

Appendix 1



Summit survey responses

- **Project:** Night-time economy in Brighton & Hove
- **Period:** Summit 10.1.25

Report summary

A Licensing Summit was held on 10 January attended by 44 various stakeholders including venue representatives, residents, business owners and Sussex Police licensing. - A1 Summary - Of the feedback from this event is below:

Project results

1. What do you like about the Nighttime economy and what don't you like about it?

Respondents appreciate the diversity and vibrancy of Brighton & Hove's night-time economy, highlighting the range of premises, entertainment options, and independent operators that contribute to the city's unique character. Live music venues and cultural events like Pride and the Brighton Festival are particularly valued.

However, there is significant criticism of the current regulatory framework, especially the matrix and Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ), which are seen as too rigid and restrictive. Respondents feel these policies do not reflect the cultural shift towards less alcohol consumption, particularly among younger people, and hinder new operators from entering the market. The matrix is criticised for not accommodating the variety of premises, including live music and experience-led venues.

Safety concerns are also mentioned, with inconsistent safety policies and a perceived lack of security in public spaces. The availability of cheap alcohol from off-licences and its contribution to street drinking is a concern, as well as the impact on safety and the local economy when businesses close.

Transportation issues are noted, with a lack of nighttime buses and trains potentially deterring visitors. Respondents suggest that better infrastructure and police resources are needed to support a thriving night-time economy.

Overall, there is a call for more nuanced and flexible licensing policies that promote good practice, support existing venues, and adapt to current trends. Respondents also suggest better promotion of initiatives like safespace and Ask for Angela to improve safety awareness.

2. What would you like to see more of and what would you like to see less of in the Nighttime economy?

Respondents to the 'Night-time economy in Brighton & Hove' project expressed a desire for a more diverse and vibrant night-time offering, with an emphasis on unique, non-alcohol led venues such as live music spots, cultural venues, and entertainment options that cater to a variety of age groups and communities. There is a call for more support and recognition for well-run premises, including the implementation of rating schemes like a 5* system for licensed venues and incentives for responsible retailers.

Many respondents highlighted the need for more flexibility in licensing policies, suggesting that the current matrix is too restrictive and does not adequately support small, independent businesses. They advocate for a shift towards risk assessment-based licensing and more relaxed regulations for venues wanting to expand or diversify their offerings, such as allowing food-led venues to stay open later.

There is also a consensus on the need for improved transport links to reduce disorder and encourage people to leave the beach area at night. Respondents suggest that better transport could lead to a safer environment and help revitalise the night-time economy.

Concerns were raised about the impact of off-licence premises, with some respondents feeling they do not support the night-time economy and should be less prevalent. Additionally, there is a call for less discounted alcohol offers to discourage excessive drinking on the streets and beach.

Overall, there is a strong desire for a more inclusive and varied night-time economy that supports small businesses, promotes cultural and entertainment venues, and provides a safer, more enjoyable experience for all visitors and residents of Brighton & Hove.

3. How do you ensure the Nighttime economy is thriving, caters for everyone, and makes people feel safe?

Respondents emphasise the importance of safety and inclusivity in the night-time economy of Brighton & Hove. Visible policing, such as night safety marshals and street patrols, is frequently mentioned as a key factor in making people feel secure. Training for venue staff on handling complex customer issues and welfare, including spiking prevention, is highlighted, along with the need for better support for venues.

Improving transport links and reducing parking costs are suggested to alleviate problems caused by limited travel options. Encouraging a variety of venues and promoting safety initiatives, particularly around violence against women and LGBTQ+ issues, are also seen as crucial. The use of mobile safety apps like BOBU is recommended, alongside schemes like 'Ask For Angela'.

Respondents call for better communication between premises and recognition of well-run establishments. There is a desire for more flexible licensing policies that reflect current trends and cultures, as well as the protection of the vibrancy of existing nightlife areas against new residents' complaints.

Concerns about the wider community's impact on the night-time economy are raised, including issues with street drinkers, homelessness, and anti-social behaviour. The need for better infrastructure, such as adequate lighting and safe spaces, is also mentioned.

Finally, there is a call for stronger penalties for premises that breach licensing conditions and a suggestion to make membership in the Brighton Crime Reduction Partnership mandatory for all licensed venues.

