

**Report to:** Licensing and Enforcement Committee

**Date of Meeting** 8 July 2026

**Heading/Title:** Committee Update – Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005 Taxi & Private Hire Licensing & General Licensing

**Cabinet Member(s):** John Loudoun

**Director/Assistant Director:** Matt Blythe

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**Key decision No**

**If a Key Decision has it appeared on Forward Plan**

**Document classification:** Part A Public Document

**Exemption applied:** None

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The report provides an update on the activities of the Licensing Service under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, Taxi & Private Hire Licensing and General Licensing, including Street Trading and Pavement Licensing and an update to the Tobacco & Vapes Act.
- 1.2 **Licensing Act 2003 – Applications received, licences issued, premises visited and number of hearings.**
- 1.3 The reporting period refers to the period from the date of the previous meeting on 8 April 2026 to the date of writing this report, 18 June 2026. This time period will be referred to as the 'reporting period'. The details below show the number of Licensing Act 2003 applications received during the reporting period.

### **Applications Processed**

- New premises licences: 16
- Full variations: 1
- Minor variations: 2
- Designated Premises Supervisor variations: 18
- Transfers: 5

- Temporary Event Notices (TENs): 186
- New personal licences: 13
- Personal licence change of address: 9
- Personal licences lost or stolen: 1
- Cancellation of premises licences: 1
- Premises licences lost or stolen: 1
- Premises licence change of address: 2
- Premises licence suspensions: 2
- Premises licence suspensions lifted: 0

- 1.4 A total of 11 premises of interest were visited during the reporting period. The reasons for the visits were for routine inspections, and as a result of the licensing service receiving a complaint.
- 1.5 A total of 3 Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee hearings were convened for applications for the grant of a premises licence made under the Licensing Act 2003. All 3 applications were granted, subject to modifications as determined by the Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee.
- 1.6 The Tobacco and Vapes Act 2006 received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026. The Act will introduce a licensing regime in relation to the sale of tobacco and vape and nicotine products, improved controls on advertising and products and new provisions for smoke-free, vape-free and heated tobacco-free places.
- The Act will establish a retail licensing regime where any individual selling, exposing for sale or possessing for sale tobacco, vapes and other nicotine products will need a personal licence, and the premises where these products are stored, exposed or supplied will require a premises licence, not unlike the current regime under the Licensing Act 2003. It is not known at this stage who will undertake the licensing or how this will be enforced and administrated until the Regulations are published. The Regulations will set out in more detail the structure and the operation of this new licensing regime.
- There are two enforcement powers in place for the sale of tobacco and vape products. Restricted Premises Orders, these prohibit the sale of tobacco products from a named premises and Restricted Sale Orders, these prohibit an individual from selling tobacco or vape products, at a premises or elsewhere. Trading Standards currently enforce and apply for these orders.
- 1.7 **Gambling Act 2005**
- 1.8 The Gambling Commission circulates a regular bulletin for licensing authorities outlining changes in legislation and any enforcement action taken. The latest bulletin can be found at section 21 of this report.

## 1.9 Pavement Licensing

- 1.10 There are currently 30 pavement licences in operation across the East Devon District. Since the previous report, enforcement activity in relation to pavement licensing has been limited due to staffing constraints. However, following successful recruitment, it is anticipated that a programme of work will soon commence. This will involve reviewing all pavement licences to ensure compliance with approved conditions, including permitted furniture, authorised days and hours of use, and the distance between the premises frontage and the kerb. The aim is to ensure that a minimum unobstructed footway width of 2 metres is maintained for pedestrian access.

