

Report to: Licensing and Enforcement Committee



Date of Meeting 19 November 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Committee Update – Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, Taxi & Private Hire Licensing & General Licensing

Report summary:

This report provides an update on the activities of the Licensing Service under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, Taxi and Private Hire Licensing and General Licensing including Street Trading and Pavement Licensing.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Reason for recommendation:

To keep the Licensing and Enforcement statutory Committee up to date with current arrangements relating to the Licensing Service.

Officer: Phillippa Norsworthy, Licensing Manager, Housing and Health.
Phillippa.Norsworthy@eastdevon.gov.uk

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☐ Assets and Economy
- ☐ Communications and Democracy
- ☐ Council, Corporate and External Engagement
- ☐ Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
- ☐ Environment - Nature and Climate
- ☒ Environment - Operational
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning
- ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities

Equalities impact Low Impact

If choosing High or Medium level outline the equality considerations here, which should include any particular adverse impact on people with protected characteristics and actions to mitigate these. Link to an equalities impact assessment form using the [equalities form template](#).

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Choose a risk level; Low Risk

Links to background information [Reforming the licensing system - GOV.UK](#) [Institute of Licensing responds to government's licensing framework review - Institute of Licensing \(IoL\) e-bulletin 3 November - Gambling Commission newsletter](#)

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☐ A supported and engaged community
 - ☐ Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
 - ☒ Resilient economy that supports local business
 - ☐ Financially secure and improving quality of services
-

Report in full

1 Licensing Act 2003 – Applications received, licences issued, premises visited and number of hearings.

- 1.1 The reporting period refers to the last quarter reporting period. This will be referred to as the reporting period.
- 1.2 During the reporting period, and at the time of writing this report the licensing team received and processed 344 applications, these all included, new premises licence applications, minor and full variations, transfers of premises licences, DPS variations, personal licences, review of a premises licence, suspension notices issued, Temporary Event Notices (TENs) and other miscellaneous licensing applications, such as change of names and addresses, surrender of premises licences and replacement licences.
- 1.3 A total 11 premises of interest were visited during the reporting period.
- 1.4 During the reporting period a total of three licensing and enforcement sub-committee hearings have taken place. One application for the grant of a premises licence and two hearings for the review of a premises licence, one of these hearings was an adjournment of an original hearing in respect of the same premises.
- 1.5 Premises licence applications, especially TENs remain busy with events such as the Ottery St Mary Tar Barrels and Christmas approaching. The Team continues to work hard in managing all licensing act applications within the time frames as dictated by the legislation.
- 1.6 A separate report has been submitted regarding the results of a consultation for a summary administrative review to the statutory Statement of Licensing Policy 2026-2031 and a draft version of the policy will be submitted to Members to approve.
- 1.7 We received notice on 9 October that the Government had requested a call for evidence regarding the reform of the Licensing Framework. The call for evidence refers to the 'on trade' (on sales) premises and on all entertainment licensed under the Licensing Act 2003. The purpose of a proposed reform aims to create a modern, proportionate and enabling system that supports economic growth, revitalises high streets and fosters vibrant communities. The full explanatory document can be found at 'links to background information' and includes the questions from the survey. The last date to submit a response was 6 November 2025.
- 1.8 Licensing Officers met on 20 October to discuss the call for evidence from an Officer perspective and submitted a joint response. The licensing and enforcement committee met on 22 October to discuss their response from the Members' perspective and the outcome of that meeting will be officially recorded during this meeting. The response from the Institute of Licensing (IoL) can be found at 'links to background information' and a response was submitted on behalf of the Devon Licensing Officers Group (DLOG).

- 1.9 Licensing Officer's visited the Ottery St Mary Tar Barells event on 5 November to conduct compliance checks on street traders and TENs. This was in conjunction with Police Licensing and other Responsible Authorities.

2 Pavement Licensing

- 2.1 There are currently 28 pavement licences in operation across the district.
- 2.2 All pavement licences applied for in 2024 after the implementation of the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023 will be due for renewal in 2026.
- 2.3 A separate report will be brought to the next meeting in February 2026 to discuss the outcome/comments generated from the Pavement Licensing Consultation and to recommend the draft policy to Full Council for approval.

3 Gambling Act 2005.

- 3.1 The Gambling Commission circulates a regular bulletin for licensing authorities outlining changes in legislation and any enforcement action taken. The latest release of the bulletin can be found at 'links to background information'.
- 3.2 No further update to the Guidance to Licensing Authorities document is currently available.

4 Taxi & Private Hire Licensing.

- 4.1 Approximately 60 renewal applications were processed in the month of October. The team worked very hard to issue these licences by 31 October 2025. This is a legacy date in terms of the expiry date, historically all taxi and private hire licences were issued on 1 November.
- 4.2 There are currently 20 outstanding new applications for new drivers, five outstanding applications for private hire operators and 1 outstanding new private hire vehicle licence application.
- 4.3

Year	Taxi Driver Licences	Taxi Vehicle Licences	Private Hire Drivers	Private Hire Vehicles	Private Hire Operators
November 2024	139	133	52	40	27
February 2025	135	129	53	42	27
March 2025	133	128	51	40	27
June 2025	134	127	52	40	28
November 2025	131	126	55	42	31

4.4 Revocations, suspensions & refusals.

- 4.5 During the reporting period, licensing officers have issued, two driver suspensions, one revocation of a driver licence and two vehicle suspensions.
- 4.6 All revocations, suspensions and refusals are entered into the National Register of Revocations, Refusals and Suspensions, it is mandatory for local authorities in England to input details of individuals whose driver licences have been revoked, suspended or refused.

4.7 The taxi table of maximum fares – Update.

- 4.8 At the meeting of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee on 8 October 2025, it was resolved to accept the new table of fares as agreed on 16 July 2025, without modification. The new table of fares came into force on 10 October 2025.
- 4.9 All taxi meters must be recalibrated no later than 10 January 2026.

5 Street Trading Consents.

- 5.1 At the time of writing this report 26 street trading consents are in operation across the district. These include sole traders and traders as part of an event not held under premises licence. At the time of writing this report 9 applications are in progress. The decline in numbers from the previous report will be the reduction in block street trading applications after the summer events.
- 5.2 A separate report has been submitted with a draft version of the reviewed Street Trading Policy for Members to consider. The review of the policy is purely administrative and does not include any proposals to re-designated existing consent streets or the addition of any new designated streets.

6 Staffing within the Licensing Team.

A long-term member of the Licensing Team will be taking retirement in February 2026. Work to submit an Authority to Recruit (ATR) for a suitable replacement has commenced. We are welcoming the return of a Licensing Support Officer after maternity leave in January 2026.

Financial implications:

There are no financial implications.

Legal implications:

There are no legal implications.