

Date: 26th September 2025
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Addressee

Dear Sir/Madam

Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 – 2026

East Devon District Council has prepared a draft Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 and we are now making the draft Licensing Act 2003 policy available to view. We invite your comments to make sure we have considered a wide range of views which will help shape the final policy.

East Devon District Council's current Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy was written in 2021. There is a legal requirement to review such policy statements every five years, and as such we are currently commencing a consultation on a draft Statement of Licensing policy covering the period January 2026 to January 2031.

Under the Licensing Act 2003, it is the responsibility of the local authority to develop and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy. The published policy provides the framework for all decisions on applications made under the Licensing Act 2003, and the way in which the local authority carries out their functions in relation to the legislation.

By way of background to the draft Statement of Licensing Policy, there have been no legislative changes to the Licensing Act 2003 since the publication of the existing policy, apart from changes made in 2020 by way of the Business and Planning Act 2020, which provided temporary (now lapsed), measures to support the hospitality trade during the Covid Pandemic.

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Chief Executive: Tracy Hendren

In terms of updates to national guidance, the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 was last updated in February 2025, and the draft policy reflects this most recently published guidance.

Given the lack of changes to legislation, and modest changes to national guidance since the last policy was published, only a relatively small number of amendments have been proposed to the existing policy. We would however, still welcome your views on the proposed changes.

You can access the policy online by going to www.eastdevon.gov.uk/licensing then clicking on the link to 'Licensing Information'. From there click on "Licensing Act 2003 Consultation: Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2026-2031". The full weblink is:

<https://eastdevon.gov.uk/licensing/licensing-information/licensing-act-2003-consultation-draft-statement-of-licensing-policy-2026-2031/>

If you have any comments on the proposed draft policy, then please contact the Licensing Team by email at licensing@eastdevon.gov.uk or by post to East Devon District Council, The Licensing Manager, Blackdown House, Border Road, Heathpark Industrial Estate, Honiton, EX14 1EJ by **5th November 2025**.

Yours sincerely

Phillippa Norsworthy
Licensing Manager