## 1.11 Street Trading

- 1.12 There are currently 28 issued street trading consents across the East Devon District and 22 new applications in progress. The summer is typically busy for receiving and processing Street Trading Consent applications, due to the number of organised events across the district, that are not held under a premises licence.
- 1.13 Work is continuing on the summary review of the street trading policy, and the results of the consultation have been received, the consultation results can be found at **APPENDIX A**.
- 1.14 East Devon District Council consulted on the proposed changes to the Street Trading Policy between November 2025 to February 2026. A total of 62 responses were received from residents and businesses. The purpose of reviewing the current street trading policy was to assess support, identify concerns and to refine the policy. The main areas of feedback from the consultation were, the policy needs to be simpler, fairer to smaller traders, stronger enforcement and clarity on where trading is to be permitted. The review of the policy aims to achieve these points, but there are no plans to change or amend permitted designated areas for street trading. Current prohibited areas for street trading will remain unchanged.
- 1.15 The current rise in enquiries for persons to have 'bake sheds' on their property has also raised questions as to how this type of activity fits into street trading as the current policy dictates. We are currently speaking with our neighbouring local authorities to ascertain how they treat this type of trading to establish a fair and consistent way forward. Trading from 'bake sheds' has become a national licensing issue, with local authorities dealing with this type of trading in different ways. The Institute of Licensing (IOL) has arranged a webinar to assist local authorities. A representative from the licensing team will be attending the webinar.
- 1.16 Reviwing the feedback from the consultation and the additional matter of whether bake sheds should hold street trading consent will be considered and further work to this policy will continue.

## 1.17 **Taxi & Private Hire Licensing**

1.18 Day to day taxi and private hire licensing administration continues to be busy. The tables below show the number of licences currently in use and the number of outstanding applications.

1.19

Year	Taxi Driver Licences	Taxi Vehicle Licences	Private Hire Drivers	Private Hire Vehicles	Private Hire Operators
June 2025	134	127	52	40	28
November 2025	131	126	55	42	31
February 2026	135	126	56	44	31
March 2026	135	126	56	43	31
June 2026	134	123	55	43	31

New HCD	Renewal HCD	New HCV	Renewal HCV	Transfer HCV	New PHD	Renewal PHD	New PHV	Renewal PHV	Transfer PHV	New PHO	Renewal PHO
7	0	0	2	1	9	0	3	0	0	4	0

## 1.20 **Revocations, suspensions and refusals**

1.21 During the reporting period, licensing officers have revoked one Private Hire vehicle. The revocation was a result of the vehicle being suspended for a period exceeding two months.

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.

During the reporting period there have been no entries to the National Register of Revocations, Refusals or Suspensions.

## 1.22 **The Taxi Table of Maximum Fares**

1.23 A separate report has been prepared and submitted to the Licensing & Enforcement Committee.

## 1.24 **Staffing within the Licensing Team**

Appointments have been made for two full time licensing officers. The new licensing officers will start with licensing team in June and July. These

appointments will bring much needed relief to the licensing team who have worked very hard and have put in extra hours ensuring all applications and enquires have been dealt with in line with statutory timescales for the previous four months.

### **Recommendations/Decision**

2.1 That the report be noted.

## **2. Reasons for Recommendations/Decision**

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

## **3. Options**

4.1 N/A.

## **4. Relevance to Council Plan/priorities**

Set out how report links to the Council Plan/priorities:

A supported and engaged community that has the right homes in the right places, with appropriate infrastructure

A sustainable environment that is moving towards carbon neutrality and which promotes ecological recovery.

A vibrant and resilient economy that supports local business, provides local jobs and leads to a reduction in poverty and inequality.

