

PRESS RELEASE:

## Mayor of London announces Music Venues Taskforce



***Music Venue Trust appointed to Chair panel looking at the future of music venues in the capital***



The Mayor of London Boris Johnson today announced the creation of the capital's first Music Venues Taskforce, which is to look at steps the city can take to protect and secure its vital network of live music venues.

The last few years have seen a number of high profile venues closing and there are fears that it could have a longer term impact on a sector that, as well as giving pleasure to millions of people, is worth around £1.6 billion.

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: 'I am a passionate supporter of music in all its forms. Live music is part of the soul of London and live music venues have been critical to the development of artists who have gone on to become conquering global heroes. They are where we hope to produce not just fantastic music now, but the next Rolling Stones, Clash, Adele, Ed Sheeran, or Sam Smith.'

'Music is an essential part of our city and the job of the Music Venues Taskforce will be to ensure London can support a wide range of venues across the capital and protect its status as the music capital of the world.'

The Music Venues Taskforce will be chaired by **Music Venue Trust**, the charity which seeks to protect, secure and improve the UK's grassroots circuit music venues. MVT CEO **Mark Davyd** said:

"We are delighted that the Mayor and the GLA have recognised the growing challenges to music venues in the capital and across the UK. This is a great opportunity to really take an in depth view of these issues and lay out practical steps London can take to ensure it continues to be the world leader for live music. We hope that by creating this taskforce London can lead the way in developing sensible, balanced policies that really help to protect and support venues and can be an example to the whole UK".

Other members of the taskforce include **UK Music**, the campaigning and lobbying group, which represents every part of the recorded and live music industry, and the **Musicians Union**. The taskforce will be taking feedback from venues, local government and leading musicians, including **Frank Turner** who has been appointed as a special advisor to the panel.

Boris Johnson concluded: "The Music Venues Taskforce work is so important. Let's keep our live music venues live in London".

**Watch:** Boris Johnson Announce Music Venues Taskforce for London <http://youtu.be/LqDMt1OoXVQ>  
**Learn more:** [www.musicvenuetrust.com](http://www.musicvenuetrust.com)





**About Music Venue Trust:**

Music Venue Trust, founded in 2014, is a registered charity that seeks to preserve, secure and improve the UK's network of small to medium scale, mostly independently run, music venues. We have a long term plan to protect that live music network which includes, where necessary, taking into charitable ownership freehold properties so they can be removed from commercial pressures and leased back to passionate music professionals to continue their operation.

**Resources:**

**Report:**

Understanding Small Music Venues: An Interim Findings Report can be read online or downloaded from this link:

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/253772403/Understanding-Small-Music-Venues>

The report is in the public domain, please credit Music Venue Trust/Institute of Contemporary Music Performance

**Photos:**

Photos from Venues Days 2014 to accompany this press release are available to download from:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/130561051@N04/sets/>

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