



Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH



Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Meeting

CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.00 am, MONDAY, 9TH MARCH, 2026

Location

Virtual Meeting

NOTE

*** For public access to the meeting, please contact us***

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED Friday, 27 February 2026)

CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (15)

Plaid Cymru (10)

Councillors

Annwen Hughes
Edgar Wyn Owen
Elfed Williams
Gwynfor Owen
Gwilym Evans

Gareth Tudor Jones
Huw Rowlands
Alan Jones Evans
Arwyn Herald Roberts
Meryl Roberts

Independent (5)

Councillors

Gareth Williams
John Brynmor Hughes
Hefin Underwood

Angela Russell
Anwen J. Davies

Ex-officio Members

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

4

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee, held on the 1st of December 2025 be signed as a true record.

5. LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE MINUTES

5 - 14

To submit, for information, minutes of the Central Licensing Sub-committee meeting held on the following dates –

a) 18-11-2025

b) 01-12-2025

6. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REFORM OF THE PREMISES LICENSING SYSTEM - NATIONAL LICENSING POLICY FRAMEWORK

15 - 32

To consider the report

That the Central Licensing Committee agrees to have regard for the general Strategic direction of the National Licensing Policy Framework in respect of decisions made by its Sub Committee, and

That it agrees to incorporate the strategic direction of the Framework into the next review of the Statement of Licensing Policy in 2029.

CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE 01-12-2025

Attendance:

Councillors: Anwen Davies, Alan Jones Evans, Gwilym Evans, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Gareth Tudor Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Huw Rowlands, Elfed Williams, Gwynfor Owen, Arwyn Herald Roberts, Meryl Roberts, Angela Russell, Hefin Underwood and Gareth Williams.

Officers: Gwenan Mai Roberts (Licensing Manager), Nia Grisdale (Legal Services Manager), Andrew Parry (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager) and Lowri Haf Evans (Democracy Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

None to note

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair signed the minutes of a meeting of the committee held on 30 June 2025 as a true record.

5. MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

Submitted and received, for information purposes; the minutes of the Central Licensing Sub-committees held on 13 August 2025 and 16 July 2025 as true records.

The meeting commenced at 10.45am and concluded at 10.50am.

CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
18 November 2025

Attendance:

Councillors: Gwynfor Owen (Chair), Arwyn Herald Roberts and Elfed Williams

Officers: Nia Grisdale (Legal Department Manager), Gwenan Mai Roberts (Licensing Manager) and Lowri Haf Evans (Democracy Services Officer)

Others invited:

Item 4:

Application for a Premises Licence: Tŷ Coffi Reubens, 31 High Street, Caernarfon, Gwynedd

Reuben Wall Applicant
Stuart Gibson The applicant's representative

Ffion Lewis Public Protection Officer
Arwel Thomas Senior Planning Officer

Apologies: None to note

Item 5:

Application for a Premises Licence: Clynnog Garage, Clynnog Fawr, Caernarfon

Naga Rajesh The applicant's representative (Sterling Petroleum)
Sarujan Nadesan Area Manager (Sterling Petroleum)

Apologies: Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) Public Health Representative

1. APOLOGIES

Item 5: Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) Public Health Representative

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None to note

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note

4. APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE: Tŷ Coffi Reubens, 31 High Street, Caernarfon.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

a) The Licensing Department's Report

The report of the Head of Environment Department was presented, providing details of a premises licence application for Tÿ Coffi Reubens. It was explained that the property would mainly operate as a coffee shop, with additional provision to sell alcohol to be consumed on and off the premises.

It was noted that the Licensing Authority Officers had sufficient evidence that the application had been submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 and the relevant regulations. Reference was made to the measures recommended by the applicant to promote the licensing objectives, and it was highlighted that these measures would be included on the licence.

It was reported that Environmental Health had lodged an objection due to concerns relating to public nuisance. Permission was originally granted for the property to open as a coffee house and not a bar, with opening hours until 18:00 and not 00:00. Should the property be granted permission to sell alcohol, Environmental Health was concerned that, with live and recorded music being played on the property, it would potentially cause noise disturbance for the properties of nearby residents. Environmental Health also highlighted that a noise impact assessment had not been completed.

