MAYOR OF LONDON

Developing a night time strategy

Part 2: Guidance, precedents and case studies

Developing a night time strategy
Guidance for local authorities

Introduction: Designing holistic strategies

The following guidance, precedents and case studies are organised according to three pillars of a holistic night time strategy: the economy after 6pm; public realm and environment; and communities, planning and governance. A further three related themes are distinguished at the intersections between these pillars: civic and public life; social responsibility and management of the economy after 6pm; and stewardship and public-private interface.

Each theme is colour-coded, as are the guidance, precedents and case studies relating to each theme. Thinking broadly and ambitiously about the possibilities that the night time offers can begin to address the complex coexistence of different users, priorities and activities at night.

Night time strategies and related initiatives should address each of the pillars and themes. The aim is to create a balanced night time that is attractive and safe for everyone, where night time activities are varied and well-managed, and where amenity and quality of life are protected. The diversity of people who feel comfortable participating in the public life of a borough at night, regardless of their gender, sex, socioeconomic circumstance, age, ethnicity or disability, will be a key indicator of a night time strategy's success.

Document icon key

🔍 Link to online resources

💡 Link to precedents and case studies

Themes

● Public realm

● Civic and public life

● Communities, planning and governance

● Social responsibility and management of the economy after 6pm

● The economy after 6pm

● Stewardship and public/private interface

Public realm

Stewardship and public-private interfaces

Civic and public life

The economy after 6pm

Social responsibility and management of the economy after 6pm

Communities, planning and governance

Building servicing

Social infrastructure

Interior and rooftop public realm

Land uses and opening hours

Public realm amenities

Agent of

Waste management

Active and natural surveillance

Street wardens and safe havens

Public realm design

Street cle

Change principles

Darkness, biodiversity and the night sky

Licensing

Information and wayfinding

Lighting

Night time workers' amenity

Cultural infrastructure

aning and maintenance

Public transport networks

Public art and play

Frontages and streetside dining

Community events

Part 2

Guidance, precedents and case studies

Public realm

Public realm

The design of public spaces, their lighting and provision of public amenities play crucial roles in making evening and night time activities accessible, safe and inclusive.

The public realm should function as well in the evening and night time as it does in the daytime, with its layout, features, amenities and lighting considered and designed in detail. Well-considered urban design and lighting design that specifically supports and enhances evening and night time uses will help create characterful, safe and inclusive public spaces. Lighting can transform streets and spaces and provide both intimate and spectacular atmospheres that encourage active travel, socialising and play, and help support local businesses.

Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour – whether relating to real or perceived risks – discourages people from going out and travelling at night. In turn, this can exacerbate problems by narrowing the demographic out and about, creating emptier and less welcoming streets and spaces after 6pm. Women, disabled people and those in low-income households do not feel as safe in London at night compared to Londoners as a whole.

Where inhospitable routes and spaces are identified, it is important to analyse them in situ with stakeholders, those who feel excluded from the area, and urban design and lighting design experts who can help identify potential for improvements. The temptation to introduce bright, harsh lighting and hostile design features as quick fixes rarely resolves problems and can make places feel more unwelcoming.

Key stakeholders, including local businesses, night workers and resident groups should be involved in briefing and consulted during design processes to ensure their range of needs are met.

TfL's Healthy Streets framework provides guidance on creating accessible and inclusive streets. Its indicators can equally be applied to evening and night time streets and spaces, with some given greater weight at night and after dark. Meeting the following indicators is particularly important after dark:

- People feel safe – streets are legible, active and well looked after.
- People feel relaxed – there are good public amenities and places to pause with a pleasant, relaxing ambience.
- There are things to see and do – streetscapes are sensitively lit and animated by activities, events and lit frontages.
- Pedestrians from all walks of life are present – people representing a broad range of ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and ethnicities are

present, and people with sensory, physical and mental impairments feel comfortable.

- Not too noisy – excessively loud and disruptive sounds are minimised- sound from venues, street activities and deliveries is sensitively managed to help protect residents' and visitors' wellbeing.

- People choose to walk, cycle and use public transport – good cycle and night time transport infrastructure is provided, and clusters of uses are well connected with safe, sensitively-lit walking and cycle routes.

- Shade and shelter – where shade and shelter are introduced to support daytime uses, these will need careful design for their night time context. For example, shading devices can be sensitively lit, or can be retractable to ensure they do not create dark areas at night that feel unsafe.

🔍 Follow this link to TfL's Healthy Streets resources

🔍 Follow this link to the GLA's 'Inclusive London' report

🔍 Follow this link to the UN's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces, Global Report

🔍 Follow this link to the GLA's 'Making London Child-Friendly' report

The ten Healthy Streets Indicators ·
Image: Lucy Saunders

Interior and rooftop public realm

- Seek opportunities to provide free access to indoor and rooftop public spaces after 6pm. This will provide spaces that are comfortable to visit throughout the year and cater to people of all ages.

- Extend the opening hours of council facilities to trial community events and activities beyond 6pm.

- Provide accessible public toilets and Changing Places facilities to further support an inclusive evening and night time.

🔍 Follow this link to the Public London Charter

Legibility and visibility

- Create a legible townscape by implementing a clear lighting strategy that encourages selective, sensitive lighting. Involve communities in developing the strategy and refining lighting briefs, and work in partnership with lighting designers, building owners, tenants and the council's streetlighting team.

- Identify where and when lights should be dimmed, better focused or switched off to avoid over-lighting.

- Consider how different landscape and architectural materials appear under electric light, for example dark and mirror-like materials will appear darker than lighter and matt-finished surfaces under the same light. Consider where lighter finishes could help make spaces feel naturally brighter, where appropriate, or improve the visibility of features and potential trip hazards after dark.

- Maintain good sightlines along routes and towards destinations by decluttering streetscapes, carefully balancing light and darkness and avoiding glare.

- Maintain and prune foliage to improve visibility and avoid routes and gathering areas becoming overshadowed by dense foliage.

PUBLIC REALM

Lighting

- Develop a holistic lighting strategy, which coordinates borough-wide public streetlighting, guidance for privately-owned lighting, and briefs for particular features, areas, and town centres.

- Work across council departments and with external stakeholders and local communities to establish briefs and priorities, and identify funding opportunities. Coordinate the lighting strategy with the overall night time strategy and its supporting evidence base to ensure proposals support after-dark uses and stakeholders' priorities.

- Encourage local authority streetlighting engineers to attend London Lighting Engineers Group (LoLEG) meetings to help share best practice and lessons learned across boroughs.

- Seek to implement intelligent, adaptive streetlight dimming systems. Plan for different types and scales of streetlighting alongside different intensities and qualities of light according to context, use, and stakeholder preferences. Avoid a blanket or 'one-size-fits-all' approach in favour of nuanced, place-specific illumination. 💡 Follow this link to page 40 for a case study on the City of London's lighting strategy and streetlight dimming system

- Streetlighting strategies should address qualitative and quantitive aspects of illumination for streets, pedestrian paths, underpasses, squares, green spaces, sports courts and fields, car parks, and housing estates.

- Coordinate public streetlighting strategies with plans for selective illumination of architectural and landscape features and spaces to create legible, accessible and characterful streetscapes. Appoint lighting designers early on in the process to work in partnership with the council's streetlighting team to promote creative solutions that are contextual, sustainable and maintainable over the long term. 💡 Follow these links for lighting precedents: Green Lanes high street, Haringey, page 24; Wellington Street underpass, Luton, page 28; Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Newham, page 34; Bottle Alley, Hastings, page 35; Museum Square lighting demonstration, Derby, page 36; Shadwell Estate, Tower Hamlets, page 38

- A large proportion of light in town centres is emitted from private land and buildings. Consider developing dedicated guidelines – for example, through supplementary planning guidance – that encourage best practice among private building owners and tenants. Guidelines could address the lighting of advertising, shopfronts, façades, interiors visible through glazing, entrances, back-of-house spaces, and outdoor dining areas, during and outside of opening hours. Work with existing BIDs and town centre partnerships to work towards a coordinated and sustainable approach, where private lighting helps animate the street and boost perceptions of brightness and security while minimising light pollution, energy use, and negative environmental impacts. Include reviews of lighting as part of planning applications and design reviews.

- Sensitive, selective illumination can enhance historic buildings and areas. Appoint specialist lighting designers and 🔍 refer to Historic England's guidance for the lighting of historic buildings

- Different distributions, tones, colours and intensities of light have different impacts on people's wellbeing, wildlife and views of the night sky. 🔍 Refer to the Institute of Lighting Professional's Guidance Note for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light

- Carry out and request ecology surveys from developers in sensitive areas to refine the brief for lighting. Define areas and hours of dimmed light and protected darkness. Some local authorities have retrofitted filters and even installed amber and red streetlighting to minimise impacts on biodiversity and views of the night sky. Consider community stargazing, nocturnal biodiversity and 'Earth Hour' events as opportunities to educate and celebrate the natural qualities of the night.

- Use light as part of pilot projects, events and festivals to test ideas and new uses. Work with community groups to identity underused sites and areas in need of improvement. Pair the lighting strategy with educational, community-led events and awareness campaigns about light's potential, the importance of contextual design, and the consequences of over-illumination

Public transport networks

- Work with businesses, resident groups and police to establish and reinforce identified safe routes that connect evening and night time uses and transport hubs. Actively engage community and campaign groups representing those who might feel excluded.

- Ensure Underground and train stations are visible from afar.

- Ensure night bus stops and their surrounding contexts are adequately lit and, where possible, provide views towards active streets and spaces, or signal routes towards them.

- Provide wayfinding at strategic locations along routes, such as at intersections, and ensure signage is adequately lit for people with poor eyesight.

- Encourage late night venues to provide information on the nearest transport options, timetables and busier walking routes that avoid residential areas.

- Raise awareness of safe walking and cycling after dark through public health and awareness campaigns.

Amenities

- Cluster amenities, including bins, seating, water fountains and toilets. Ensure that they are accessible, with good natural surveillance and visibility from afar.

- Provide public toilets, including accessible toilets and Changing Places, that are well-maintained, well-lit and overlooked to provide natural surveillance.

- Partner with and incentivise local businesses to provide access to their toilets at night. 🔦 See Part 3, page 24, for a precedent in Richmond

- Provide bins, particularly around areas where people congregate, including transport stops and outside food takeaways. Encourage business owners to maintain clean, litter-free environments outside their premises.

- Consider providing additional street cleaning in high footfall areas on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Access to green spaces

- Consider evening and night time access to green spaces, particularly during the summer months, activating them with community events, sport and leisure activities. Balance use of green spaces at night with requirements to protect biodiversity and areas of darkness.

 💡 Follow these links for precedents: Summertime late opening of parks, Paris, page 32; Stargazing events, Paris, page 33; Night picnics, Argentina, page 64; Bryant Park film nights, New York, page 66

- Ensure foliage and fences alongside after-dark pedestrian routes maintain good visibility from the path to the surrounding area to avoid creating a 'catwalk' effect, where people are visible but cannot see around them.

- Maintain and prune foliage to improve visibility and to prevent primary routes and gathering areas that are intended to be lit from becoming overshadowed by dense foliage.

Construction sites

- Encourage developers to explore opportunities for sensitive lighting, art, and active frontages around hoardings and construction sites – particularly where they frame important pedestrian routes – to improve their contribution to the streetscape after dark. Avoid glare and light pollution from construction and security lighting.

- Encourage developers to consider evening and night time meanwhile uses and events that help activate the site and integrate it into the surrounding area early on, where appropriate.

Managing sound

- Consider how urban design and façade design features can help reduce nuisances through, for example, quieter road surfaces in residential areas, the use of planting and green walls to help absorb sound and avoiding lots of reflective surfaces such as glass.

- Locate sound-generating servicing, such as waste collection and deliveries, away from residential windows where possible and ensure bedrooms of new developments are located away from sound-generating sources, including walking routes. Advocate best practice according to TfL's Deliveries Toolkit.

- Create a legible streetscape and provide clear wayfinding in and outside late night venues, providing visible, attractive nodes and amenities to draw crowds away from sensitive areas.

Darkness, sleep, biodiversity and the night sky

- Advocate good lighting practice across the borough, with reference to the 🔍 Institute of Lighting Professional's (ILP's) Guidance Note for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light

- Consider biodiversity and good views of the night sky as night time assets and attractions. Consider where nature reserves could provide opportunities for educational and inspiring bat walks, stargazing events, and potential Urban Night Sky Place designation from the International Dark Sky Association (IDA). 💡 Follow these links for precedents: Grove Park Community Group and Nature Reserve, Lewisham, page 42; Bat walks, Sydenham Wells Park, Lewisham, page 43

- Work with health and education services to raise awareness about the importance of high quality sleep to support mental and physical wellbeing. In borough lighting strategies and lighting guidance documents, highlight the role of darkness in wellbeing and supporting people's body clocks. 🔍 Refer to The Sleep Council's and Sleep Charity's Charter for Sleep Equality

🔍 Follow this link to the Commission for Dark Skies' online resources

🔍 Follow this link to the IDA's Dark Sky London website

Precedents

Public realm design · Land use mix · Active frontages

Orford Road, Waltham Forest

Expanding upon the London Borough of Waltham Forest's Mini Holland scheme, architects What If: Projects worked with the Mini Holland team to make Orford Road more pedestrian- and cycle-friendly. The scheme saw highways re-configurations, footway widening, street terraces for businesses, new signage, playful objects and seating, tree planting, greening, and bicycle parking introduced. The street is activated in the evenings by outdoor dining, drinking and general socialising.

