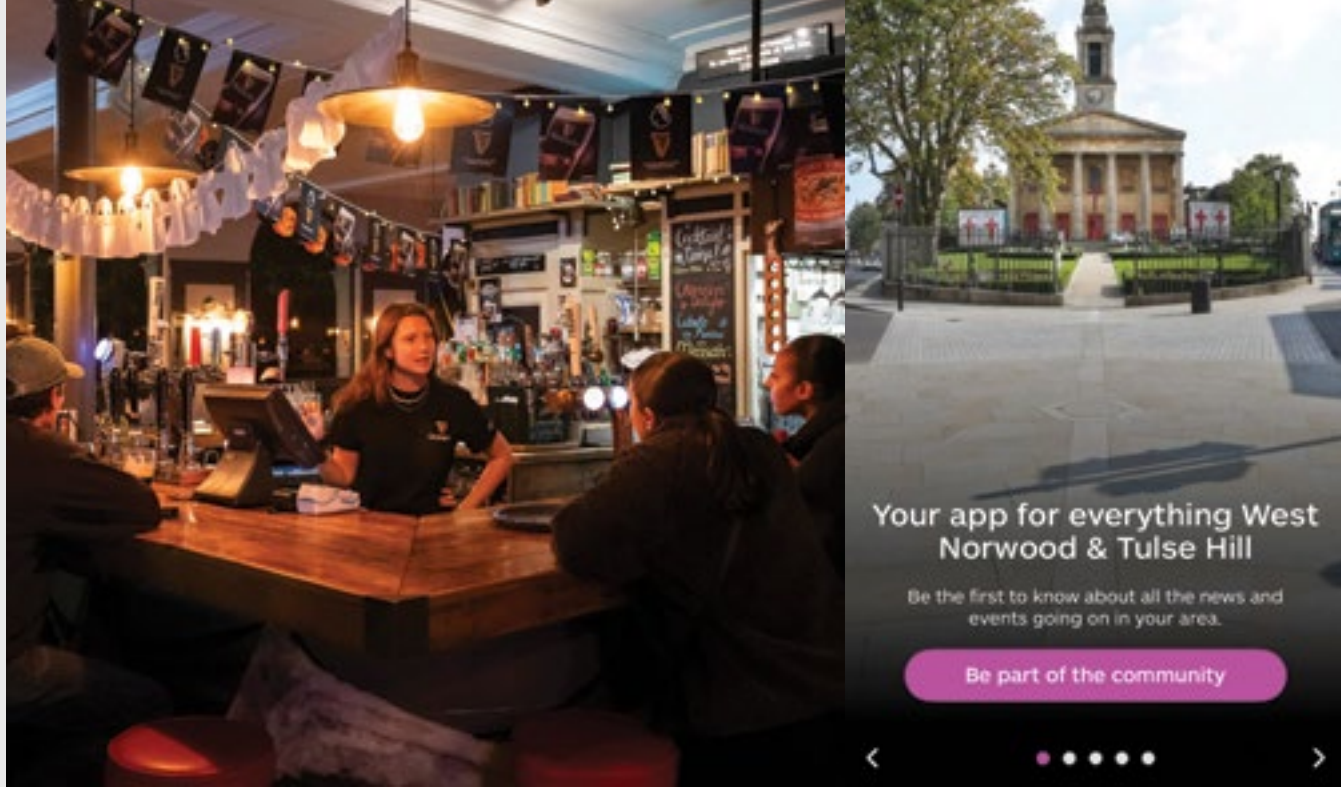
## What we’ll do

- **Grow and showcase interventions that attract footfall** to night time businesses, such as the ChooSE27 app, Comedy Festival or a “Restaurant Week” style promotion
- **Continue to support night time cultural spaces** including the West Norwood Picturehouse, South London Theatre, and Portico Gallery, through enabling policies, grant funding and business support
- **Improve access to West Norwood’s green spaces at night**, including St Luke’s Gardens and St Stephen’s Chapel in the Green Flag-winning West Norwood Cemetery
- **Explore solutions for safer journeys home**, such as expanding the number of Safe Havens in the south of the borough or promoting journey tracking apps
- **Use grant funding opportunities** to increase events and activities in the area and grow footfall



St Luke's Gardens in West Norwood at night





Great North Wood Public House, West Norwood - credit: Bleddyn Davies, ChooSE27 app homepage

# Local case study: **CHOOSE27 APP**

ChooSE27 is an app that’s helping West Norwood and Tulse Hill’s night time economy to shine.

