

Date of Meeting 19 November 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Government open call for evidence: Reforming the Licensing System

Report summary:

Government Consultation: Reforming the Licensing System

On 7 October 2025 the Government launched a call for evidence on reforming the licensing system. The link to the consultation is in the link to background information below. The call for evidence focuses on the 'on trade' in relation to alcohol sales, for example pubs, restaurants and nightclubs, and on all entertainment licensed under the Licensing Act 2003.

Due to the consultation having a closing date of 6 November 2025, the Chair of the Licensing & Enforcement Committee agreed to hold an online meeting for Committee members to consider and agree a response which would then be brought to the next meeting of the Committee for ratification. This approach enabled a detailed response to be submitted within the short timescale set by the Government.

Response of the Licensing & Enforcement Committee

A Teams meeting was held on 22 October 2025 and was attended by six members of the Committee, the Licensing Manager and Democratic Services Officer.

The consultation responses were discussed and agreed by the members of the Committee present. Subsequent to the Teams meeting, the Chair of the Committee circulated the responses to all Committee members for further comment.

The final response was submitted before the closing date of 6 November 2025 and is attached at Appendix 1 for ratification by the Committee at its meeting on 19 November 2025.

Recommendation:

That the Licensing & Enforcement Committee ratifies the response, set out at Appendix 1, to the Government call for evidence to inform the development of a modern, proportionate and enabling licensing system.

Reason for recommendation:

The Committee's response had to be submitted before the closing date of 6 November 2025, which was prior to the next meeting of the Committee on 19 November 2025.

Links to background information Government call for evidence [Reforming the licensing system - GOV.UK](#)

Officer: Sarah Jenkins, Democratic Services Officer, sarah.jenkins@eastdevon.gov.uk