The street includes a rich and complementary mix of uses, and convivial, intimate pedestrian spaces. A pub with outdoor seating helps activate one street corner, while, for a period, the Walthamstow Village Window Gallery created a unique street-facing art gallery on another. Window displays of artworks were illuminated until midnight every night. The gallery was a four-year project funded by a local estate agent.

Warm streetlighting, active frontages and a pedestrian-priority highways design create a welcoming street after dark · Image: Alexander Christie

Pedestrian- and cycle-friendly road configurations · Image: Alexander Christie

Case study: Green Lanes, Haringey

High street · Public realm design · Lighting

With Outer London Fund (OLF) and TfL Major Scheme funding, Haringey council commissioned East Architecture, Landscape, Urban Design, Jonathan Cook Landscape Architects and lighting designers Studio Dekka to design public realm improvements along Green Lanes, addressing the use and character of the street by day and night.

The scheme included a holistic public realm design, from kerb realignments, bus stop rationalisation and provision of power infrastructure for market stalls, to shop front improvements and lighting. Engagement with local communities informed the scheme, with place- and community-specific designs introduced, including bespoke benches and the use of recycled kerbs.

Material and street lighting enhancements were introduced at street corners and in key spaces, alongside trees, features and public seating. The design creates a string of attractive, intimate meeting places and landmarks along the high street. Each is sensitively lit with very warm light, which provides a pleasant quality of illumination and enhances a sociable ambience after dark. Lighting to façades and trees at key intersections and street corners aids wayfinding, improves legibility, and creates lit landmarks. These also provide positive backdrops to street activity and seating areas outside restaurants, pubs and transport hubs after dark.

PUBLIC REALM

Very warm spotlighting at junctions along Green Lanes highlights them for safety and extends the warm ambience of restaurants, pubs and bars to the public realm · Image: Studio Dekka

Case study: Green Lanes, Haringey

High street · Public realm design · Lighting

Lighting of the The Salisbury pub creates a local landmark after dark and a backdrop for outdoor seating · Image: Grant Smith

Hanging lanterns in trees in Ducketts Common creates a welcoming gateway outside Turnpike Lane underground and bus station · Image: Studio Dekka

Bespoke streetlighting and integrated power infrastructure enhances meeting places and powers market stall pitches after dark · Image: Studio Dekka

Illuminated signage to the library creates a local landmark after dark · Image: Grant Smith

Precedents

Participatory design

Wellington Weave, Luton

Wellington Weave was a participatory public art project by artist Jack Wates that transformed the Wellington Street underpass in Luton. The design creates a weave of colourful conduit that wraps the tunnel. Gentle animation of light produces colourful shadows, which shift from wall to wall.

The design was developed through workshops with local young people, which allowed them to engage with design methodologies at various stages of the project. Beginning with a session surveying the tunnel, they questioned whether the underpass could be used to host events and become a venue to support other local creative projects. The scheme has been well looked-after and formed the setting for a music video for a local artist. The project cost £23,000 to implement.

Wellington Street underpass · Colourful electrical conduits and coloured shadows animate the underpass, which was co-designed with local young people · Image: Jack Wates

Place des Fêtes, Paris

LSE's social research team, Configuring Light, and lighting designers, Light Follows Behaviour, carried out a research-led co-design process to guide the regeneration of a public square in Paris. Social research was central to the process and revealed the diversity of existing stakeholders and uses of the space over 24 hours. The research was primarily qualitative, including interviews and observations. It revealed when and how different groups use the square and gauged their perceptions of the space and its features.

The findings revealed differences between daytime and evening visitors to the square, and highlighted the space as a valuable amenity for refugee families, who regularly gathered to socialise and share home-cooked food from late afternoons into the evenings. The research pointed towards opportunities to extend the use of the square by building upon existing, popular activities and uses, such as markets, play, and informal socialising.

The research included a workshop on site, where temporary design interventions were trialled. This allowed a detailed, evidence-based design brief to be written. Maintenance of lighting was highlighted as being as important as design in any future scheme and opportunities for 'easy fixes' were identified to improve the square in the short term.
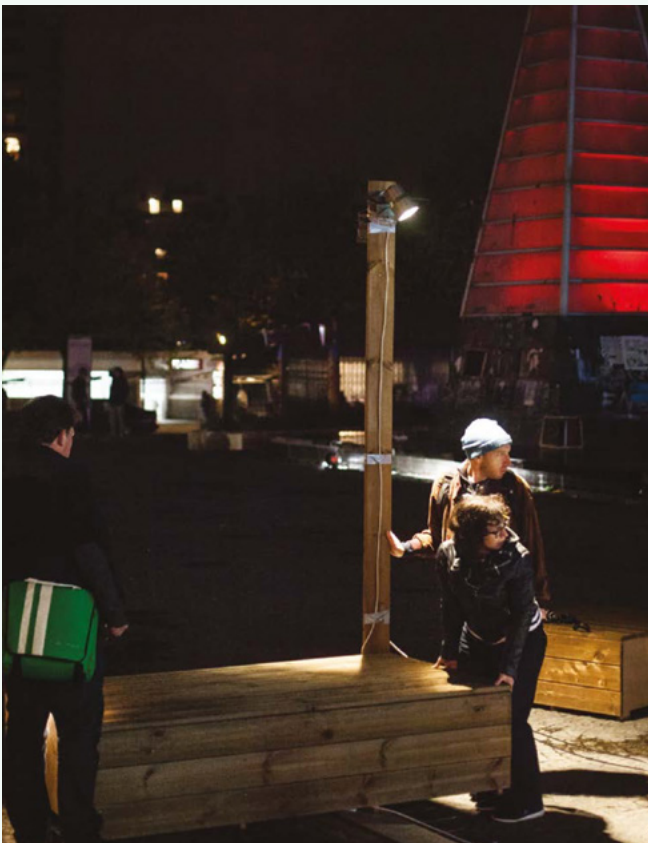
Place des Fêtes · Workshops invited a team of international collaborators to test lighting designs in the square using temporary installations · Image: Configuring Light

Precedents

Mobility at night · Active transport · Safety

Ciclovia Nocturna, Bogotá

Twice a year, the city of Bogotá opens more than 100km of streets to the public for night time cycling. This free initiative is hugely popular, with thousands of cyclists and pedestrians meeting in the streets from 6pm until midnight to promote sustainable cities in a recreational, playful way.

A map of open streets and cycling routes is provided and Bogotá now has the biggest cycle network in Latin America. Other cultural and entertainment activities support the event, such as fireworks, light shows, gym classes and film screenings.

Street closures in Bogotá for night time cycling events · Image: Zvi Leve, CC BY-SA 2.0

Walk Smart, City of Newcastle, NSW

'Walk Smart' is an initiative by the City of Newcastle in New South Wales, aimed at creating safer pedestrian routes for people visiting the city at night.

The Walk Smart routes were identified through consultation with the local police and Liquor Accords, which are partnerships between licensed venues, community members, local businesses, local council departments, the police, government departments, and other stakeholders.

The routes are distinguished after dark with enhanced lighting, more pedestrian activity, and a commitment from local police to patrol regularly. Further lighting enhancements will be implemented in collaboration with businesses and commercial property owners.

By improving perceptions of safety, the programme aims to further increase the use of these routes after dark, resulting in more informal surveillance from passers-by. Walk Smart routes help to connect key public transport locations, including bus stops and train stations. The maps are available online and in the city's licensed premises.

Map of safer pedestrian routes with improved lighting and increased policing along these paths ·
Image: City of Newcastle

Precedents

Access to green spaces · Free events

Summertime late opening of parks, Paris

This initiative was launched in 2016, with seven parks and gardens opening all night during the summer months. The project has since expanded to 16 parks and green spaces in 2019. The number of parks open is increased during periods of extreme heat to provide cool areas in the city, as was the case in the summer of 2018 where nearly half of all parks in the city stayed open all night.

The Mayor's office experimented with the scheme over several years, starting with small parks and squares, which were kept open 24 hours a day and proved to be popular. Extra bins and security are provided, including additional police rounds.

Late opening and lighting of parks in Paris during the summer months · Image: Thierry Charlois

Stargazing events, Paris

This initiative hosts free stargazing events in Parisian parks over 16 evenings during the summer months. The events build upon the seasonal late openings of parks and offer educational workshops for young people, who account for between 30% and 50% of 7,000 attendees.

The events highlight the potential for educational programming in public spaces when their opening hours are extended. The delivery of a family-friendly event also responded to calls from stakeholders to offer more for children to do at night.

Free stargazing events in the summer are child and family-friendly activities that animate parks at night · Image: Association Française d'Astronomie – Eric Piednoel

Precedents

Lighting design · Pedestrian routes

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Newham

The southern part of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park is illuminated by bespoke perforated orbs designed by lighting designers Speirs Major, with executive lighting designers Michael Grubb Studio helping to deliver the scheme. The orbs create attractive, glowing features overhead and project patterns of dappled light along the pedestrian path.

The lighting creates an attractive, welcoming scene and a playful atmosphere. Careful design and testing, in consultation with Secured by Design, allowed the scheme to deliberately deviate from prescribed standards for street lighting illuminance and uniformity levels, adherence to which would have led to a flatter and less special ambience.
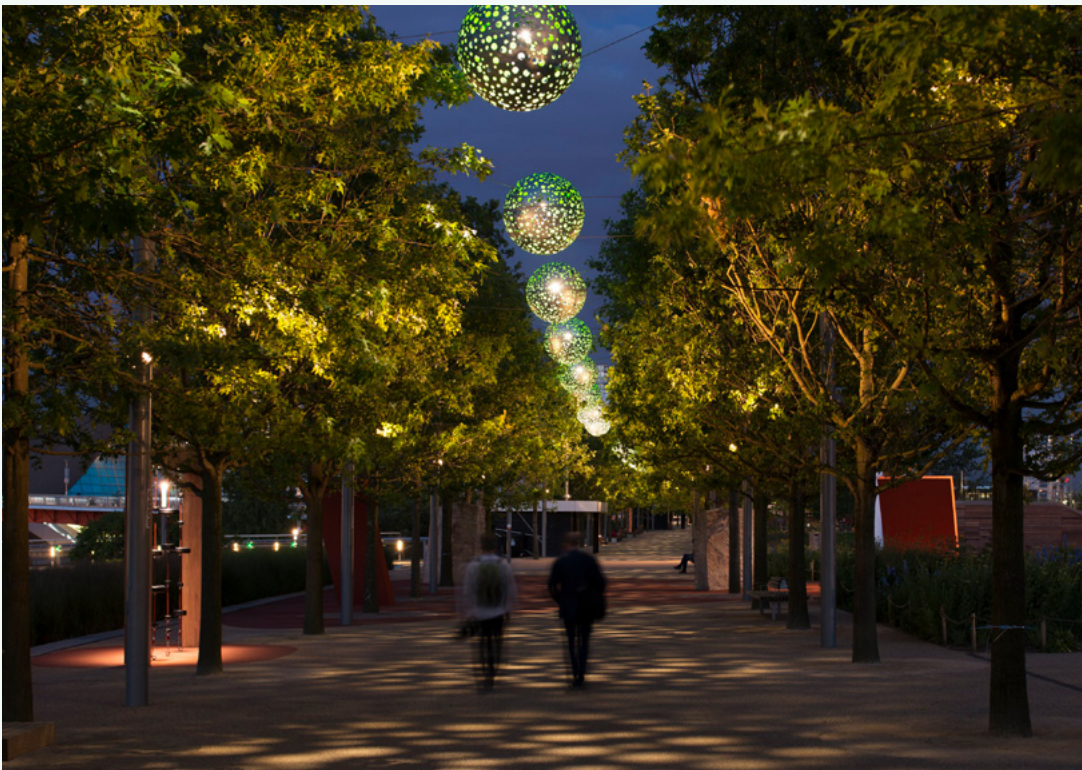
Bespoke, characterful lighting design for a pedestrian path · Image: James Newton

Bottle Alley light show, Hastings

Bottle Alley is a 480m-long covered walkway in Hastings. Its low ceiling made it difficult to install CCTV, many of the light fittings were broken, and the space attracted anti-social behaviour. The alley was transformed when a colourful, dynamic lighting scheme was installed to provide light shows running at 19:30 and 21:30 every night, with an extended 30-minute show on Fridays.

It has become a significant tourist attraction and transformed the character and use of the tunnel, which hosts formal and informal events. Local businesses synchronise special offers and promotions with the running times of the light show.

The project cost £170,000 and was delivered by the council working with PR Lighting Systems, Laser Energy and Osram.