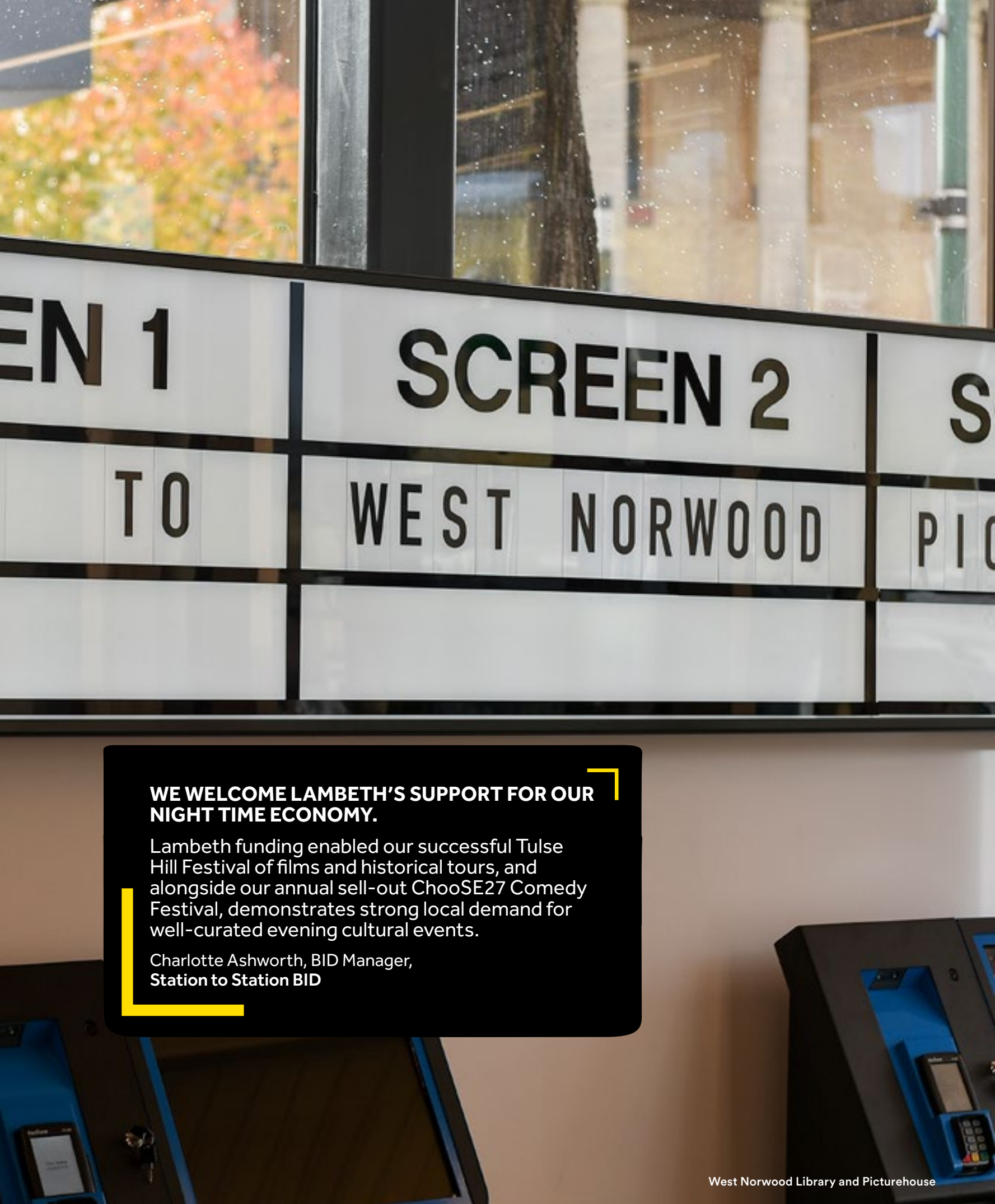
Developed by Loqiva and rolled out by the Station to Station BID, the app connects residents with local businesses, events and special offers, making it easier to discover what’s happening after dark.

Membership is free to BID members and is available as a low cost subscription for others.

ChooSE27 is a powerful alternative to traditional social media advertising. The app also supports smarter decision-making.

Footfall sensors installed through the BID help businesses track customer traffic and understand the impact of their activities. Since October 2023, 140 businesses have joined the app, including 18 night time hospitality businesses.

It has been downloaded over 2,700 times and 78% of users are active users of the app. In a context of economic challenge for night time hospitality businesses, the app is a valuable and low-cost tool for businesses to grow their local customer base.



**WE WELCOME LAMBETH’S SUPPORT FOR OUR NIGHT TIME ECONOMY.**

Lambeth funding enabled our successful Tulse Hill Festival of films and historical tours, and alongside our annual sell-out ChooSE27 Comedy Festival, demonstrates strong local demand for well-curated evening cultural events.

Charlotte Ashworth, BID Manager,  
Station to Station BID



# Our Boroughwide Commitments

## Our engagement and research revealed a clear message:

Lambeth's night time economy is full of potential but it's not without its challenges. From Brixton to Streatham, Waterloo to West Norwood, each neighbourhood has its own needs and opportunities after dark. To respond meaningfully, we've structured our strategy around four key themes. These themes reflect what we heard from residents, businesses and workers and they guide our actions to create a night time experience that is inclusive, vibrant and safe across the borough.



Small business owner at the Ldn Queer Mart event, FIRE Nightclub - credit: Mariana Feijo



OUR DIVERSE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY IS ONE QUALITY MAKING LAMBETH A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE.

We want to see this continue with businesses able to open later in response to residents’ needs, and more night time activations creating welcoming streets.

Ian Davis, Chief Executive Officer, Lambeth Council



People enjoying the street at a Summer Streets Fund event, Atlantic Road- credit: Phil Edwards

# Theme 1

## Business friendly Lambeth

Small businesses are the foundation of Lambeth’s night time economy. From independent restaurants and pubs to cultural venues, the care sector and transport providers, these businesses keep our economy moving after 6pm.

We have a strong independent business community, particularly in Brixton, Tulse Hill and West Norwood. However, our local businesses are navigating extremely challenging economic circumstances.

People’s spending is declining, partly due to the cost of living crisis, with residents reporting fewer visits to restaurants, pubs, and nightclubs.

Businesses’ National Insurance contributions have increased, whilst pandemic-era business rates relief for retail and hospitality is decreasing. This makes it hard for businesses to survive, let alone grow.

There are nearly 2,000 licensed premises in Lambeth, mostly in town centres.<sup>27</sup> We want to see more businesses operating later into the evening, including for celebrations of important cultural dates such as Eid or Eritrean Christmas.

