

UKHospitality manifesto for the 2018 local elections

UKHospitality is a new trade body (from the merger of ALMR and BHA) representing the diverse hospitality sector – including pubs, hotels, restaurants, nightclubs, contract catering, coffee shops, visitor attractions and more. Its members operate 65,000 venues. The body aims to work constructively with central, devolved and local governments to create a positive landscape for the sector to grow, contribute to local economies and create jobs.

The size and scale of the sector

Hospitality is a major part of the UK economy, touching all parts of the country. It is the 3rd largest private sector employer, employing 2.9 million people, and generate £130 billion in economic activity. Hospitality represents 10% of UK employment, 6% of businesses and 5% of GDP – its tax contribution is equivalent to all spending on education and highways by LAs across England.

Pressures on the sector

The sector has demonstrated strong growth in recent years, leading to an increase in employment of 24% since 2010. However, recent years have seen a raft of pressures – from business rates to employment costs, increased regulation and the uncertainty over Brexit. The sector is also facing staff shortages and is working hard to improve perceptions of careers in hospitality.

How local authorities can help

By acting on the recommendations, below, local authorities can help us to celebrate local communities and generate local economic growth, supporting UKHospitality's efforts to ensure that our sector is Brexit-ready in 12 months' time. LAs can:

- ✓ Prioritise hospitality businesses for discretionary business rates relief
- ✓ Rule out tourist taxes
- ✓ Prioritise partnership working over costly tax and legislation, e.g. Late Night Levies
- ✓ Engage with hospitality businesses to enhance waste collection, increase recycling and reduce the burden on local businesses
- ✓ Apply the agent of change principle in planning decisions
- ✓ Level the traditional/online playing field on regulation for accommodation providers
- ✓ Ensure fairness, consistency and transparency in the food hygiene rating scheme
- ✓ Coordinate transport policy to improve public provision and parking for employees and customers alike
- ✓ Encourage LEAs to work with the sector to promote hospitality as a career of choice
- ✓ Recognise and promote the benefits of Primary Authority to improve regulation across the landscape