A dynamic light show transformed the covered walkway, which is popular with runners and hosts various events, including free gigs · Image: Traxon e:cue/Jeff Mood

Precedents

Stakeholder engagement · Lighting Demonstration

Case study: Lighting demonstration, Derby

As part of a lighting strategy commissioned by Derby City Council for Derby city centre, lighting designers Speirs Major carried out a lighting demonstration project in a small public square to illustrate to the council, their private finance initiative (PFI) contractors, and stakeholders how light can transform the character of a space. The public square was turned into a 'theatre set' for an evening, where different colours, colour temperatures, intensities, textures and distributions of light were demonstrated. The project showed the importance of lighting to vertical surfaces in creating legible, atmospheric spaces, and that bright light to the ground plane – as traditionally required by standards – does not necessarily create pedestrian-friendly places that feel safe and welcoming.

The temporary demonstration with hired equipment and specialist contractors cost £8k – £12k to implement. The project encouraged the council's PFI contractor to reduce the amount of energy used on floodlighting the ground plane in favour of softly lighting landscape and architectural features to bring human scale and character to pedestrian areas at night.

A contractor installs different types of lighting equipment onto theatrical lighting bars to demonstrate different light qualities and effects · Image: Speirs Major

Images from the workshop demonstrating the effect of different qualities of light in a small public square. Clockwise from top left: cold light to the ground; warm light to the ground; features lit, with blue dappled light to the ground · Images: James Newton

Precedents

Lighting design · Social housing estates

Shadwell Estate, Tower Hamlets

Social housing estates in London are commonly illuminated by floodlights and bulkhead lights that project light widely and somewhat indiscriminately, often causing glare and light pollution in the process. The illumination of Peabody's Shadwell Estate in Tower Hamlets was one such example, until it was redesigned by lighting designers Light Follows Behaviour in 2017.

The new design demonstrates how simple, sensitive, well-balanced and low-glare lighting can improve the appearance, accessibility and experience of neighbourhood spaces. Warm white accent lighting highlights entrances and wayfinding signage, and is focused onto paths and play spaces to create a welcoming, legible scene. Light is also projected through tree foliage to enhance its natural colours and textures and create dappled patterns of light and shadow.

A catenary lighting system illuminates a landscaped play space designed by landscape architects Turkington Martin. The catenary lighting creates a canopy of light points overhead, while maximising the space available for play.

Integrated light to signage, catenary lighting and lighting to trees creates a warm, welcoming atmosphere · Image: Light Follows Behaviour

Before · Image: Light Follows Behaviour

After · Image: Light Follows Behaviour / Catarina Heeckt

PUBLIC REALM

Case study: Lighting strategy and streetlighting control system, City of London

Strategic and adaptive lighting · Smart technology

The City of London Corporation is upgrading its streetlighting system and so far has replaced over half of approximately 8,000 lighting assets with dimmable LED. The upgrades are prioritising main roads and their side streets. Each new LED streetlight has a smart control node integrated inside the lantern, allowing the streetlighting team to control each streetlight's intensity according to the surrounding context and use.

For example, streetlights outside glazed, illuminated offices and along streets with active, lit frontages have been dimmed in response to the abundance of privately-owned lighting. Similarly, views towards lit landmarks or temporary art projections have been improved, with light levels adjusted in situ to create a more balanced composition. The control system has helped future-proof the streetlighting, allowing it to adapt to temporary and permanent changes in use.

The City of London police have been trained to use the system, enabling them to temporarily intensify light levels in specific areas in response to incidents. Similarly, following consultation with police and businesses, the streetlighting team is trialling increased light levels between 2am and 6am to assess whether these affect incidents of antisocial behaviour after closing time.

The streetlighting upgrades and smart controls, alongside a recently-adopted Lighting Strategy developed with lighting designers Speirs Major, has allowed the streetlighting team to adopt a more creative, nuanced, and place-specific approach to streetlighting. The holistic strategy highlights spaces and buildings to prioritise for illumination to support legibility and placemaking. Different colour temperatures or tones of white light are being introduced according to each area's character. For example, warmer light is being applied to side streets, and residential and heritage areas.

The project budget was £4 million and the smart control system adds approximately £70 to the cost of a £400 LED lantern. These investments have reduced associated carbon emissions from 2,289 tonnes in 2016/17 to 952 tonnes in 2019/20, and nearly halved the network's energy consumption. The Corporation also saves approximately £100,000 per year in streetlight fault scouting, with the control system providing automatic fault alerts.

The control system has also been implemented by Brent council, with over £800,000 in energy savings per year, and a carbon reduction of over 58%.

Smart Lighting system · The adjustable lighting system helps to deliver a place specific lighting strategy for public realm and architectural heritage in the City of London · Image: Andrew Hatfield/ DW Windsor

Precedents

Night sky · Biodiversity

Grove Park Community Group and Nature Reserve, Lewisham

The Grove Park Nature Reserve was designated a Dark Sky Discovery Site and is protected under the Grove Park Development Plan 2018-2033 under policy G15, with requirements that lighting to any new developments adjacent do not impact upon its status. Planning applications are reviewed, and the community encouraged, to report on inappropriate lighting that could compromise its special status. The protection and designation of the park have drawn visitors and stargazers to the nature reserve.

Orion · Image: Bob Mizon

Bat walks, Sydenham Wells Park, Lewisham

London boroughs and wildlife organisations have organised free night time 'bat walks' in local green spaces. The preservation of dark spaces at night and the reduction of light pollution in green spaces provide biodiversity and ecological benefits that can foster educational opportunities at night.

Bat walks take place in green spaces at night across London · Image: Jeremiah Quinn

Part 2

Guidance, precedents and case studies

Civic and public life

Civic and public life

Extending opening hours of cultural, civic and community spaces can improve access to these communal facilities, diversify their activities and introduce them to new audiences. The public realm can be used for art and cultural programming after dark, which can have transformational impacts on the perception and use of these shared spaces at night.

Evening and night time programming can help improve access to culture, celebrate the diversity of the borough and its people, and nurture new creative talent and collaborations. Public spaces can host art and cultural activities that bring together communities to create and enjoy culture, play, and socialise in a safe and inclusive environment.

Community, cultural and civic spaces should be inclusive and protected through planning policies, and the importance of night time venues for LGBTQ+, disabled and ethnic minority communities promoted.

Cultural infrastructure

- Promote cultural uses in the evening and night time and seek opportunities to enhance existing and establish new cultural anchor venues. These can help stimulate the surrounding economy and attract a broader range of visitors. Follow this link to precedents and case studies on pages 48 to 51

- Protect and support youth community centres, both formal and informal, which can serve as incubators for the creative industries.

- Promote affordable workspaces for creative workers, and recognise the long-term payback of nurturing cultural activity.

- Protect pubs, music venues, night clubs and theatres as important places for socialising and cultural exchange.

- Protect venues, facilities and social spaces used by minority communities, including disabled people, LGBTQ+, Black, Asian and other ethnic minorities.

- Protect, and consider heritage designations for, historic buildings housing evening and night time uses, such as local heritage listings for buildings housing pubs.

Follow this link to GLA toolkits and strategies

Public art and events

- Identify opportunities to illuminate public art where it enhances the settings for evening and night time socialising and movement through the public realm.

- Consider commissioning site-specific light art that reveals itself after dark, or which reinterprets existing features and spaces. 💡 Follow this link to precedents and case studies on pages 55 to 59

- Host evening and night time public events, taking opportunities to activate and transform underused areas. 💡 Follow this link to precedents and case studies on pages 60 to 66

Play

- Wherever appropriate, illuminate and keep play areas open in the evenings, ensuring good natural surveillance. 💡 Follow this link to precedents on pages 52 to 53

- Use feature and dynamic lighting to encourage play and exercise. 💡 Follow this link to precedents and case studies on pages 53 to 55

🔍 Follow this link to the GLA's 'Making London Child-Friendly' report

Precedents

Use of council premises · Events · Communities

Merton Arts Space in Merton Public Library

Two arts spaces were developed in Mitcham and Wimbledon libraries using Arts Council England funding. During opening hours, they function as normal reference libraries, but in the evening they can be transformed into performance spaces, including a stage with lighting and sound rigs. The multi-use spaces enable a range of cultural uses and activate the space into the evening and night. There is an emphasis on engaging and offering opportunities for the local community, with a particular focus on children and young people.

Jah Wobble performing at Merton Arts Space · Image: Merton Arts Space

Stage set up for a performance of Great Expectations by Attic Theatre Company · Image: Merton Arts Space

Precedents

Use of council premises · Appeal to different age groups

Youth songwriter's nights, Waltham Forest

As part of Walthamstow's Night Time Enterprise Zone (NTEZ) pilot project, the council partnered with a local brewery and pub to set up 'Welcome to the Forest Bar', an experimental tap room in a council-owned premises on the high street. The pub and brewery occupied the space at reduced rents on the condition that they hosted community-focused events throughout their tenancy. The space hosted stakeholder engagement events and workshops relating to the NTEZ.

In partnership with local youth and music groups, a regular alcohol-free event was organised, which encouraged young people aged 14 to 19 to produce and curate their own music and performance evenings.

The event originally ran over two months, but proved so popular that Waltham Forest committed to extending the programme beyond the NTEZ pilot period to the end of the academic year, before the COVID-19 public health crisis put the events on hold.

A partnership between the council and youth groups saw a series of music and performance evenings hosted in council premises to showcase young people's talents · Image: Waltham Forest Council

Libraries at Night, Bexley

The 'Libraries at Night' project took place in early 2019 and saw libraries in Bexley open until 22:30. Eleven events were held across the borough over two weeks. These ranged from live music and comedy to murder mystery and an 'Escape Room'. Organisers reported the events appealing to those aged between 40 and 70.

The events highlighted the expanded roles that local authorities can play as curators and programmers of evening and night time activities, extending the use of venues, services and buildings that they own and operate.

A series of grant funded events tested the possibility for libraries to offer a varied programme in the late evenings · Image: Taking the Pixel/London Borough of Bexley

Precedents

Wellbeing · Community · Play

Midnight basketball, Haringey

The midnight basketball initiative in Haringey was one of 49 projects to benefit from a share in £400,000 funding from Sport England to help tackle serious violence and knife crime. The scheme saw Haringey Sports Development Trust expand its midnight basketball sessions from two to five nights a week for three months. Basketball training and tournaments ran from 7pm–10pm on courts near Turnpike Lane Station.

Providing access to indoor and outdoor sports facilities in the evening supports active lifestyles and provides free activities in local centres · Image: Publica

Giraffe playground, Uppsala, Sweden

After feature lighting was introduced to a playground in Uppsala, Sweden, research by lighting supplier, Signify, found that children played outdoors 37% longer than they did previously, or 99 minutes a day versus 72 minutes when the playground was unlit. The initiative illustrates links between lighting, extended opening hours, and use of public spaces at night with tangible health and wellbeing benefits.

Lighting can encourage outdoor, active play for children after dark · Image: Annelie Sundin

Precedents

Play · Light and sound · Crowd-funding

The Headphone Project, Darby Street, Newcastle, NSW

The Headphone Project sculpture by MUD Landscape Design provides a permanent amplifier in the street that passers-by and buskers can plug into and play music through, for free. The sculpture includes a 6-channel mixer and leads that allow artists to connect to the installation and play music at pre-set volumes. Located in the New South Wales city of Newcastle in Australia, the installation benefited from a local government grant to support community projects that activate and animate public spaces. Crowd-funding has paid for the maintenance of the interactive sculpture, which has been showcasing the talents of local musicians since 2015.

Integrated infrastructure for amplified music creates a local performance and social space · Image: City of Newcastle

Sound and light installation Ackery's Alley, Vancouver, Canada

'Field' is a crowd-funded, permanent light and sound installation in an alleyway alongside the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver. It activates the route between 7pm and 10pm, allowing the public to create music by interacting with 35 squares of projected light, which trigger lights and sounds. This allows audiovisual compositions to be created through body movements. The project was delivered by a not-for-profit collective called More Awesome Now, which included the local BID, HCMA Architecture + Design, creative studio Tangible Interaction, and the City of Vancouver.

The night time offers opportunities to rethink and creatively re-appropriate spaces for new uses and activities · Image: Downtown Vancouver BIA and Tangible Interaction

Precedents

Lighting · Site-specific public art

Greenleaf Road lighting, Waltham Forest

Six static and animated permanent light art installations were introduced along Greenleaf Road in Walthamstow. The street had been identified by local residents as needing attention, due to it feeling dark and unsafe and attracting antisocial behaviour.

Council street lighting engineers, housing teams and building tenants worked with designers from Publica to test and refine lighting effects in situ, including lighting to building frontages, trees, blank façades, and interior and covered spaces visible from the street. The scheme included permanent light projections based on William Morris's patterns and residents' ideas. The combined cost of the six installations was £40,000, funded through the borough's Making Places project. Each building tenant pays for the running of the lights from dusk until late at night. The project helped foster partnership working, with building owners and tenants collectively helping to improve lighting along the street.

Low cost projections and lighting interventions can strengthen neighbourhood character and act as a mechanism for partnership working and collective custodianship of public routes and spaces · Image: Publica

Colour Curve light installation, Bournemouth

Colour Curve was a large installation by artists Alex Mead and Jack Wates that appropriated 150 streetlights by wrapping each in a colour filter. This transformed a 6-kilometre stretch of the coast into a spectrum of coloured light. The project was part of the 2019 Bournemouth Arts by the Sea Festival.