Well-managed venues help create lively, welcoming streets that make people feel safer and more connected. We will work closely with businesses to help them operate as

good neighbours, using a problem-solving, partnership-led approach that balances oversight with support.

Where disputes or noise complaints arise, we will respond quickly and fairly - encouraging proactive resolutions that respect both residents and businesses. This builds on our existing digital innovation, promotion of safe spaces and business friendly approach to licensing.

Upcoming changes to national licensing regulations will create new opportunities for Lambeth’s night time economy. We’ll help businesses adapt to these changes, including working with the Mayor of London’s Nightlife Taskforce.

Other council policies are equally important in shaping our night time economy.

We’ll ensure our Local Plan enables night time growth in a sensitive way to neighbouring uses, whilst our Gambling Policy will manage emerging night time activities with health and wellbeing in mind.

We also recognise the essential role of night workers - from cleaners and carers to delivery drivers, hospitality staff and those in the gig economy. However, workers in night time

industries are much more likely to experience low pay, poor working conditions and insecure work.<sup>28</sup>

These impacts are felt unequally, as one in three of London’s night workers is from a Black or minority ethnic background.<sup>29</sup> Because of this, improving night work experiences is an important step to achieve our goal of becoming a borough of equity and justice.

We’ll work with partners like the Living Wage Foundation to secure London Living Wage for as many night workers as possible, and advocate for improved safety

and working conditions. And we’ll ensure our skills and employment programmes reflect the realities of night work.



# What we know

- 86% of Lambeth’s businesses have fewer than 10 employees
- 79% of businesses in Brixton, West Norwood and Tulse Hill are independently owned
- The night time sector saw growth of 3.2% in 2024, faster than the total market rate of 2.3%<sup>30</sup>
- Night time businesses are facing up to 40% higher operating costs nationally<sup>31</sup>
- A 2024 survey of Brixton night time businesses found that 53% faced increased operating costs<sup>32</sup>
- Our surveys showed that accessing shops and services, like GP appointments and food shops, is difficult for night workers – 56% find it challenging
- Nationally, night workers face a 25-30% higher chance of workplace accidents, a 44% higher chance of diabetes, and are 75% more likely to feel left out at work<sup>33</sup>

# What you told us

- Most businesses are confident they will still be open in three years, but key risks to this are staffing difficulties and energy costs
- Rent prices are a challenge across Lambeth, particularly in the north of the borough
- Businesses are keen for greater collaboration with the council on processes like licensing and planning
- The top changes businesses wanted were an improved local environment, a growing customer base, and access to business support
- Night workers face unique challenges, including limited healthy food options late at night and lack of access to toilets when doing gig economy work

## Direct responses from our business and resident engagement



"Support local businesses and promote consumption with them."



"We want to get involved in community events or festivals through our business."



"Late night and early morning work means that often only shops with limited choice are open."



Inside Barbers, Pop Brixton - credit: MakeShift





Outdoor dining on Lower Marsh - credit: Oliver Rudkin

# What we'll do

- **Grow Lambeth's 24-hour offer and increase footfall** by supporting extended opening hours for responsible businesses through planning and licensing powers
- **Use our licensing powers to enable** a thriving night time economy through the upcoming Licensing Policy refresh
- **Partner with BIDs and other partnerships and work with the GLA** around new legislation and guidance to maximise opportunities for local businesses operating into the evening
- **Create a night time economy of good work** with improved night worker pay and conditions together with the Living Wage Foundation and training providers
- **Help night time businesses adapt and sustain** in challenging economic conditions by using grant funding to provide business support
- **Support Lambeth's Night Time Champion** to advocate for residents', workers', and visitors' needs in the night time economy
- **Increase night time activity led by underrepresented groups** by providing support for Temporary Event Notices applications and building confidence in navigating the licensing system
- **Help Lambeth businesses operate effectively**, grow their customer base, improve accessibility, and build good relationships with neighbours by promoting our night time business toolkit
- **Explore ways to help businesses save time and money** by streamlining information for licensed premises making applications to the council, learning from the "Hackney Nights" digital portal
- **Promote regulated activity and food options** in night time hotspots by creating more late night street trading opportunities and pitches
- **Connect residents to good jobs in night time sectors**, developing on existing work to support the needs of people experiencing disadvantage in the labour market in line with Inclusive Talent Strategy aims



We Are Waterloo security staff on Lower Marsh - credit: Oliver Rudkin

# We'll know we've been successful if...

- Our businesses can easily navigate our regulatory processes, and our regulatory processes enable businesses to thrive
- Lambeth's night time offer is diverse and allows people to access the activities and services they want to at night, with more businesses trading later
- Night time businesses and residents work together to resolve disputes before they become persistent complaints, recognising businesses that act as good neighbours
- Lambeth's night time businesses have clear and ready access to the best practice training and guidance for their employees' needs
- The number of employees in night time sectors getting paid London Living Wage increases
- Night time businesses continue to thrive and attract footfall to the borough
- We achieve our Lambeth 2030 goal of being a borough of opportunity, with local people benefitting from jobs in our future growth industries
- By 2030, our business-friendly approach means that more businesses trade later at night, pay London Living Wage, and can easily navigate licensing and regulatory services





Performers at a Summer Streets Fund event on Atlantic Road, Brixton - credit: Sergio Lopez

## Local case study: The Mayor of London’s Summer Streets Fund in Brixton

In summer 2025, Lambeth partnered with Brixton BID to test how we could maximise our streets for local business benefit, after securing £100,000 from the Mayor of London’s Summer Streets Fund.