Reference was made to observations received from the Planning Department which confirmed that the application was contrary to the requirements of the current planning permission for the property - the current permission allowed activity until 18:00. It was reiterated that an application had not been received to vary the hours, but a request to change the use from A1 to A3 was awaiting decision.

The officers, in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003, recommended that the Committee approved the application, subject to the following terms:

- The applicant must ensure full compliance with the planning permission, and the licence must not become operational until planning matters have been resolved.
- The operating hours and the licensed activities must be in accordance with the hours approved under the planning permission.
- A noise impact assessment must be provided to address the concerns of Environmental Health and to ensure the prevention of public nuisance.

b) In considering the application, the following procedure was followed:-

- Members of the Sub-committee to be given an opportunity to ask questions of the Council's representative.
- At the Chair's discretion, the applicant or his/her representative to ask questions of the Council's representative.
- The applicant and/or his/her representative to be invited to expand on the application and to call witnesses.
- Members of the Sub-committee to be given the opportunity to ask questions of the applicant and/or his/her representative.
- At the Chair's discretion, the Council's representative to ask questions of the applicant or his/her representative.
- Every Consultee to be invited to support any written representations.
- The Council's representative and the applicant or his/her representative to be given the opportunity to summarise their case.
- The legal officer to summarise the requirements of the application.

c) In response to a question regarding the right to play music, it was noted, should the application be approved, the applicant will have a right to play live and recorded music and to extend it until 23:00 - after this, a temporary events notice would be required. It was reiterated that Environmental Health was likely to include noise observations on every

application due to the possibility of noise nuisance should the applicant not take appropriate steps to mitigate noise impact.

ch) In elaborating on the application, the applicant's representative noted the following observations:

- That operating as a coffee shop was the main intention of the business, creating a desirable environment for customers to relax, meet friends and hold a conversation.
- That 00:00 had only been included for flexibility - use if it was needed, for example, for a private event or a party. Should the event go beyond 23:00, the applicant would inform the Police and Environmental Health, 14 days prior to the event to discuss arrangements.
- The applicant would consider noise mitigation.
- That an application had been submitted to the Local Planning Authority to amend the opening hours.
- The applicant was aware that the licensing hours could not be operational until the hours variation noted, and the hours of the current planning permission, had been varied and approved. The current planning permission allowed trading until 18:00. The applicant had no intention to break the law.
- Double-glazing will be installed on the front of the shop and the side window to reduce the impact of noise.
- No objections had been received from neighbours.
- The applicant was willing to provide a noise impact assessment.

Through the Chair's permission, the applicant was given an opportunity to present observations;

- That he was passionate about the business. He had two other coffee shops (one in Holyhead and the other in Upper Bangor), which were very popular.
- Caernarfon was the next natural site to extend his business - he was hoping to open a property in a heritage site that would boost the local economy.
- There was no intention to open a noisy bar late at night - this was a coffee house culture of creating a relaxing environment and an opportunity for people to relax.

In response to a question regarding spaces and the number of staff, he noted that it would be possible to sit 15 in the café and that there was an intention to employ up to 15 staff members (a mix of full-time and part-time).

In response to a question about why a noise assessment had not been presented, it was noted that this was a quality location to relax, and should an event come up where a noise assessment was required, that would be implemented.

d) The consultees in attendance took the opportunity to expand on the observations they had submitted in writing:

Ffion Lewis (Public Protection Officer)

- Objects to the application as the applicant had not been able to persuade the Service that he would manage noise and prevent public nuisance
- 18:00 was the closing time on the property's current planning permission
- There was no structure in place to prevent noise in the building
- Should the application be approved, conditions would have to be imposed

In response to a question regarding the number of noise complaints from the area being received by the Service, it was noted that the Service 'received many noise complaints in the area'.

Arwel Thomas Senior Planning Officer

- Objected to the application as the opening hours that were sought complied with the conditions of the existing planning permission
- An application had been submitted to the Local Planning Authority to amend the use and hours
- There was an error in the description and therefore there would be a need to re-submit
- The intention of the previous permission was to open a hot food shop, but if there was no intention to serve hot food from Tŷ Coffi Reubens, there would be a need to reconsult

dd) Taking advantage of the right to conclude her case, the Licensing Manager noted that the recommendation was to approve as long as the terms were addressed. Although the business plan was to be approved, there was sometimes a tendency to take advantage of licensed activities. To avoid this, it must be ensured that the property and the licence was fit to purpose.