The installation drew the public through a sequence of colours, continually changing their perception of the landscape as they walked, serving as an educational demonstration of light, colour and visual perception. By appropriating existing infrastructure, the installation achieved a scale and uniformity for minimum cost (£7,000), while keeping its environmental impact low.

Ambitious lighting installations can make use of existing infrastructure to temporarily change the character of a pedestrian route and provide educational information about light, colour and visual perception · Image: Jack Wates

Case study: Kruunuvuorenranta, Helsinki, Finland

Repurposed industrial infrastructure · Public light art funding · New housing developments

Kruunuvuorenranta is a new 260-hectare residential neighbourhood developed on a disused oil harbour in the suburbs of Helsinki, Finland.

During winter, Helsinki experiences just six hours of daylight per day. The City of Helsinki has established light art as a tool to activate the public realm during these extended hours of darkness, inviting citizens and tourists to stay out, explore and enjoy the city after sunset.

Before construction of the new residential development began, the City branded Kruunuvuorenranta as a 'neighbourhood of light art' and launched two international competitions; one that sought to reimagine a disused oil silo as a light art installation (won by Lighting Design Collective), and a second that called for a development-wide creative lighting and landscape strategy (won by West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture with Speirs Major).

Light art is included as part of each new development, integrated into landscape, furniture and architecture. Funding for the light art installations is ensured through the City of Helsinki's contractual requirement that developers ringfence 1% of their total budget for public art.

The first and largest light art project was realised before construction of the development began. A disused oil silo was repurposed as a unique art and events venue, animated inside and out by a lighting installation, which rendered the silo an after-dark beacon on the shoreline. The award-winning light art installation became the first attraction and tourist destination in Kruunuvuorenranta, signalling its future character as a destination for light art and lighting innovation.

The lighting strategy and light art projects are gradually being realised as construction progresses until 2030. Various light art projects have been implemented throughout the development plots. Smart streetlighting has also been piloted on one of the main roads, which not only allows light levels to be dimmed but allows the colour temperature of light to shift from very warm to very cool white according to the time of day and quality of ambient light.
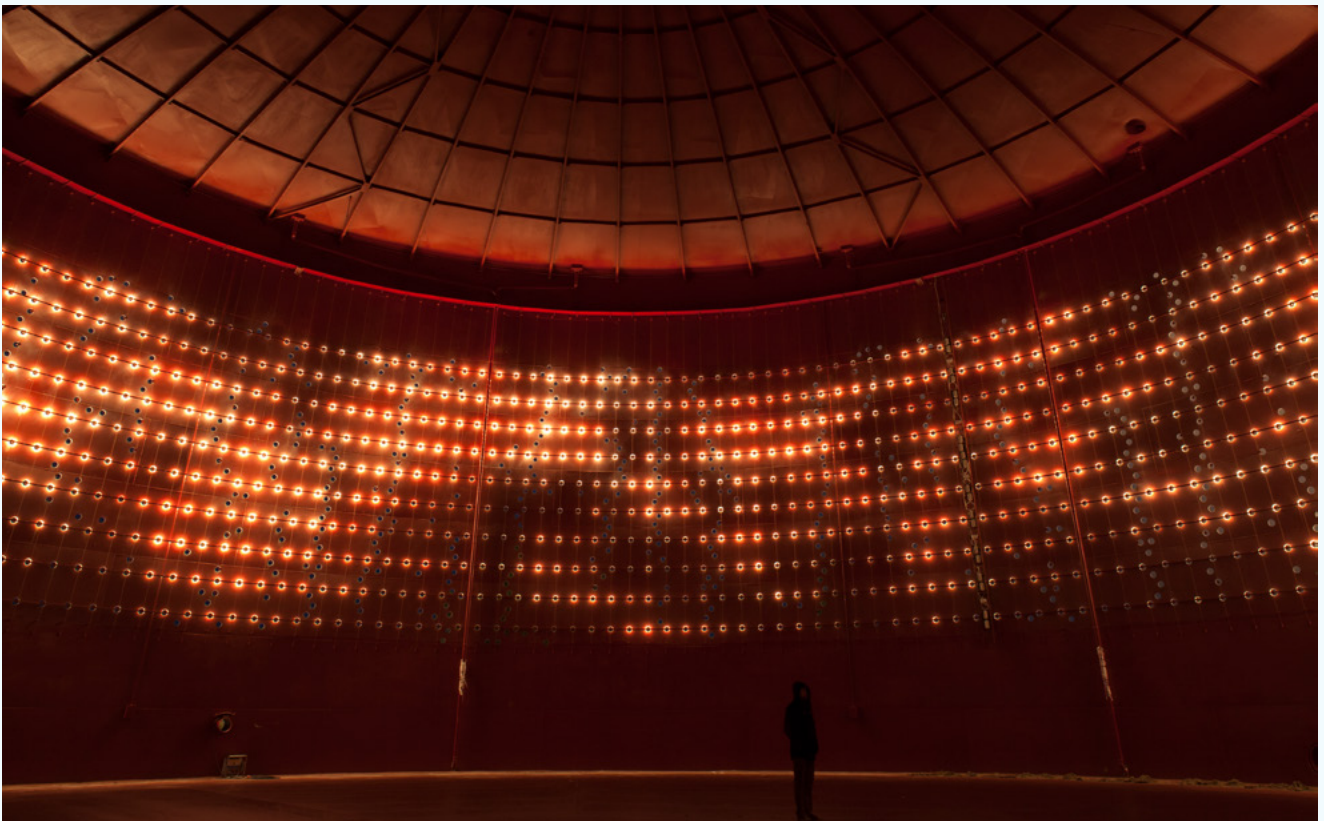
Silo 468, a disused oil silo, was transformed into an immersive light art installation, after-dark landmark and unique events venue as part of Kruunuvuorenranta's neighbourhood of light art · Images: Tapio Rosenius

Case study: Light Night Canning Town, Newham

Underused spaces · Free events · Communities

Several underused or untraditional arts spaces were activated through a series of summer and winter events that ran from 2013 to 2015. Sites included an area beneath the A13 flyover, a building site, and a library. The Light Night was organised and curated by The Brick Box, who invited artists and performers to animate the spaces, many of which had previously felt unsafe and somewhat foreboding after dark.

The events included 'The Electric Fireside', which drew people together to share stories around a mobile, flickering, bespoke-designed electric fireplace. Artists used dance, storytelling and puppetry to facilitate audiences sharing stories of their homes and communities.

The events were free to attend and had a broad reach, providing a platform for 3,500 audience members from all backgrounds to engage with the arts. The project demonstrated how people's relationship with their urban environment can be improved by celebrating local culture and empowering people of all ages to participate in activities after dark, activating underused spaces with music, light, and story-telling.

Formalising a focus on evening and night time programming opened up existing, underused social infrastructure, like the Canning Town Library, and transformed it into a night time venue. The events helped broaden the scope of partners and spaces involved in cultural programming, with local businesses and developers participating alongside community groups.

The events demonstrated the potential of the underused area beneath the A13 flyover as a reclaimed public space. It was re-designed as such in 2018 by landscape architects Turkington Martin, lighting designers Light Follows Behaviour, and acoustic specialists Anderson Acoustics.

The redesigned Terry Spinks Place beneath the A13 flyover in Canning Town · Image: Catarina Heeckt

A lantern-making workshop culminated in a parade · Image: Matt Badenoch Photography

The event included illumination and animation of a construction site and area beneath the A13 flyover · Images: www.kevinricks.com (left), Matt Badenoch Photography (right)

Case study: Parramatta Lanes, City of Parramatta, NSW

Underused spaces · Events

The Parramatta Lanes festival was developed as a strategy to change negative perceptions of laneways, which were associated with knife crime and anti-social behaviour.

The festival began in 2011 with 20 food stalls, five music acts and a bar attracting 8,000 visitors. The event has grown year on year, with occupancy figures from local hotels and data from travel cards helping to promote the economic benefits of the event and make a business case for its expansion.

Over the past two years, visitor numbers have reached 120,000, with the event spanning over four days and featuring five bars, over 50 music acts that cover diverse genres, and seven commissioned artworks across 14 lanes.

The event now costs A$200,000 (£111,000) to produce and is the primary event in the city. The council funds security, logistics, arts commissions and music programming, which amounts to around 70% of the total costs. Stallholders now pay a fee to trade at the festival and the council receives in-kind donations from businesses. Sponsorship and promotional opportunities are built into the programme, which help generate revenue for the council. The council also forms partnerships with businesses, including accommodation providers and food and drink suppliers, who buy rights to participate in the event.

The team delivering the festival engage directly with the diverse audiences they hope to attract, asking them what they would like to see. The event is also used to engage with the public on night time strategies and visions.

The multi-day festival uses inactive laneways in the central business district to host a variety of events and light art installations · Image: City of Parramatta/Jamie James

Case study: Night Picnics, Argentina

Access to green spaces · Free events

Over three summers up to 2019, the local government of Rosario in Argentina invited the public to gather in urban green spaces at night to enjoy communal picnics. People were invited to bring their food and blankets from home and enjoy open-air concerts, alongside food trucks and stalls.

Rosario has 12.5m^2 of green space per inhabitant, and they are open 24 hours a day. Many locals considered green spaces to be unsafe at night, and associated them with drug dealing and violence. The communal picnics helped change perceptions, encouraging families to go out and socialise in parks after dark. The local authority promoted the message that green spaces are open for everyone to use at night.

150,000 people took part in the events, which took place in both large and small green spaces over three years. Those in smaller, local parks took place up to once a week. The picnics were organised by four different departments in the local authority, looking after public realm, culture, safety, and communities.

The local authority delivered the events on minimal budgets (around $ARS 0.35 per person), with the picnic itself being the main focus and attraction, supported by small-scale music performances. Portable toilets were provided for larger events as well as additional bins for organic, recyclable and non-recyclable waste. This also provided an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and sustainability. The council produced maps for larger green spaces, indicating the locations of toilets and bins.

Simple feature lighting was provided to help enhance the atmosphere of the green spaces during the picnics. The feature lighting was retained permanently in some locations where it could be maintained by local custodians, such as market traders and community groups.

The local authority hosted the events on Thursday nights to avoid competing with existing night time businesses in the area, whose peak trade occurs at weekends. The picnics had positive knock-on effects on surrounding businesses, with visitors buying food and drink for their picnics from local shops and food outlets. The local authority also supported business start-ups, offering attendees the opportunity to pre-purchase food and drink vouchers from them.

When the picnics were proposed, some voiced concerns about safety and the possibility of the events becoming non-inclusive and focused around alcohol consumption. These concerns did not materialise, however, and the events proved to be highly inclusive, attracting families to enjoy green

spaces safely. The council focused on providing stewards to welcome picnic-goers, rather than an increased police presence, to help foster a convivial and welcoming atmosphere.

The events were promoted through local newspapers and posters displayed in business premises. Social media became the primary method of promotion, allowing the local authority to gauge likely numbers of attendees and receive feedback after the event. Questionnaires were also issued to participants. These confirmed the popularity of the events and showed that residents were happy to travel outside of their local area to attend picnics. As such, the picnics served as a great way to encourage citizens to discover new green spaces and areas of Rosario at night. Data showed that the use of public green spaces after dark increased as a result of the picnics.

Family-friendly and free events such as these encourage people to think differently about the use of open spaces at night · Image: Comunicación de Secretaría de Ambiente y Espacio Público – Municipalidad de Rosario

Precedents

Access to green spaces · Free events

Bryant Park film nights, New York

Every Monday during the summer, Bryant Park becomes a free open-air theatre for thousands of visitors between 5pm and 9pm. Bryant Park is publicly owned but privately managed, and the event has been running for over two decades. The events are sponsored to keep access to them free for the public. The programming of the space extends the use of the park beyond its normal operating hours and adds a cultural venue and event to the city by making use of what might otherwise be an underused space at night.

Programming of green spaces at night can offer alternative, free night time activities · Image: Brecht Bug, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Part 2

Guidance, precedents and case studies

Communities, planning and governance

Communities, planning and governance

Developing a night time strategy presents opportunities for businesses, residents and stakeholders to help plan, deliver and monitor new initiatives. This can contribute to a sense of collective responsibility and strengthen support networks.

Stakeholder engagement

- Engage stakeholders on an ongoing and project-by-project basis to help align project briefs with the night time strategy and identified priorities.

- Conduct regular reviews of stakeholder engagement to ensure a diverse and representative group is being included, identifying where and how methods could be adjusted to encourage broader participation.

Planning and land uses

- In planning, consider opening hours and activity over the course of the day, evening and night time alongside the spatial distribution of uses.

- Plan for clusters of evening and night time uses and nurture a rich and diverse mix of different types and sizes of venue.

- Plan residential development with respect to existing and planned clusters of evening and night time uses to minimise potential conflicts.

- Capitalise on existing cultural anchors, where they exist, or introduce new ones to nurture cultural quarters and promote culture-led activities.