We used the funding to build on our flagship Atlantic Road Car Free Days, extending traffic closures into the evening so hospitality businesses benefitted from summer nights through new outdoor dining areas.

Small grants and licensing support were offered to local businesses to take part. We also pedestrianised Brixton Station Road, a historic market street, into Saturday evenings.

We worked with Brixton BID to create a vibrant outdoor seating area featuring new tables, additional security support, ambient music from Brixton Chamber Orchestra, and traders operating into the evening.

This activity brought more life to streets that were underutilised at night, helping businesses benefit from traffic limitations and giving people more safe public spaces to hang out in Brixton.

Overall, the activity directly supported more than 50 local businesses, and the BID’s strong relationships helped ensure that independent businesses led by Black, Asian and Multiple Ethnic

owners benefited most. 93% of attendees said it made them feel more positively about the area, showing the programme’s success.

The approach of focusing activities around business needs, and emphasising businesses led by underrepresented groups, is something we will take forward for future activities in our streets.

## Lessons from international policy: New South Wales Vibrancy Reforms

The Vibrancy Reforms show how local government can revitalise neighbourhoods by pivoting from strict regulations to balanced support for the night time economy. The New South Wales government recognised that restrictive licensing had limited cultural opportunities, and introduced new policies to encourage night time venue growth.

One key element was expanding Special Entertainment Precincts, where councils can adjust noise limits and opening hours

to support nightlife and live entertainment. Property buyers must be notified if moving into these precincts, reducing noise complaint risk and protecting venues.

The government issued guidance to help councils implement these policies, including reduced licensing fees and increased trading hours in exchange for programming live performance. These reforms have seen night time economy growth up to 21% in some areas, and night time spend increasing across the state.

In Lambeth, we aim to apply the same principles of taking a more holistic approach, using data to understand how we can support businesses and increase access to culture.

**IT TURNS THIS NORMALLY QUIET ROAD, INTO A VERY VIBRANT AND BUSY AREA.**

It's lovely to see the different business stalls and music playing. Everyone is happier because of it!

**Summer Streets Fund attendee**



LAMBETH’S DETERMINATION IN SUPPORTING ELECTRIC BRIXTON AS AN ICONIC LIVE MUSIC AND CLUB VENUE HELPS US STAY A KEY PART OF LONDON’S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE, BRINGING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF FANS INTO BRIXTON EVERY YEAR.

Thanks to this, Electric Brixton can continue to thrive with eclectic curated programming that is valued by music fans from across the globe, country and Lambeth itself.

Dominic Madden, Chief Executive Officer, **Electric Group**



DJ night at Electric Brixton - credit: Robert Stainforth

# Theme Two

## Culture and visitor economy

Lambeth’s cultural venues are hugely important to the night time economy.

We are home to internationally recognised institutions and venues like the South Bank Centre and British Film Institute, Surrey County Cricket Club at Kia Oval, grassroots music venues like Hootananny and Windmill Brixton, and historic LGBTQ+ venues like the Royal Vauxhall Tavern and Two Brewers.

We attract international musicians at the O2 Academy and Electric Brixton, and our Mayoral accredited Brixton Creative Enterprise Zone is nurturing the next generation of artists. Beyond the experiences these

organisations provide, their economic impact is enormous - the South Bank’s cultural institutions alone contribute £510 million to the UK economy annually.

Their role is recognised in the London Growth Plan, with cultural hubs South Bank, Brixton and Clapham all named as experience economy destinations. But this cultural strength is not guaranteed, and many venues are under pressure.

Since 2020, we’ve seen major closures like the Dogstar and Hideaway Jazz Club. Remaining venues face similar economic pressures due to rising costs, falling footfall, and the long

tail of the pandemic, while the increasing precarity of arts funding impacts others.

These challenges are not felt equally by our communities as organisations with leaders from underrepresented groups including our Black, Asian, and LGBTQ+ communities have been hit hardest. Other factors also impact our night time culture, such as young people feeling unsafe on the streets, preventing them from going out at night.

We are committed to protecting and growing Lambeth’s night time cultural life. Through this strategy and our Creative Economy Strategy, we will further strengthen Lambeth’s cultural ecosystem and offer.

We will continue to build our relationships with industry bodies like the Night Time Industries Association and Music Venues Trust to strengthen our cultural landscape through planning policy, advocacy, business and financial support.

We’ll use planning powers to protect venues, advocate

for fair funding, and support organisations to adapt, whether that’s shifting performance times, diversifying income, or reaching new audiences.

By supporting inclusive, low-cost and intergenerational activities - from exhibitions and gigs to tea dances and fitness workshops – we’ll ensure all neighbourhoods have access to culture after dark, including within council-owned community assets, like libraries, parks, leisure centres and sports grounds.



# What we know

- We have over 150 arts and culture spaces<sup>34</sup>, including at least 13 grassroots music venues and at least 18 theatres in the borough<sup>35</sup>
- On average, over 1 million people visit the South Bank area between 6pm and 6am each month<sup>36</sup>
- Brixton sees an average of 50,000 average nightly visitors – more than double that of comparable areas like Dalston<sup>37</sup>
- In 2024 44% of the UK's grassroots music venues reported financial losses<sup>38</sup>
- 34% of the UK's nightclubs, and 16% of all independent nightlife businesses, have closed since March 2020<sup>39</sup>
- A 2025 survey showed 90% of nightlife businesses are cutting staff, hours and investment<sup>40</sup>
- 71% of London's cultural organisations with minority ethnic leadership and 69% of LGBTQ+ led organisations suffered financially from the pandemic, against 60% of cultural organisations overall<sup>41</sup>
- Although employment is falling in UK clubs, bars, and pubs, jobs grew 10% in sports clubs and gyms between 2022-2023<sup>42</sup>