Taking advantage of the opportunity to conclude their case, the applicant's representative noted the following observations:

- Despite noting 'a number of noise complaints in the area', they did not relate specifically to this premises
- There were pubs in the area
- There was only space for 15 to sit here
- No objections had been received from the public
- Accepted an amendment to the wording of the planning application to note for the 'conversion of a charity building to coffee shop sales' - the principle was acceptable
- That he confirmed that there was no intention to sell hot food on the site during the day or night

e) The Legal Officer took the opportunity to summarise the requirements of the application.

- There was a need to amend the description of the 2025 planning application
- Opening hours from 08:00 to 00:00 every day
- A compromise had been agreed to stop selling alcohol at 23:30 and close the shop at 00:00
- The opening hours sought would not be operational until the planning element had been decided

The applicant's representative and the Licensing Manager withdrew from the meeting while the members of the Sub-committee discussed the application.

In reaching its decision, the Sub-committee considered the applicant's application form, the written observations submitted by interested parties, the Licensing Officer's report, together with the verbal representations from each party present at the hearing. The Council's Licensing Policy and Home Office guidelines were considered. The Sub-committee gave due consideration to all the observations and weighed these up against the licensing objectives under the Licensing Act 2003, namely:

- i. Prevention of crime and disorder
- ii. Prevention of public nuisance
- iii. Ensuring public safety
- iv. Protection of children from harm

Observations submitted which were irrelevant to the above objectives were disregarded.

RESOLVED: To approve the application

Opening Hours:

Sunday 08:00 - 00:00

Monday 08:00 – 00:00

Tuesday 08:00 – 00:00

Wednesday 08:00 - 00:00

Thursday 08:00 – 00:00

Friday 08:00 – 00:00

Saturday 08:00 – 00:00

Licensable Activities: The sale of alcohol: On and off the premises

Sunday 08:00 - 23:30

Monday 08:00 - 23:30

Tuesday 08:00 - 23:30

Wednesday 08:00 - 23:30

Thursday 08:00 - 23:30

Friday 08:00 - 23:30

Saturday 08:00 - 23:30

The additional measures, as noted in part M of the application, and agreed at the hearing, to be included as conditions on the licence:

- **A record of every alcohol sale refused**
- **Install and maintain a comprehensive CCTV system with recordings to be stored for at least 31 days with a time and date stamp**
- **Staff training**
- **Internal accident book**
- **Challenge 25 Policy**
- **No loud music**
- **Ask customers to leave quietly and respectfully**
- **Conduct a noise impact assessment before opening the property to the public. Outcome to be shared with the Public Protection Department**
- **The disposal of waste bottles or cans into containers outside of the building that is in accordance with the licence conditions is prohibited between 22:00 - 08:00. Empty bottles to be stored in a skip / a bin with a lid within the curtilage of the site before collection.**

Note:

The applicant would also be aware that the licensing hours could not be operational until the hours variation noted on the current planning permission had been varied and approved. The current planning permission allowed trading until 18:00.

In the context of **Crime and Disorder Prevention**, no observations or evidence had been submitted which related to this principle.

In the context of matters of **Public Safety**, no observations or evidence had been submitted which related to this principle.

In the context of **Prevention of Public Nuisance**, observations and objections were received from the Environmental Health Service which expressed concerns regarding the possibility of anti-social behaviour and public nuisance matters deriving from approving the application. The objections related to the proposed opening hours and the impact that

noise or odour would have on nearby residential dwellings, especially late at night. The Service proposed that opening hours until 18:00 should be given on the licence in accordance with the current planning permission. Reference was also made to concerns relating to the building's ability to manage the noise of live or recorded music and the applicant should present a noise impact assessment.

Despite noting concerns, the Sub-committee did not consider that evidence had been submitted to highlight public nuisance specifically from this property, but the Sub-committee encouraged the applicant to conduct a noise impact assessment and submit it to the Service (this had been included as a condition on the licence).

As with any other application, if any problems arose in connection with the Licensing principles, the Act would allow a licence to be referred for review by the Licensing Authority.