- Plan land uses to create clusters of complementary activities. Create bridges between the daytime, evening and night time activities, and create a mutual support network where uses and venues that might struggle in isolation are supported by surrounding uses.

- Plan for and provide affordable, small-scale spaces for local businesses and start-ups.

- Identify potential areas for evening and night time culture and entertainment, which could include former industrial sites away from residential areas.

- Identify and support venues that have specific operational and access requirements, such as theatres that require access for trailers delivering equipment and sets for shows, or music venues that require nearby loading and parking bays for performers and their equipment. For example, in Seattle 'Musicians Priority Loading Zones' were introduced outside venues. Consider where shared, timed bays could help optimise the use of space over 24 hours and ensure good, safe access for performers, staff, and audience, including those with disabilities.

Agent of Change

- The Agent of Change principle is designed to protect businesses and local residents by minimising the risk of noise complaints. It places the responsibility of managing the impacts of a change, such as a new residential use or a louder PA system, onto the person or business introducing that change.

- New developments are required to support the continued activity of existing venues and businesses. Those introducing residential developments near existing sound-generating premises, such as pubs, music venues, theatres and nightclubs, would have to pay for soundproofing. This is to ensure that established cultural venues remain viable, and can continue in their present form without the prospect of licensing restrictions or threat of closure

- Similarly, new businesses seeking to introduce sound-generating uses should pay for sufficient soundproofing and crowd dispersal facilities to help protect existing residential amenity.

- Local authorities should advocate an open and balanced dialogue around the different requirements of residents and businesses, and those enjoying town centres at night, balancing the positive aspects of a vibrant night life with the importance of rest and good quality sleep.

- By proactively planning clusters of evening and night time uses, and encouraging communication about those uses and clusters, local authorities can help coordinate and manage expectations of new developers and residents.

Licensing

- Streamline licensing and planning approvals, encouraging closer coordination and consistency between departments.

- Consider setting up an action group to regularly review licensing issues and long-term strategies, and improve cross-departmental working. Members of the action group should be drawn from the business community and the night time strategy steering and delivery group. It could also include the police, trading standards and the fire brigade.

- Involve local communities in licensing decisions that could affect them.

- Licensing officers are encouraged to be collaborative, work with businesses to support good practice and use a stepped approach to resolving problems. The focus should be on early engagement and education, with enforcement being the very last resort.

- Licensing decisions should balance the licensing objectives with the important role that pubs, music venues, nightclubs and other licensed premises play in local communities and economies. The regulatory burden on business should be minimised and the local authority should encourage innovation, and support responsible businesses.

- Adopt a flexible approach to approvals for, and designations of, mixed use venues and more experimental business models. Support opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship and crossovers between sectors.

Community spaces

- Protect and support community spaces that host evening and night time activities for locals, including intergenerational and minority groups

- Raise awareness about the potential for Asset of Community Value (ACV) designation. 💡 Follow this link for a precedent: The Ivy House, Southwark, page 88

- Seek opportunities to establish new community spaces that host evening and night time activities. Use existing council-owned premises and explore partnerships and incentivisation schemes that could allow local businesses to host evening and night time community events. 💡 Follow this link to precedents on pages 82 to 84

Precedents

Participative governance

Night Owl Committee, Paris

Part of the larger Parisian Night Council, the 'night owl committee' is a citizen body made up of 30 randomly selected Parisians, split equally between men and women, with a two-year mandate. They have three roles: to initiate and help deliver pilot projects; to consult on new policies and actions; and to input into the Mayor's night time vision.

The committee members sit on working groups of the Night Council, the umbrella organisation that includes over 200 members from businesses, academia, local government and regulatory bodies. These working groups gather various stakeholders to discuss issues including mobility at night, creating new public spaces, preventing unsafe practice, ensuring amenity and quality of life for residents, and improving working conditions for night workers.

An example of the valuable input provided by the committee is a project to extend later opening hours for childcare facilities, following research that showed 50% of night workers in Paris to be parents.

One of a number of participatory initiatives run by the Mayor of Paris to ensure continuous engagement with residents · Image: Thierry Charlois.

Precedents

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder nightwalks, Heart of London Business Alliance (HoLBA)

As part of a scoping study for an evening and night time strategy, HoLBA engaged Publica to map stakeholders and lead night walks to discuss the area's different characters from day to evening to night, and identify the area's assets, challenges and opportunities.

Walks included new and established local businesses, landowners, police, council officers, ward councillors, managers of arts and cultural institutions, and street management teams. The walks were designed to allow each stakeholder to talk about their venue or area of interest in situ.

The walks helped connect businesses with each other and local authority councillors and officers. Conversations started on the walks helped to resolve issues by bringing together different stakeholders on site. The walks allowed stakeholders to discuss aspirations and ideas for different areas, and identify spaces and places of value to different communities.

Public realm consultants and HoLBA's street managers lead a stakeholder walk in central London to discuss challenges and opportunities for the evening and night time with businesses, police, council officers and ward councillors · Image: Publica

Stakeholder engagement programmes, City of Parramatta

The City of Parramatta used various methods to engage local residents, businesses and workers during the development of their Night City Framework. They consulted the city's youth forum, undertook hundreds of interviews with residents and visitors, surveyed businesses, and held workshops. They also staged a festival, where a local artist illustrated a vision for Parramatta at night, based on aspirations and feedback from the event's attendees.

'Night city audits' were also conducted, where urban lighting designers helped identify where poorly designed and/or uncoordinated lighting was compromising accessibility and the quality of experience after dark. During night city audits and resident interviews, the city's engagement team found perceptions of safety to be closely linked with perceived vitality of an area. Discussing both in tandem was a useful way of analysing safety concerns holistically and constructively. The team used various methods to help people analyse their own perceptions of spaces, and reimagine them by, for example, playing different sounds – e.g. buskers or the background chatter of people – in spaces that felt unsafe.

An online community panel of over 9,000 businesses, residents, students and other stakeholders was used to invite ideas and feedback on the city's future evening and night time. The database helps engage a broad and representative sample of the population, with filters allowing users to be targeted by location and demographic characteristics.

Precedents

Stakeholder engagement · Crowd-sourced research

Stakeholder engagement, Catford, Lewisham

Catford Conversations newsletter, and the accompanying online stakeholder feedback tool, are part of Team Catford's award-winning community engagement for the development of Lewisham Council's masterplan framework, which maps out how they want the town centre to evolve over the coming decades.

The development of night time activities in the civic heart of the borough is one of the themes discussed in the ongoing engagement with residents. Catford Mews cinema and events space emerged as a project following crowd-sourced ideas and comments from residents. The three-screen independent cinema and event space occupies the site of a former retail store on the high street. The venue hosts a number of food vendors, a community space, and a live music venue.

Team Catford are local residents. They combined online stakeholder engagement with regular face-to-face sessions held every weekend in a pop-up retail and event space called Catford Cornucopia. A quarterly newsletter – Catford Conversations – provides updates on stakeholder engagement and feedback, alongside features on local people and events. Two editions of the newsletter in 2019 were delivered to every household in Catford.

Catford Mews · Housed in a former retail store, the venue offers events and community spaces on the high street · Image: Team Catford

'Catford Conversations' newsletter · One of the outputs of the award winning scheme is the regular publication of a newsletter detailing upcoming consultation events and findings from past rounds · Image: Team Catford
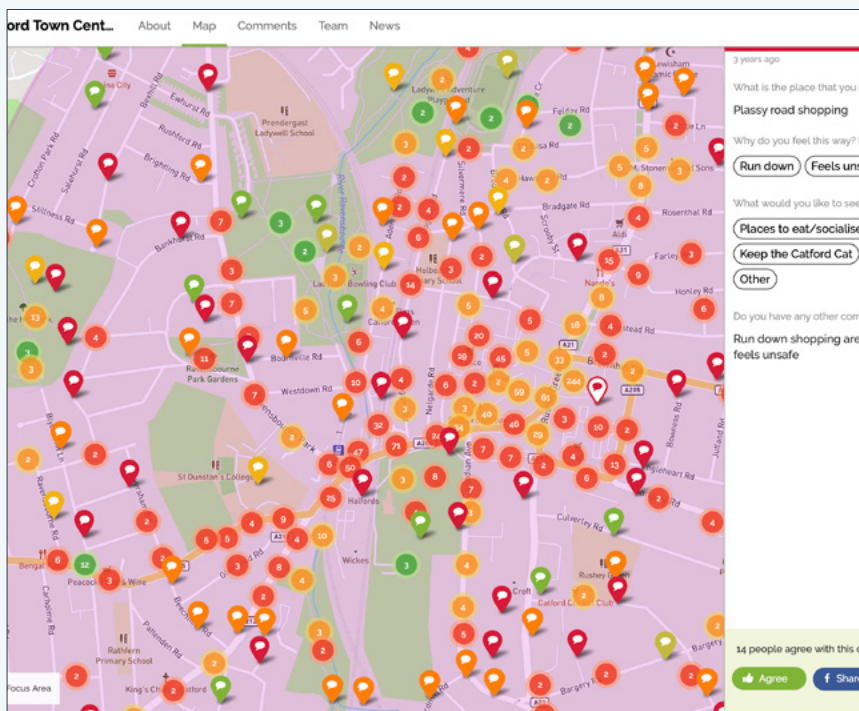
'Commonplace' Online Engagement Tool · An online digital tool encouraged residents to pin comments and ideas about a place on a map and enabled the gathering of rich, detailed, place-specific, user-generated data · Image: https:// catfordtowncentre.commonplace.is

Precedents

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder focus groups, Waltham Forest

As part of their Night Time Enterprise Zone pilot, the London Borough of Waltham Forest conducted night time walkabouts and several focus groups, which included young people, older residents with mobility and health issues, young people with special education needs and their support workers, local businesses, and council representatives.

Events were hosted in community centres as well as a council-owned building on the high street, 'Welcome to the Forest Bar'. This was used to host engagement events to discuss aspirations for the borough at night. The council also partnered with local pubs and breweries to host a tap room in the space, showcasing local beer.

Focus groups involved residents and businesses, including groups with special mobility and education needs · Image: Waltham Forest Council

'Your Say' app, Sydney

The City of Sydney used a variety of methods to engage with stakeholders in the development of their night time strategy and its monitoring. An app was developed to encourage and incentivise stakeholders to provide feedback while out in the city at night.

An app allowed and incentivised visitors to provide feedback about the city at night, in situ · Image: City of Sydney

Precedents

Wellbeing · Community · Learning

Dalston Eastern Curve Garden, Hackney

The Dalston Eastern Curve Garden is a neighbourhood garden in Hackney that opened in 2009 and provides activities and workshops throughout the year. These include 'Light-up nights' from 5pm–10pm with lantern-making workshops.

The project was commissioned by Design for London to address a green space deficiency and was designed by muf architecture/art and J&L Gibbons Landscape Architects. The space is managed as a social enterprise. The garden is part of a future development site, with public consultation about the new Dalston plan, which includes the garden, currently underway.

Lantern-making workshops are part of 'Light-up nights' in Dalston's community garden · Image: Donald Judge, CC BY 2.0

Public libraries' seasonal late openings, Madrid

Since 2004, Madrid Municipality extends the opening hours of twelve public libraries during school and university exam periods in January, February, and between May and July. Two of the libraries open all night, with the others extending their closing time from 9pm to 1am.

In 2019, the initiative delivered just under 1,400 night time study spaces, with 123,000 students using the service in 2018 across the 82 days when longer opening hours were in place.

Seasonal late opening of libraries in Madrid caters for students before exam time · Image: Luis García, CC BY-SA 2.0

Precedents

Community spaces · Temporary pavilions

Erith Lighthouse, Bexley

Erith Lighthouse was a temporary pavilion beside the River Thames, designed by DK-CM and The Decorators. The project emerged from a study that was developed for the London Borough of Bexley, which explored the potential of temporary projects to inform development proposals to regenerate and invigorate the town centre.

Throughout August and September 2017, residents and visitors could access the pavilion, which hosted a community cafe, evening dinners, and various cultural and educational events and workshops. The design team collaborated with local organisations and facilitators to co-host events, which attracted 5,849 visitors over six weeks.

The Lighthouse provided a testing ground for emerging ideas for the town centre, testing the potential demand and viability for a cafe and community space by the river, and a night time food offer for the town centre.

Temporary pavilions can be used to pilot new uses for the evening and night time, bringing together designers, local businesses and residents to test new ideas · Image: Brian Aldrich

Case study: New River Studios, Haringey

Repurposed industrial buildings · Mixed uses · Creative industries · Grassroots venues

New River Studios is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company located in the Harringay Warehouse District. The district has grown organically over two decades, with local artists, creative workers and entrepreneurs repurposing former warehouses for mixed uses and affordable live-work spaces. After initial resistance from the local authority due to its informal and unregulated development, the warehouse community, landowner and council continue to work together to support the creative, community-led, mixed-use neighbourhood.

New River Studios is a multi-purpose facility built upon fundamental principles of warehouse living; maximising the use of space in a city where it is at a premium, and providing low-cost live-work space to support creatives from all backgrounds. Keeping the facilities affordable and led by the local community has been crucial to maintaining the original character, ethos, and spirit of experimentation and inclusion.