# What you told us

- People highly value the diversity and vibrancy of Lambeth's cultural offerings, referencing venues like the Ritzy Cinema, Windmill music venue, British Film Institute, O2 Academy, Brixton Rec, and Railway Pub. in Tulse Hill
- Young people often access parks and community centres, and want more dedicated spaces and activities, including youth-focused training and support
- Residents want more low-cost and inclusive activities at night, such as "tea dances" for older generations, quizzes, and fitness workshops
- Cultural businesses feel vulnerable to trends like decreasing customer spend and declining arts funding

## Direct responses from our business and resident engagement



"I like that it is lively with lots of options and a mixture of people of different ages, background and cultures all coming together."



"We are fortunate to have major venues such as the South Bank, as well as a variety of smaller venues, and independent restaurants and cafes."



"Music brings people together, it helped me enjoy the area at night."

## EVERYONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY SAFELY.

Supporting older residents to access evening activities promotes social inclusion, combats loneliness, and ensures Lambeth's cultural and leisure opportunities are available to all, regardless of age.

Age UK Lambeth



Dance workshop at the National Theatre - credit: James Bellorini Photography





Actors perform at South London Theatre, West Norwood - credit: Phil Gammon

# What we'll do

- **Strengthen protections for night time culture through the Local Plan Review**, including pubs, music venues and theatres - particularly those relevant to underrepresented groups
- **Promote the unique identity of Lambeth's night time economy and culture** to international and UK-based visitors together with London and Partners
- **Encourage more events and activities in Lambeth's public spaces** after 6pm for Lambeth's diverse and intergenerational communities
- **Safeguard existing nightlife venues through the Agent of Change** and explore "easements of noise" approaches as an added protection
- **Encourage more night time social and cultural activities**, particularly for young people or activity in the south of the borough, through external funding opportunities like major festivals' social value funds
- **Attract and enable festivals, showcasing Lambeth** as a place of celebration, creativity and innovation at night
- **Help cultural and community organisations thrive over the long term** by delivering business support and networking opportunities, focusing on the needs of grassroots organisations and those led by underrepresented groups
- **Continue to promote the growth of community-focused** night time activity across Lambeth libraries and leisure centre
- **Explore ways to increase the reach of communications** about night time cultural and social activities



Evening launch of the Portuguese Carnation Revolution exhibition at Tate South Lambeth Library - credit Samuel Sowemimo

# We'll know we've been successful if...

- The Night Time Economy Strategy and the Creative Economy Strategy work together to introduce increased policy protections for night time cultural venues
- More Lambeth residents feel they can access night time cultural opportunities
- By 2030, the number of night time visitors to Lambeth grows, and neighbourhoods across the borough are celebrated as world-class destinations
- Footfall and spend to our night time cultural venues increases
- We achieve our Lambeth 2030 vision of becoming a borough of equity and justice, tackling structural inequalities adversely impacting residents in Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic, LGBTQ+, and disabled communities
- Lambeth retains and grows its night time venue and cultural business base, particularly those valued by underrepresented groups





Evening pottery workshop at Mud Gang, a council grant recipient - credit: Hussain Ali

## Local case study: Council grants supporting culture

In 2024 and 2025, Lambeth used our national government economic growth funding to create grants for community and cultural organisations. Our innovative approach showed how we can tailor external funding opportunities to support our unique cultural sector.

The Community Evening and Night Event Grants responded to engagement feedback by funding

event proposals from community and cultural organisations based on what their service users wanted to see.

The Re:Purpose grants granted over 10 cultural venues capital funding for renovations – helping them increase financial sustainability by upgrading their spaces, improving disabled accessibility, or reducing energy usage.

Both grants showed how responding to the specific needs of organisations can help them thrive, and help grow a night time offer that reflects what communities want to see.

## Lessons from international policy: Cultural designation for Berlin clubs

The German government’s official recognition of Berlin’s nightclubs as “cultural institutions” demonstrates how governments can proactively support night time culture.

The designation enabled clubs to pay lower tax rates, locate in more neighbourhoods, and access flexibility around noise concerns.<sup>43</sup>

It was an official recognition of how much residents and visitors value nightclubs, and shows the benefits of government support for culture beyond traditional venues like theatres.

The policies benefit a large number of venues – Berlin’s Club commission organisation represents over 320 club operators and event organisers.<sup>44</sup>

These protections are particularly important to influence policy support for clubs in a context of rising rents, energy costs, and disruptive planned infrastructure projects pressuring venues, with helpful learning for Lambeth.

**THE FUTURE WORKSPACE GRANT HAS ALLOWED US TO SCALE UP OUR ACTIVITIES, WE HAVE MORE SPACE FOR PEOPLE TO MAKE CERAMICS AT DAY AND EVENING CLASSES, OUR MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT HAS TRIPLED SINCE RECEIVING THE GRANT AND MOVING INTO OUR NEW SPACE!**

We are also able to stay open to our members whilst running workshops at the same time.

Rachael Nilsson, co-founder, **Mud Gang**



I PLAY BASKETBALL AT LIT COURTS IN CLAPHAM COMMON.

The court being lit and close to the road makes it feel safer.

Attendee at a youth-led strategy engagement event

# Theme Three

## Space and place

The way Lambeth looks and feels is a key factor that shapes how people experience the borough at night.

We already benefit from excellent night time transport links as major stations like Waterloo, Vauxhall and Brixton connect people across London, while green spaces like Brockwell Park and Clapham Common provide access to nature amid an urban environment after dark.