A well-managed, financially secure and continuously improving council that delivers quality services

**Indicate how the recommendations/decision contributes to the delivery of the Council Plan and its priorities**

## **5. Financial Comments/Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications.

## **6. Legal Comments/Implications**

6.1 There are no legal implications.

## **7. Risk Implications**

7.1 This report is for information only.

Activity/ plant/ materials etc	List significant hazards	People at risk	Assessment of Risk			Existing controls e.g.  Safety procedures	What further action  Is required to control/mitigate the risk?
			*Impact  1-4	*Likeli hood  1-4	Risk Score		

\*Impact – Major = 4      Serious = 3      Significant = 2      Minor = 1  
 \*Likelihood – Very Likely = 4      Likely = 3      Unlikely = 2      Remote = 1

## 8. Equality Implications (Public Sector Equality Duty)

9.1 This report is for information only.

<b>Scope</b> ( <i>Provide an overview, including objectives and desired outcomes</i> )	<b>This report is for information only.</b>
<b>Evidence gathered and engagement</b> ( <i>List stakeholders consulted and relevant processes, policies, and data sources</i> )	
<b>Relevance assessment findings</b> ( <i>If relevant to equality, undertake a full EIA or If no relevance to equality, explain why with supporting information</i> )	<p>A full EIA is required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, this assessment has demonstrated relevance to equality with regard to:          Please check relevant boxes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Age                      <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy and maternity  <input type="checkbox"/> Disability              <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation  <input type="checkbox"/> Race                      <input type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment  <input type="checkbox"/> Sex                      <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage or Civil Partnership  <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief    <input type="checkbox"/> Armed Forces  <input type="checkbox"/> Other, e.g. carers, care leavers, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.</p> <p>If no, explain why:</p>
<b>Relevance ranking</b>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> High – Very relevant to protected characteristics</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Medium – Somewhat relevant to protected characteristics</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low – Not relevant to protected characteristics</p>
<b>Key findings and impacts</b>	

<b>Conclusion drawn</b> ( <i>i.e No major changes needed; EIA found no negative impact or adjust policy/process to remove identified barriers</i> )	
<b>Actions</b> ( <i>Proposed actions to mitigate negative impacts on identified groups</i> )	
<b>Signed off by</b>	

**9. HR and Workforce Implications**

9.1 N/A.

**10. Community Safety Implications (Crime and Disorder)**

11.1 N/A.

**11. Climate Change Implications**

11.1 N/A.

**12. Health & Safety and Health & Wellbeing Implications**

12.1 N/A.

12.2 N/A.

**13. Procurement and Social Value implications**

14.1 N/A.

**14. Land and Buildings (non-housing)/Asset Management Implications**

15.1 N/A.

**15. Overview and Scrutiny Committees Comments/Recommendations**

16.1 N/A.

**16. Digital and Data**

17.1 N/A.

**17. Consultation and Engagement**

17.1 Section 1.13 of this report refers to the public consultation regarding the review of the Street Trading Policy.

## 18. Communications

19.1 This report is a Public Document and can be viewed by anyone.

## 19. Next Steps

20.1 This report is for information only.

## 20. Appendices

21.1 **APPENDIX A** – Street Trading Consultation Results.

## 21. Background Papers

22.1 [e-bulletin 22 June - Gambling Commission newsletter](#)

### Proposed Report Sign Off process

Please make sure you have obtained the relevant sign off and the date completed before submitting your report to Democratic Services.

	<b>Officer Name</b>	<b>Date requested</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
Legal & Governance	Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer	28/06/2026	29/06/2026
Finance	Section 151 Officer or Deputy S151 Officer	28/06/2026	29/06/2026
Communications	<a href="mailto:communications@eastdevon.gov.uk">communications@eastdevon.gov.uk</a>		If applicable
Digital and Data	<a href="mailto:digital@eastdevon.gov.uk">digital@eastdevon.gov.uk</a>		If applicable
Engagement	<a href="mailto:engagement@eastdevon.gov.uk">engagement@eastdevon.gov.uk</a>		If applicable
HR	HR Lead		If applicable
Chief Executive	Chief Executive		If applicable
Director	Relevant Director		Required
Assistant Director(s)	Relevant Assistant Director(s)	28/06/2026	29/6/26
Cabinet Lead Member(s)	Relevant Lead Member (s)		Required
Executive Leadership Team	ELT	Insert date approved by ELT	Required
Strategic Leadership Team	SLT		If applicable