The managers of New River Studios programme uses throughout the day to encourage natural cross-overs of activities and audiences. At a time when London was losing many of its music venues, the warehouse community opened a new one, made viable by keeping the space as multi-functional and flexible as possible. During the daytime it is used for theatre rehearsals and filming.

The facility also includes after-school clubs and support programmes for young people, serving as a good half-way house between the real world and a school environment by providing practical and applied learning experiences.

Activities for young people include production classes, music lessons, film-making, songwriting workshops, and advice on accessing the music industry for minority groups.

The space also includes a recording studio, radio station and photographic studio. This creates an ecosystem of complementary uses that support each other and might otherwise struggle to survive. It also creates opportunities for creative, cross-disciplinary collaborations.

The venue's kitchen is similarly well-used, with daytime uses helping to make evening ones more viable, and vice-versa. It serves pizza after 6pm but during the daytime is used by two independent food businesses.

The venue has seen good footfall after 6pm but is now looking to maximise its use during the daytime, exploring options to introduce retail such as independent book and record shops - the types of uses that were once common on the high street and are now found in markets.

The evolution of a mix of uses that bridge daytime to evening to late evening and night time has required a nuanced approach from planning and licensing authorities, alongside innovative business models that allow the community to test ideas. With New River Studios neighbouring residential areas, the building managers have worked with the council to address environmental health issues collaboratively and have adopted a direct and hands-on approach. Noise complaints are transferred directly to them so they can be dealt with quickly and efficiently. They have funded the installation of double glazing for a neighbouring resident, applying Agent of Change principles and helping to nurture good, co-operative relationships.

The community is looking to further diversify uses in a neighbouring warehouse, which has seen well-known theatre companies, and arts and academic institutions use the versatile space. They have programmed film festivals, a theatre festival, eSports and gaming events, plays and exhibitions – all events that do not require Temporary Events Notices.

Low-cost studio spaces, rehearsal rooms and recording studios are just some of the facilities available in the repurposed warehouse · Image: New River Studios

Precedents

Asset of community value

Ivy House, Southwark

The Ivy House pub in Southwark became the first community pub in London when it was purchased for £810,000 in 2013. The tenants had been threatened with eviction as the pub was set to be sold and redeveloped as housing. A year-long campaign was launched with support from the local community, Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) and local politicians to preserve the pub.

The Ivy House was successfully Grade II listed in the days before it was sold. It was subsequently designated as the first Asset of Community Value (ACV) in London through the community right to bid introduced in the 2011 Localism Act. This gave the community six months to raise the funds to purchase the pub while the building's sale was postponed. Funding was secured from the Architectural Heritage Fund and the Social Investment Business Group, with the grants totalling £1 million to cover the costs of the purchase and refurbishment of the pub.

A community pub in Southwark with Asset of Community Value designation · Image: GLA

Part 2

Guidance, precedents and case studies

Social responsibility and management of the economy after 6pm

Social responsibility and management of the economy after 6pm

The management of night time activities through partnerships, accreditation schemes and best practice supports a sustainable economy after 6pm. A collaborative approach benefits local communities, night workers and patrons, and reduces strain on emergency services and public amenities.

Environmental health

- Streamline mechanisms for receiving and responding to noise complaints, and work in partnership with evening and night time venues to encourage direct communication to resolve conflicts.
  Follow this link to a case study on New River Studios, Haringey, page 86

- Consider introducing additional street cleaning on Saturday and Sunday mornings in areas with high footfall over Friday and Saturday nights.

- Avoid light trespass through residential windows by designing streetlighting sensitively, shielding light where necessary and promoting best practice among private building owners and tenants.

Night time workers' wellbeing and amenity

- Encourage businesses to adopt the Mayor's Good Work Standard, which includes guidance on night workers' wellbeing and amenity.

- Engage with night workers living and working in the borough to understand their needs regarding transport, safety and access to amenities, services and healthy food late at night or early in the morning.
  Follow this link for a case study on Hackney Nights, Hackney, page 100

Follow this link to the Mayor's Good Work Standard

Street wardens and safe havens

- In town centres with clusters of night time uses, consider working with BIDs, businesses and charities to provide street wardens and safe havens. These help look after vulnerable people and provide safe spaces, information, visible stewardship of the public realm, and ease pressure on emergency services.
  Follow this link for precedents on pages 94 to 97

Rough sleeping

- Provide visible information in the public realm for homeless people seeking help and services. Include information on how the public can help homeless people by donating and volunteering. Follow this link for a precedent: 'Out of Home' campaign, Stockholm, Sweden, page 102

- Educate local business and residential communities about the most effective ways of volunteering help to those sleeping rough.

Accreditations

- Establish partnership working to advocate and share best practice and promote a safe night out by setting up schemes such as Pubwatch and Best Bar None, and applying for accreditations such as Purple Flag. 🎙 Follow this link for examples on pages 98 to 99

Health and safety campaigns

- Raise awareness about, and promote, safe nights out. Use existing networks, such as the Safer Sounds Partnership, and resources such as the Women's Night Safety Charter to share information with businesses and residents about night time safety and security, safe transport. and alcohol awareness.

🔍 Follow this link to the Safer Sounds Partnership

🔍 Follow this link to the Women's Night Safety Charter

🔍 Follow this link to the Women's Night Safety Charter Tookit

- Consider creating night maps and apps that provide information about the borough's night time venues and events, and create a platform for active citizenship and information-sharing.

Late Night Levy

- Where a Late Night Levy is in place, engage with local businesses or BIDs to establish priorities and offer opportunities for them to shape and understand how the levy is spent.

🔍 Follow this link to Perceptions and Effectiveness: Insights into the Late Night Levy in London

Case study: Brixton Night Forum, Lambeth

Partnership working · Safety · Funding

Brixton BID's Night Forum was established in the second year of the BID's existence, with its members recognising the importance of the night time environment in Brixton, which has a concentration of night time venues and is serviced by the Night Tube.

The Night Forum includes stakeholders from pubs, clubs, bars and licensed premises alongside representatives from the local authority's regeneration, licensing and local policing teams. Meetings of the forum are held every quarter and topics of discussion range from licensing issues and saturation zones to public toilet provision.

In addition to the quarterly meetings of the forum, regular Pubwatch-style briefings are held every other Friday night. Police, street pastors, and security and door staff of night time venues meet to discuss security issues and share information, such as images of known pickpockets. The Friday briefings are held in night time venues, with a different venue hosting the briefing each week. Briefings start at 7pm and last around twenty minutes.

The regular meetings have helped build relationships between local police and night time venues. The police have access to named managers at each venue that they can talk to directly over any security, environmental and licensing concerns.

The BID spends around 60% of its £480,000 levy on night time management and services. This includes funding two police officers under Section 92 of the Police Act every day until 10pm, which costs £70,000 per year.

Cleaning by the local authority's contractors is also funded, with additional cleaning provided on Saturday and Sunday mornings in the highest footfall areas, and where complaints from local residents have been received.

The BID identified gaps in public toilet provision, so ran a campaign – 'Go before you go' – to encourage people to use venue facilities before heading home.

The BID pays £5,000 per year for Street Pastors, who are out in groups of two or three between 11pm and 2am, communicating with venues via radio to assist vulnerable people and generally provide information, and a reassuring presence on the streets.

The Night Czar visits Brixton BID's night time team members. Image: Brixton BID

Precedents

Partnership working · Safety

Clapham Night Hub, Lambeth

Located at the Methodist Church on Clapham High Street and open every Friday and Saturday night, the hub provides a safe haven for vulnerable people and those with minor injuries. It offers somewhere safe for people to seek shelter, have a cup of tea, and get help if they have become separated from friends, or need assistance.

Funded by the local BID, the Hub is used for briefings and as a command centre for groups managing the town centre. The space also provides information on transport options at the end of the night. Research by Make Associates for the Portman Group in 2017 found that, with an annual operating budget of £44,000, the Hub saves the emergency and health services £82,000 annually.

The facility provides a safe space on Friday and Saturday evenings to help manage the night life of the town centre · Image: https://www.thisisclapham.co.uk

Soho Angels, Westminster

The Soho Angels are a team of volunteers helping people who become vulnerable after a night out. They work from 10pm to 5am on Fridays and Saturdays, in partnership with St Johns Ambulance volunteers, and provide medical help at Westminster's Night Hub to help reduce the number of trips to A&E.

National Pubwatch

This voluntary organisation was set up to promote best practice through supporting the work of local Pubwatch Schemes. Its aim is to achieve a safer drinking environment in all licensed premises throughout the UK. Resources include good practice guides, a toolkit for measuring the impact of pubwatch schemes, and a national database of watches in the UK.

Soho Angels · Volunteer groups can provide a reassuring presence in the public realm and help manage night time activity hotspots · Image: Westminster City Council

National Pubwatch · The national network provides support, best practice, and information-sharing for pubwatches across the country · Image: National Pubwatch

Precedents

Accreditations

Purple Flag

Purple Flag is a nationwide accreditation scheme run by the Association of Town and City Management (ATCM). Their five core standards are:

- The Policy Envelope: An after-hours policy that shows a clear strategy based on sound research, integrated public policy and a successful multi-sector partnership.

- Wellbeing: Successful destinations are safe and welcoming with all sectors playing their part in delivering high standards of customer care.

- Movement: Getting home safely after an evening out is crucial, as is the ability to move around the centre on foot and with ease.

- Appeal: Successful destinations offer a vibrant choice of leisure and entertainment for a diversity of ages, groups, lifestyles and cultures.

- Place: Successful areas are alive during the day, as well as in the evening. They contain a blend of overlapping activities that encourage people to mingle and enjoy the place. They reinforce the character and identity of the area with flair and imagination in urban design for the night.

Best Bar None

Best Bar None is an accreditation scheme supported by the Home Office and drinks industry that aims to improve standards and reward best practice in licensed premises. The scheme aims to:

- Reduce alcohol related crime and disorder

- Build a positive relationship between licensed trade, police, local authorities and the private sector

- Improve knowledge and skills of enforcement and regulation agencies, licensees, and bar staff to help them responsibly manage licensed premises

- Make sure that accredited venues meet the minimum standards and champion ongoing improvements

- Recognise responsible premises and share good practices with others

- Highlight how operating more responsibly can improve the profitability of an individual business and attractiveness of an area

Safe Seal, Bogotá, Colombia

Safe Seal is a city-wide strategy adopted by the Mayor of Bogotá to promote best practice across night time industries. Bars and venues applying for the accreditation, which needs to be renewed annually, must adhere to best practice safety plans, sound-proofing, surveillance, refuse disposal, insurance, and safe transport for employees in order to be granted the Safe Seal. In return, they receive support with marketing and extended hours of operation.

Purple Flag · Run by the Association of Town and City Management, the nationwide scheme sets out measures for successful town centres · Image: https://www.atcm.org/purple-flag

Best Bar None · A government-endorsed accreditation scheme for setting standards across night time industries · Image: https://www.BBNUK.com

Safe Seal, Bogotá · An accreditation scheme that incentivises best practice in safety, wellbeing, and environmental sustainability · Image: Asobares Colombia

Case study: Hackney Nights, Hackney

Safety · Partnership working · Late Night Levy

In November 2017, the London Borough of Hackney introduced a Late Night Levy (LNL), chargeable to businesses licensed to serve alcohol between midnight and 6am. The levy is charged as a percentage of the rateable value of a venue, which is set nationally. In 2019, the council appointed a Late Night Levy manager, with a background in night time venue and events management, to ensure funds are spent effectively and in consultation with stakeholders.

In line with LNL requirements, 70% of revenue goes towards extra policing. The remaining revenue has funded the development and implementation of resources that streamline communications between licensees and council departments, support an inclusive, safe night out, and create a unified, trusted 'brand' for Hackney at night. Funding has also supported public awareness and safety campaigns.

Hackney Nights – https://www.hackneynights.co.uk/ – is an online portal launched in 2021 that connects licensees and council departments. It is a communication tool and one-stop-shop for resources, webinars and training. Each licensee and their staff have unique log-ins, allowing them to book training modules and track their progression. Training programmes cover topics such as women's safety, hate crime, sexual harassment, counter-terrorism, health and wellbeing, waste and the environment, and safety standards. The council has also worked with Good Night Out Campaign to develop an educational pack on COVID-19 safety. The portal is updated quarterly with new information, training packages and crime prevention toolkits.

The resource also serves as a networking tool, bringing together licensees. This includes leisure, hospitality, community and culture venues, as well as off-licenses and supermarkets. It provides information on night time events and meetings, which can be filtered by ward.

Phase 2 of Hackney Nights saw the council develop an accreditation scheme, which - subject to stakeholder consultation - aims to entitle businesses to a 30% discount on their LNL charge if they receive council accreditation across a range of themes. These include COVID-19 safety, staff training, crime prevention, health and wellbeing, and sustainability. The scheme incentivises businesses to promote safe, inclusive, responsible nights out. There are three categories of accreditation, tailored to each business type: bars, pubs, restaurants and theatres; night clubs and high-capacity venues; and off licences. The accreditation, which has a recognisable brand that is specific to the borough, also signals to members of the public the venues that meet the highest standards of safety and inclusion. The same branding is being applied to a police van patrolling at night, to help visually link the borough's night time safety resources.