Well-used public spaces like Windrush Square and the riverside walkways along the Thames

foster community gathering and social connection well into the evening. Our streets, parks, transport, lighting, and public spaces all contribute to safe and inclusive night time activity.

Vauxhall’s and Brixton’s status as major interchanges for south London anchors vibrant evening economies in their surrounding areas.

However, areas like Streatham, West Norwood, and other parts of the south of the borough have fewer transport links.

Our communities want to feel safe walking home, cycling to meet friends, or accessing local businesses. And they want public spaces that invite activity - not just during the day, but throughout the night.

We will improve Lambeth’s night-time experience for people walking, cycling, or using public transport by ensuring streets and spaces are clean, safe, and easy to navigate, supported by better wayfinding and service delivery.



Enhanced public realm at the Venn St Records outdoor dining area - credit: Aaron Ryan

Our wider work to create a safer borough will help empower people to access our public spaces at night. And cultural events in green spaces can support people to benefit from our parks after dark.

Whilst the council currently doesn’t have the ability to deliver new large-scale lighting programmes, we will integrate high-quality lighting into new developments and green space, and sports facility upgrades that are already underway.

To address gaps in night-time toilet access, we will explore solutions that support gig economy workers and visitors, and reduce public urination.

We will also help businesses activate outdoor spaces and trial creative ideas, including piloting shelter hubs for workers and public art to make streets brighter and safer.



# What we know

- Lambeth has over 78 parks and open spaces, 27 of which include children's play areas
- Almost 80% of trips made by Lambeth residents are made by public transport, walking, and cycling
- Lambeth has 10 Underground stations, two Overground stations, 60 Santander Cycles docking stations, and 560 bus stops
- 30 routes out of 77 bus routes serving Lambeth run all night
- Cleaner streets and pavements are a top priority for one in four residents and would help them feel safer at night
- No council-operated public toilets are open past 7 pm, affecting gig economy workers, older residents and disabled people

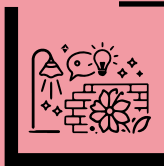
# What you told us

- People value Lambeth’s public transportation, which enables them to socialise and work at night
- Communities appreciate our outdoor spaces, parks, and sports facilities
- There is a desire for better transport connections at night, particularly for workers, including safer cycling conditions
- A lack of night time toilet provision impacts disabled people, older people, and women, trans, and non-binary people
- Residents want to see greening, better lighting, improved cleanliness, and public art
- Businesses think that limited night time transport options restrict their customer base and revenue

## Direct responses from our business and resident engagement



**"I want to see outside team sports** with good lighting during summer."



**"Plenty of visually attractive spots,** great murals - public art and lighting transforms and welcomes you in."



**"Deliver greening projects** at the kerbside to improve the public realm."



Stockwell skate park, Stockwell - credit: YCUK





Goding Street mural by The Matchbox Collective, Vauxhall

# What we'll do

- **Create more vibrant outdoor business areas in Lambeth's streets at night** by delivering more Shared Space Agreements across the borough
- **Identify external opportunities to deliver high-quality lighting in key areas**, for example through new development projects, or outside funding opportunities
- **Address night time economy impacts like waste management** through partnering with our Business Improvement Districts to identify areas of improvement
- **Increase night time accessibility and reduce public urination** by exploring how toilet access could be increased, for example through new developments or working with night time businesses
- **Attract funding to enhance the public realm at night by providing public art**, facilities such as sports spaces, creative lighting, and graffiti removal
- **Develop a proposal to pilot a green cab shelter-style hub** for gig economy workers to access shelter, charging facilities, toilets and water
- **Promote inclusive and accessible night time wayfinding** in the borough by improving signage and street furniture
- **Help night time businesses save money and work towards our 2030 Net Zero target** by supporting them to reduce their carbon impacts, for example through external grants for renovations or helping them use zero-carbon deliveries
- **Manage dockless bike parking to avoid blocked pavements** and accessibility issues in night time economy hotspots
- **Explore ways to reactivate vacant business spaces** with new night time uses, for example through new High Street Rental Auction powers



Cruyff Court, Clapham

# We'll know we've been successful if...

- Lambeth's public realm and capital projects consider 24-hour uses from the design stage to create welcoming, attractive, and environmentally-sensitive spaces at night
- More residents report that they are satisfied with how Lambeth balances the impact of night time activities in areas like waste management, noise and toilet provision
- By 2030, spaces and places in Lambeth are more inviting at night and are activated by communities and local businesses
- More residents and visitors report that they can navigate the borough with ease at night and that traveling across Lambeth is accessible at night
- We achieve our Lambeth 2030 goal of being a sustainable and healthy borough with accessible and active travel options





Unveiling event for the Portuguese-speaking communities mural, Wilcox Close

## Local case study: Vauxhall murals

A series of council-commissioned murals in Vauxhall combines improvements to night time environments with celebrating diverse communities.

A mural on Wilcox Close recognises Portuguese-speaking communities, based on engagement with 100 residents and business owners from 9 countries about their treasured cultural symbols.

The installation also included new lighting for the mural and walkway, brightening a key walking route through “Little Portugal.”

This community-led approach has strengthened local identity and improved night time walking conditions.

Another mural at LGBTQ+ nightclub The Eagle, transformed a dilapidated wall with a bright celebration of LGBTQ+ communities. Finally, a mural on Goding St livened up the underused street with colourful references to Vauxhall’s night time history.

Together, these projects show multiple night time benefits of public art: improving how evening environments look, enhancing natural surveillance through increased footfall, and creating local landmarks that help people feel connected to their neighbourhood at night.

## Lessons from international policy: Night Time Picnics

Rosario, Argentina’s programme of night time picnics show how a low-level intervention can make a major positive impact on public spaces.

In 2017, Rosario’s Department of Environment and Public Space started the picnic programme with the goal of helping people feel safer at night and promoting the use of green spaces after dark.

They promoted the picnics on social media as an all-ages, low-cost event to bring residents together. They also promoted links to buy food in advance from

local food traders, boosting the businesses.

The Secretary of Culture contributed by hiring acoustic musicians, activating the park while minimising impacts on neighbours. The event organisers also strongly promoted waste disposal, connecting with the city’s wider environmental awareness campaigns.

The first series attracted over 50,000 attendees per event and the annual activity has transformed the use of Rosario’s green spaces at night, significantly increasing people’s access to them.

This example shows how local authorities can create large-scale positive impact on a low budget by responding to people’s needs and creating accessible opportunities to gather at night.

**THE LITTLE PORTUGAL MURAL SHOWS HOW WE CAN CELEBRATE LOCAL COMMUNITIES SUCH AS THE PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COMMUNITY WHILE IMPROVING NEIGHBOURHOODS AT NIGHT.**

It brightens up a key walking route, but importantly, it also shows local Portuguese-speaking residents and those across the UK that their history and culture in Lambeth are valued.

Cllr Diego Costa, Lambeth Council



**OUR HOSPITAL IS A 24/7 OPERATION AND WE HAVE 9,000 PEOPLE HERE ON ANY GIVEN DAY OR NIGHT.**

We place a value on good quality security and we are the highest paid security staff in the NHS – there’s something new every shift but we have processes and resources in place to tackle these. We have good relationships with the council and police.

**Representatives from King’s College Hospital during Night Time Economy Strategy engagement**

# Theme Four

## Inclusivity and Wellbeing



Night Club training for night shift employees at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital - credit: Mike Massaro for Night Club

We want everyone to feel safe in Lambeth at night, regardless of their identity.

We know that experiences of safety and wellbeing vary widely and safety in the evening is the second most important factor influencing how satisfied residents feel about their area. But perceptions of safety are not equal and how we each define feelings of safety varies.

For instance, in our engagement young people told us they wanted youth workers to accompany police to deescalate situations and LGBTQ+ people wanted to see more visibly LGBTQ+ inclusive night time spaces.

Older and disabled residents said they can be excluded when night time spaces don't physically cater for disabled people or when business staff make assumptions about people with disabilities.

We also heard that businesses are hesitant to report legitimate concerns around crime and anti-social behaviour, fearing reputational damage. We want to empower businesses to feel confident when reporting so that they can be supported by policing allocations that respond to their feedback.

Meanwhile, night workers - who keep our borough running - struggle to access basic services

like GP appointments and safe places to rest.

Our strategy aims to ensure that the borough's night time spaces reflect the diversity of our communities and that everyone feels safe, welcome and supported.

We will take a holistic, community-led approach to safety and wellbeing. That means supporting businesses to feel confident in reporting issues, adopting best practice in safeguarding and inclusion and promoting training on violence prevention, first aid, and supporting vulnerable individuals.

We already work closely with the Metropolitan Police, health services, and London Fire Brigade to tackle safety challenges through the Safer Lambeth Partnership and will build on these relationships even further.

These partnerships can support us to tackle safety challenges and ensure that people accessing our cultural institutions, clubs, and bars feel safe leaving venues.

Alongside this, we'll tackle the root causes that make people feel unsafe through joined-up work on housing, employment, public health and poverty.

We'll build on existing partnership with the Met and existing strategies like the Safer Lambeth Partnership strategy, Lambeth Made Safer for Young People, and our Violence Against Women and

Girls strategy to reduce crime and ensure our night time offer is not just vibrant, but safe and equitable for everyone.



# What we know

- 52% of women in Lambeth report feeling unsafe at night, compared to 37% of men<sup>45</sup>
- Streatham residents reported the lowest feelings of safety in the evenings<sup>46</sup>
- 36 Lambeth businesses are currently accredited as Safe Havens, including 5 overnight Safe Havens<sup>47</sup>
- Nationally, less than a third of retail businesses report incidents of verbal or physical abuse to the police<sup>48</sup>
- A 2023 Met Police initiative to streamline responses to shoplifting reports led to a 42% increase in crime reports<sup>49</sup>
- In the first nine months of 2025, the Safer Business Network carried out 650 business engagements in Vauxhall alone

# What you told us

- Feeling safe whilst travelling is the second most important factor impacting whether people go out at night
- Young people told us they want youth workers involved in policing to help de-escalate situations
- LGBTQ+ residents want visibly inclusive spaces where they feel safe and represented
- Older and disabled residents highlighted physical barriers and social exclusion in night time venues
- Concerns about drug use and rough sleeping were raised, with many wanting more safe spaces open at night

## Direct responses from our business and resident engagement



**"I would like more support services** and safe spaces for vulnerable people."



**"It's a more friendly vibe** when things are going on."



**"In the summer, outdoor activities** would help residents feel safe in the streets at night."



**"I want to see public toilets open at night."**



Black Pride event, Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens





Night Club information trolley at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital credit: Mike Massaro