Hackney Nights · An online networking, training and education resource for licensees and their staff · Images: Hackney Council

Reframe the Night · A collaboration between Hackney Council, Good Night Out and the City of London Corporation to challenge common myths about harrassment in night time spaces and promote positive behaviour change · Image: Good Night Out / Hackney Council / City of London Corporation

Precedents

Wellbeing · Amenities

'Out of Home' campaign, Stockholm, Sweden

The city government in Stockholm partnered with Clear Channel Sweden on the 'Out Of Home' (OOH) campaign, which saw 53 digital billboards in the city replace their regular advertising with information for homeless people. When temperatures dropped to freezing conditions, the billboards directed homeless people to their nearest shelters. Above this temperature, the billboards displayed information about how citizens could volunteer their time or donate blankets and food to the homeless.

Evening childcare, Paris and London

The night crèche initiative in Paris responded to findings that nearly half of night time workers were parents. It was championed and delivered by Paris' Night Owl Committee. The initiative seeks to extend the opening hours of certain crèches to accommodate different working patterns.

Similarly, in London, some nurseries are extending their opening hours to better accommodate the working patterns of evening and night time workers. Examples include a 24-hour nursery in Croydon, which offers childcare between 7pm and 7am for parents working night shifts.

The city of Stockholm partnered with Clear Channel to help direct homeless people to support centres during particularly cold nights · Image: Clear Channel

Part 2

Guidance, precedents and case studies

The economy after 6pm

Economy

Council departments can work together to encourage clusters of complementary uses and help businesses diversify and extend their uses responsibly after 6pm. Supporting clusters of evening and night time activity, and creating links to daytime uses, is critical to nurturing a thriving economy and inclusive cultural life.

The clustering and diversification of activities and events at night can help to attract people to specific areas, with corresponding multiplier economic effects on surrounding businesses. By example, GLA research shows that 40% of visitors to London watch a live theatre show. Research by the Society of London Theatre (SOLT) estimates that over two thirds of theatre goers also spend money at local restaurants and cafes during their trip, and almost a quarter spend money on accommodation.

Cities are increasingly promoting night time activities as key attractions for international visitors. A diverse and mixed 24-hour economy can also be more resilient and responsive to changing patterns of consumption and behaviour.

High streets and town centres should provide everyday local amenities, such as late-night grocers and chemists, alongside a range of activities and events with broad appeal. The presence of a wide variety of people out at night, including older people, children, women, and people with disabilities, helps improve perceptions of vitality, safety and security. Diversifying and actively promoting and supporting economic activities represents an opportunity to improve the character and perceptions of a place at night.

Activation of underused and vacant spaces through programmes of events and meanwhile uses can allow businesses to test new concepts and business models, capitalising on the night time as a space for innovation and experimentation, while enhancing clusters of complementary uses. Identifying underused public spaces that could be used to host night markets, for example, could present revenue opportunities for local authorities.

Opening hours

- Create a tapering-off of activities in town centres, avoiding sudden, stark shifts in the character of an area over a short space of time.

- Consider not only extending the use of daytime premises into the evening and night time, but also how evening and night time venues could be used during the daytime.

- Consider hosting regular town centre events where later openings are encouraged across retail, cultural, leisure and hospitality sectors, which could coincide with temporary pedestrianisation of streets, night markets, civic celebrations, light nights, carnivals and fairs.

  🔍 Link to The Costs and Benefits of Extended High Street Opening Hours

Shared and extended uses

- Support businesses seeking to test nested and extended uses, which could include sharing space between established businesses and complementary start-ups, and/or extending opening hours. Encourage and incentivise complementary culture- and community-led activities into the evening and night. 💡 Follow these links for precedents: Jellied Eel at L'Manze Pie and Mash Shop, Waltham Forest, page 116; Rising Sun Workshop, Sydney page 117; New River Studios, Haringey, page 86

- Streamline temporary events notice applications to support and encourage diversification and trialling of cultural activities.

- Consider grants and in-kind support and expertise for businesses wanting to test nested and extended uses to diversify their activities and audiences. 💡 Follow this link for precedents on pages 110 to 115

Pop-ups and meanwhile uses

- Explore the use of pop-ups such as night markets, food trucks or kiosks and busking pitches to activate spaces in the evening and night time, ensuring that they are carefully selected and located to support local businesses and address identified community needs. Pop-ups can help transform the character of areas that feel unsafe and give opportunities to small local businesses and start-ups. 🔦 Follow this link for precedents on pages 122 to123

- Encourage buskers to adhere to the Busker's Code, which was developed by Busk In London with performers, the Metropolitan police, landowners, local businesses and local councils, and is supported by the Mayor of London.

Consider publishing a map of popular busking pitches. 🔍 Follow this link to the Busker's Code

- Provide advice and guidelines for setting up meanwhile spaces, and streamline approvals processes.

Promotion and marketing

- Work with BIDs and local business groups to help promote evening and night time businesses.

- Consider co-producing live night maps and apps. 🔦 Follow this link for a precedent: Grassroots music promotion, Stockholm, Sweden, page 124

🔍 Follow this link to the London Borough of Waltham Forest's NTEZ toolkit

Precedents

Diversification · Local government grants

Night time economy diversification grants, City of Parramatta, NSW

Introduced in Parramatta, New South Wales, and funded through a business levy, the diversification grant scheme offers funding of up to A$10,000 (£5,500) to successful applicants for the testing and development of new evening and night time uses and events.

The scheme involves a competitive application process for funding. Selection prioritises non-traditional and creative events and programmes, and nesting uses in existing business premises.

2020 was the first year for the scheme, with proposals including a footwear customisation workshop at a restaurant, a food tour, and an outdoor youth cinema. Funding was secured for the scheme to run from 2020–2023, with a budget of A$100,000 per year allocated.

NIGHT TIME ECONOMY DIVERSIFICATION GRANTS SCHEME

2019/20 Guidelines

The scheme offers support to businesses seeking to pilot and make a case for new events and activities at night · Image: City of Parramatta

Night time diversification grants, Croydon

'Good Evening Croydon' was a council-led competition that sought creative proposals costing between £5k and £50k to rejuvenate and energise the borough's economy after 6pm. The competition called for culture to be at the heart of entries.

35 proposals were received, and shortlisted entries included the creation of safe spaces with special lighting schemes, a residency programme showcasing new local music talent, and a series of cycling and theatre hybrid events.

The winner of the grant was 'The Ludoquist!', a boardgame cafe. The cafe is open from 11am until 11pm every day (10pm on Sundays) and has over 1400 board games alongside a licensed cafe.

Ludoquist!, Croydon · Competitions such as 'Good Evening Croydon' help promote and nurture a greater diversity of activities and audiences in town centres at night · Image: https://twitter.com/TheLudoquist

Case study: Night time economy diversification grants, Sydney

Data · Diversification and extended opening hours · Local government grants

Through a competitive process, the City of Sydney provides match funding up to A$30,000 (£16,650) to businesses wanting to trial new evening events to add to their regular daytime activities. The city's website displays graphs showing footfall in different town centres over the course of the evening until midnight, alongside the number of businesses that are open during those hours. This illustrates potential gaps in provision and encourages businesses to capitalise on peaks in footfall.

The city evaluates the success of funded projects through a series of measures, including: number of nights a week the business trades until 10pm; number of activities scheduled throughout the grant period; percentage increase in turnover since extending trading hours; and the percentage increase in customer base resulting from activities supported by the grant.

One of several businesses chosen to receive the grant, 'Grand Days' vintage shop diversified its retail function by developing a programme of regular evening events, including live music, dance classes, film screenings and workshops with local artists.
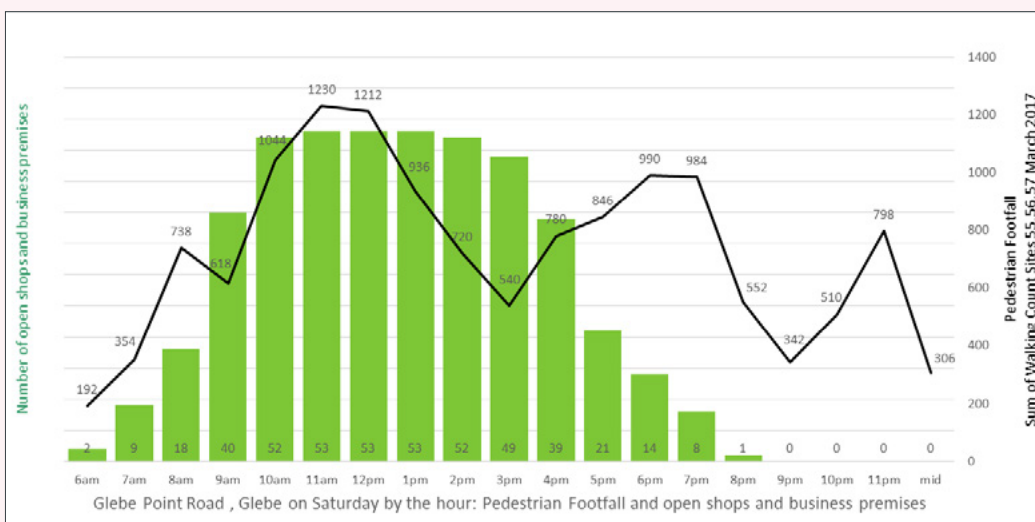
Footfall and opening hours data, Sydney · As part of its night time economy diversification grant scheme, the City of Sydney displays data on its website to help incentivise extended opening hours · Image: City of Sydney

Grand Days Store, Sydney · A night time diversification grant from the local authority allows this vintage clothing and record store to curate a diverse range of evening and night time events and activities · Image: City of Sydney

Glebe Point Road , Glebe on Monday - Thursday by the hour: Pedestrian Footfall and open shops and business premises
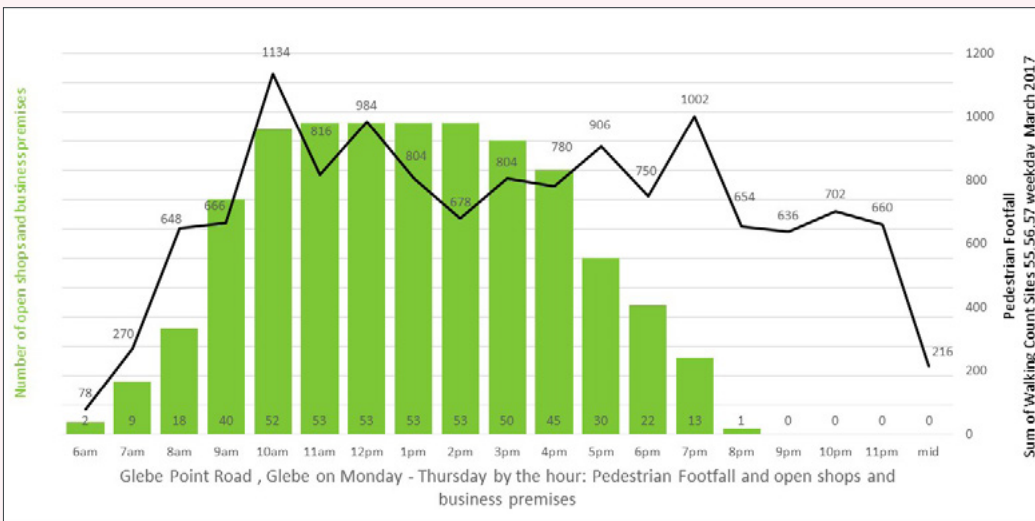
Precedents

Music venues · Event programming · Council services and in-kind funding

Amplify, City of Parramatta, NSW

'Amplify' is a council service in Parramatta, New South Wales, that seeks to address the city's lack of a dedicated music venue by incentivising and supporting local businesses to integrate live music into their regular activities.

So far, the scheme has proved successful, with around 13 businesses hosting regular live music events. Restaurants, retailers, bars, libraries and artist studios have been among those participating.

The scheme is run by a part-time council officer with expertise in music and events production. The officer provides expertise on ticketing, marketing, communication, licensing, equipment hire and sound engineering for venues seeking to develop their programme of live music events. The scheme also connects local artists to venues and runs workshops for businesses about the value of providing live music in their premises.

The council minimises financial risks for businesses wanting to trial live music events, and helps fund artists' fees. The scheme costs A$100,000–A$150,000 (£55,000–£83,000) per year to run successfully, and is helping make the case for a permanent, dedicated live music venue in the city.

This council service addresses the lack of music venues in the city by providing support and expertise to existing businesses to help them accomodate live music in their premises · Images: City of Parramatta/KatrinaJames

Precedents

Shared and extended uses

Jellied Eel at L'Manze Pie and Mash Shop, Waltham Forest

The Jellied Eel cocktail bar is hosted on Friday and Saturday nights inside a historic, Grade II listed pie-and-mash shop in Walthamstow. First trialled as a pop-up over three weekends through the use of Temporary Event Notices, the business was granted a Premises License for alcohol sales and the playing of recorded music. It is now a regular feature, serving cocktails and tapas every Friday and Saturday night. The pie-and-mash shop continues to operate during the daytime in the same venue.