# What we'll do

- **Create London's safest night out in Lambeth**, seeking funding to set up Night Hubs providing first aid, phone charging, water and toilets to night time economy customers, building on Clapham's example
- **Increase business confidence to report incidents to the police** to ensure increased policing allocations accurately reflect areas of need
- **Make the night time economy safer and more inclusive for everyone** through promoting best practice trainings and the Women's Night Safety Charter commitments to Lambeth's night time businesses
- **Increase the availability of "safe spaces" for anyone feeling unsafe** when out and about by growing the number of businesses accredited with programmes like Safe Havens or Lambeth Allies
- **Connect vulnerable people in public spaces at night with support** by working with the Met to include services around rough sleeping, mental health, and substance misuse into their anti-social behaviour and drug patrols
- **Create safer journeys from venues to home by setting up dedicated** and supervised pickup areas for rideshare app vehicles in nightlife hotspots, and promoting other solutions like walk-tracking apps to help people feel safer while travelling
- **Increase access to health and wellbeing services at night**, by piloting a workplace health check programme for night workers or exploring opportunities to increase opening hours for health services
- **Advocate for night workers' health and wellbeing**, for example through connecting businesses to resources like the Night Club's Employer Guide to support night workers
- **Reduce road danger at night** through traffic and road improvements creating safer conditions for walking and cycling



A Safe Haven window sticker

## We'll know we've been successful if...

- More night time businesses become signatories of the Women's Night Safety Charter and hold regular safety trainings for management and staff
- Night time safety and inclusivity factors are considered in all council and partner projects
- Residents from a range of different backgrounds and experiences report feeling safer in the evening and at night
- Businesses benefit from improved perceptions of safety in town centres
- Night workers report improved working conditions and access to health and wellbeing services
- We achieve our Lambeth 2030 vision of being a safer borough for everyone, including young people, women, girls, and gender-diverse people
- By 2030, more residents within all demographics and parts of the borough say they feel safe at night, and our night time economy is even more inclusive





The Hub, a night time safe space, Clapham

# Local case study: Clapham Night Hub

The Clapham Night Hub is a nation-leading initiative to keep vulnerable night time economy users safe.

Between 11pm and 5am on weekend nights, Clapham’s street wardens and door staff bring vulnerable people to the Night Hub space (provided by the Methodist Church), where they can get first aid from medical professionals, find toilets, water and phone charging, or get help to find their way home.

The Night Hub also provides a meeting point for people who need police support after having property stolen or being injured.

In the first 4 months of 2025, the Night Hub served 1,288 people.

It saves over £82,000 annually on A&E and ambulance services alone, with additional value from preventing secondary injuries and police involvement.

The Night Hub is an excellent example of how partnership work and funding between the BID, Methodist Church and businesses can deliver dedicated resources to handle the pressures of a vibrant late-night economy drawing thousands of visitors, and ensure people feel safe and supported when going out at night.

We will explore how this model can be expanded elsewhere in Lambeth to increase feelings of safety within the night time economy throughout the borough.

# Lessons from international policy: Edmonton Downtown Night Patrol

The Edmonton (Canada) Downtown Night Patrol shows how local partnerships can solve problems of vandalism and theft by addressing the root causes of issues, beyond enforcement.

Using city funds allocated to address litter and property damage, the local BID provides two vehicles with a security professional and a peer support worker to patrol the downtown area 7 days a week, 12:30-8:30am.

The team collects incident data, connects vulnerable people with resources, and deescalates situations, as they do not have arrest powers.

The support workers are provided through a local social enterprise and have lived experience of homelessness or addiction. In 2023, the patrol responded to 1,065 incidents, about a quarter of which were wellness checks.

This model shows how night time safety can be enhanced through approaches that address root causes rather than just symptoms, creating safer environments for everyone while supporting the borough's most vulnerable residents during the hours when they are most isolated from conventional services.

**THE HUB HAS BEEN A HUGE SUCCESS IN PROVIDING A SAFE SPACE FOR LOCALS AND VISITORS TO THE HIGH STREET OVER THE YEARS.**

The church volunteers, medical staff and street wardens being on hand to help deal with all types of incidents that can occur.

Ian Croft, Manager, **Infernos Nightclub**



# DELIVERING AND MONITORING RESULTS

The creation of this strategy would not have been possible without the contributions of countless residents, businesses, partners and representative groups, and community organisations, for which we are deeply grateful.

To track the success of this strategy, we will establish an outcomes framework that monitors how well we're achieving the outcomes for each theme.

This will include indicators like jobs growth in night time economy sectors, number of licensed premises, night time employers paying London Living Wage, residents' feelings of safety at night, and number of businesses

reporting incidents via Met Police channels. We'll publish regular updates on how this is going.

As we begin to deliver the Night Time Economy Strategy, we will also integrate our night time-specific actions into the council's broader framework for our Lambeth 2030 outcomes.

We'll keep our engagement channels open to continue conversations about how Lambeth is doing at night and what people want to see. For residents, this will include online engagement channels and engagement with ward councillors. For businesses, this will include attending forums held by the BIDs and the Safer Business Network.

The success of this strategy will drive progress towards our Lambeth 2030 vision and the delivery of the Lambeth Growth Plan.

We want to see Lambeth's Night Time Economy grow so that businesses, night workers, residents and visitors all experience positive outcomes that improve their experience of the borough at night.





# THANK YOU

This strategy has been shaped by the time, insight and generosity of many people.

We would like to thank all the residents, night-time workers, businesses, cultural organisations, community groups and partners who shared their experiences, ideas and priorities.

From surveys and workshops to community dinners and one-to-one conversations, every contribution helped us better understand how Lambeth is experienced after dark.

Your voices have been central to developing a strategy that reflects the borough's diversity,

creativity and ambition, and we are grateful to everyone who took part in shaping Lambeth's night-time future.





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