The business founder, who has a background in theatre, creatively dressed and lit the space, transforming the ambience of the historic venue from day to night. The Jellied Eel pays a nightly fee to lease the space temporarily and helps cover operational costs. The two businesses are insured separately.

The Grade II listed building provides a unique venue for a cocktail bar. The concept has garnered significant press coverage and has proved very successful · Image: Jellied Eel

Rising Sun Workshop, Sydney

Opened in 2015 following a launch in a temporary pop-up location, the permanent, crowd-funded space combines a communal motorcycle workshop with a ramen restaurant. The business owners searched long and hard for a local planning authority that would allow the two uses to co-exist. They eventually found one open to accommodating the unusual mix of uses and business model.

Memberships allow motorcyclists access to storage and workbenches. The concept is designed to meet growing demand for workshop spaces in the city from people without private garages or gardens.

The owners of a restaurant and motorcycle repair business searched long and hard to find a venue and local planning authority that would accomodate the different uses side-by-side · Image: Rising Sun Workshop

Precedents

Inclusion · Communities

Bubble Club, Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets

Bubble Club is an award-winning inclusive club night held at the Backyard Bar in Bethnal Green. It has been running for 14 years. The club was established following think tank sessions held in 2005, where people with learning disabilities discussed the injustices and marginalisation that they were experiencing. A lack of opportunity to go out and socialise in the evening emerged as a major concern, with people feeling unwelcome and unsafe to attend mainstream events.

An inclusive and immersive club night co-created by people with learning disabilities, held at the Backyard Bar in Bethnal Green · Image: Bubble Club/Dani Reid

Precedents

Family activities · Wellbeing · Culture

Culture Night and Little Culture Night, Copenhagen

Copenhagen's largest annual one-day event opens at the start of the autumn holidays and features over 250 museums, galleries, libraries, venues, theatres, and public buildings opening late to offer a programme of cultural activities. 2019 saw the first dedicated youth-focused programme added to Culture Night.

The event does not receive funding from the state nor local council. All revenue comes from sales of the 'Culture Pass ', which is DKK95 (£11.50) and free for children under 12. The public transport authority, DOT, is the event's only sponsor, providing free transport to pass holders. Any profits are used exclusively for the implementation of cultural events during the following year's Culture Night.

Moonlight swimming, Richmond upon Thames

Scheduled to coincide with each month's full moon, Hampton Pool in Richmond upon Thames offers a two-hour night time swimming session in a heated outdoor pool. The session runs from 10pm until midnight and tickets cost £8.50 per person (half price for children). The event is run by Hampton Pool, a registered charity.

Swimming pool cinemas, Paris

A number of events are hosted in municipal outdoor heated pools across spring and summer in Paris' 13th arrondissement. Events include live music and a nightclub, timed for when the water is routinely emptied from the basin.

Moonlight Swimming, Richmond Upon Thames · Hampton Pool hosts night time outdoor swimming sessions · Image: Hampton Pool

Copenhagen botanical gardens during Culture Night, a hugely popular cultural event aimed at people of all ages · Image: Jonas Smith, CC BY-SA 2.0

Precedents

Activating underused spaces · 'Pop-up' Events

Food trucks, Various locations

The City of Parramatta's night time management team describes food trucks and night markets as two of the most effective methods of activating and transforming spaces at night, particularly underused spaces and those lacking vitality. They can help test the viability of new, more permanent uses, and strengthen a network of complementary activities specific to night time.

Food trucks and night markets can be cost-effective ways to activate and change perceptions of underused spaces · Image: Nicklas Lundqvist, CC BY-SA 2.0

Eichbaum Temporary Opera, Mülheim, Germany

The Eichbaum metro station was blighted by vandalism but formed an important urban connection between Essen and Mülheim in Germany. The Eichbaum Temporary Opera was a temporary transformation of the metro station by Raumlabor Berlin. The project provided a workshop space, conference room, bar, cinema, art gallery, and meeting place.

A metro station was turned into an open air performance venue with adjoining bar and workshop spaces · Image: Guntram Walter, CC BY-SA 3.0

Precedents

Wayfinding · Grassroots music venues · Technology

Grassroots music promotion, Stockholm, Sweden

Digital billboards in Stockholm have been used to advertise and direct people to upcoming live shows from unsigned local bands as a reaction to the closure of several music venues in Stockholm in 2019.

The project, 'Stockholm Underground', delivered by Clear Channel, used the GPS-coordinates of music venues to trigger the 100 closest digital billboards that they own to display information about the event. The initiative highlights the possible uses of existing infrastructure and smart technology to support local businesses and creatives, and points to the potential for successful partnerships between advertisers, owners of infrastructure and cultural venues.
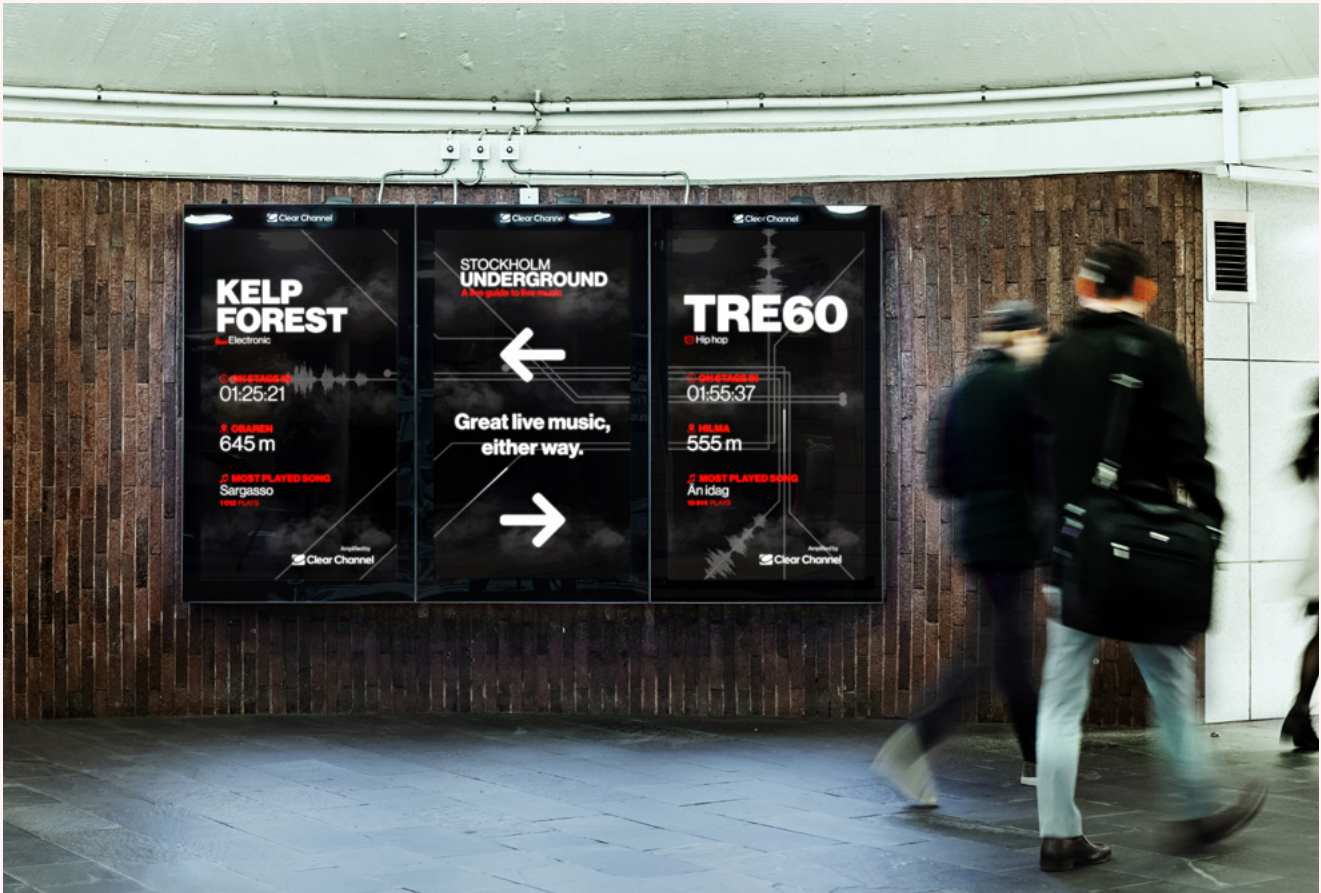
Stockholm underground music guide · Digital billboards and smart technologies have been used to provide real-time directions to events at local live music venues · Image: Clear Channel

Part 2

Guidance, precedents and case studies

Stewardship and public/ private interface

Stewardship and public/private interface

A partnership-led approach to activating, servicing and managing the public realm at night sees businesses and service providers working together to create clean, safe and welcoming public spaces.

Servicing

- Advocate and incentivise consolidated servicing and waste collection programmes between businesses, and encourage the use of electric vehicles. This will help reduce environmental impacts and nuisance to visitors, businesses and residents. 🔦 Follow this link for a precedent on page 132

- Encourage business owners to provide safe access, sensitive lighting and natural surveillance of service areas that require access at night, such as bin stores.

🔍 Follow this link to TfL's deliveries toolkits for best practice and guidance on noise mitigation at night

Frontages and natural surveillance

- Encourage well-designed, active, sensitively-lit frontages, particularly at street level, to provide light, animation and 'eyes on the street'. 🔦 Follow this link for precedents on pages 130 to 131

- Encourage business owners to design their interiors and frontages to improve security and provide good sightlines.

- Encourage sensitive, well-balanced lighting to façades at key nodes, including at street corners, transport hubs, and spaces hosting evening and night time activities.

- Consider creating dedicated guidance, such as supplementary planning guidance, for private lighting. Work with lighting designers and refer to lighting best practice, such as the Institute of Lighting Professional's guidance notes.

- Encourage occupants to look after their premises and areas just beyond their building curtilage, helping to keep them well-maintained and free from litter.

Streetside dining

- Encourage well-designed, safe outdoor seating in the evenings, where space allows, to help activate streets.

- Consider use of parking and loading areas for temporary seating in the evening and during events.

- Ensure that temporary footway widening is well-designed, safe to use, and focused on creating pleasant pedestrian spaces, rather than using roadworks-style barriers.

Precedents

Active frontages · Public art

Barking Road shopfront installations, Newham

The Brick Box engaged lighting designers and artists to design low-cost light installations for four shop/property frontages along Barking Road to demonstrate how tenants could help animate and improve the character of the high street after dark. The schemes cost under £500 and included lighting to a dry cleaners, a funeral directors, a cafe, and Anchor House, a homelessness charity. The scheme helped highlight these services and amenities to locals and demonstrate the positive contribution they could make to the high street through low-cost but creative lighting.

Barking Road shopfront lighting, Newham · One of four temporary lighting installations in shop windows along Barking Road · Image: Fabienne Jung

Sydney laneways

The City of Sydney has sought to transform and activate its alleyways by introducing venue entrances, active frontages, outdoor seating, and artworks, such as 'Circles in the Round' by Harry Newell in Temperance Lane. The interventions have transformed what would otherwise be unwelcoming back-of-house areas into intimate social spaces and destinations for discovering artworks.

'Circles in the Round' installation, Temperance Lane, Sydney · Public art, lighting, seating and active entrances can make back-of-house spaces more attractive and feel safer · Image: AegirPhotography, CC BY-NC 2.0

Case study: Night time delivery pilot, Stockholm

Waste management · Noise mitigation

Stockholm has a ban on lorries operating within the inner city between 10pm and 6am. Delivery vehicles make up a significant proportion of daytime traffic in the city and their stop-start movements contribute towards congestion and emissions. Delivering cargo at night offers an opportunity to reduce delivery costs and ease daytime congestion. Noise, however, has been a barrier to achieving this.

A night time delivery pilot project is underway in Stockholm as part of the ECCENTRIC EU-funded project, with an electric truck making night time deliveries to McDonald's restaurants across the city centre. Data is being collected on noise pollution, particularly in residential areas, to inform future amendments to the restrictions on night time deliveries. Some early findings from the study include:

- Geofencing technology can trigger hybrid vehicles to switch to electric mode to enable quiet movement specifically through dense residential areas.

- Smooth transition of goods from the van to the pavement is important. Ensuring the rolling cages have a smooth surface to move over is an important part of zero-noise delivery.

- Vehicle top-up charging points are necessary to realise the 10km electric range of the HGVs.

- 30% reduction in delivery time has been recorded compared to daytime deliveries.

- 44% lower fuel consumption has been recorded.

- Improvements to drivers' wellbeing have been reported.

Stockholm is trialling the use of electric vehicles for night time deliveries, recording data on noise and delivery times to inform future policy · Image: Scania

Case studies and precedents index

Case studies and precedents index

Image credits

● **Public realm**

● **Civic and public life**

● **Communities, planning and governance**

● **Social responsibility and management of the economy after 6pm**

● **The economy after 6pm**

● **Stewardship and public/private interface**