In the context of **Protecting Children from Harm**, the applicant had provided details regarding the steps to take to ensure that alcohol would not be sold to minors, and these steps would be included as conditions on the licence.

The Solicitor reported that the decision would be formally confirmed by letter to everyone who had submitted written observations. It was added that all parties to the application had the right to submit an appeal to Caernarfon Magistrates' Court against the Sub-committee's decision. Any such appeal should be lodged by giving notice of appeal to the Chief Executive, Llandudno Magistrates' Court, Llandudno within 21 days of the date that the appellant receives the letter (or a copy of the letter) confirming the decision.

5. APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE: Clynnog Garage, Clynnog Fawr, Caernarfon

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

a) The Licensing Department's Report

The Head of Environment Department's report was submitted, providing details on an application for a property licence from Sterling Petroleum Ltd. It was explained that the property would operate as a convenience store with a petrol station, and provision to sell alcohol off the premises.

It was noted that the Licensing Authority's Officers had sufficient evidence that the application had been submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 and the relevant regulations. Reference was made to the measures recommended by the applicant to promote the licensing objectives, and it was highlighted that these measures would be included on the licence.

The officers, in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003, recommended that the Sub-committee considered the responses and approved the application in accordance with the compromise of the operating hours that the applicant had agreed to in response to comments from the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) Public Health, and in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.

b) In considering the application, the following procedure was followed:-

- Members of the Sub-committee to be given an opportunity to ask questions of the Council's representative.
- At the Chair's discretion, the applicant or his/her representative to ask questions of the Council's representative.

- The applicant and/or his/her representative to be invited to expand on the application and to call witnesses.
- Members of the Sub-committee to be given the opportunity to ask questions of the applicant and/or his/her representative.
- At the Chair's discretion, the Council's representative to ask questions of the applicant or his/her representative.
- Every Consultee to be invited to support any written representations.
- The Council's representative and the applicant or his/her representative to be given the opportunity to summarise their case.
- The legal officer to summarise the requirements of the application.

In response to a question regarding the 24-hour availability of alcohol in a similar property in the area, it was noted that the only property was a supermarket in Bangor.

c) Elaborating on the application, the applicant's representative noted the following comments:

- That the company has many locations across the country
- That all locations have a garage, convenience store
- That the application, for the 24-hour sale of alcohol, matched the shop's opening hours, which would make managing and implementing the business more effective
- That the company has a good management structure, with Area Managers willing to work with local residents and the Local Authority to meet the licensing objectives
- Dependent on the area or the neighbourhood, that some locations, that are open after 23:00 have a night window and / or additional safety measures, but others have their doors open for customers
- The company has a vast experience of managing 24/7 alcohol licences, and that they are able to offer support to the Policy by providing CCTV, and a way of keeping the neighbourhood safe
- Safety measures will be followed and implemented to protect the public
- That there is a detailed training programme for staff
- That the conditions proposed are acceptable
- Willingness to consider the BCUHB Public Health conditions, although no evidence had been presented to not approve the licence as submitted
- Encouraged the Sub-committee to make an evidence-based decision

In response to a question regarding the number of complaints that the company had received for 24-hour sites, it was noted that the number of complaints had reduced since Covid-19.

In response to an observation that the applicant had considered the observations of the BCUHB Public Health to reduce the licensing hours from 06:00 - 22:00, whether the applicant consider a further reduction to open at 08:00 given that Clynnog is a small, rural village, the applicant's representative noted that the wish was to open a 24-hour shop and have a corresponding alcohol licence as that was easier to manage and avoids complexity. However, he was willing to accept the Sub-committee's decision.

ch) Taking advantage of the opportunity to conclude her case, the Licensing Manager noted that Public Health's observations were valid and had been supported by thorough evidence. She also noted that the company was an experienced company, and their application clearly outlined their intention of managing risk against the licensing objectives.

Taking advantage of the opportunity to conclude their case, the applicant's representative

noted the following observations:

- The company supported the local area
 - Willing to promote the licensing objectives
 - That they respected BCUHB Public Health's observations and the Local Authority
 - As a business, they had no intention to undermine the Local Authority
- d) The Legal Officer took the opportunity to summarise the requirements of the application;
- An application had been submitted for a 24-hour, 7 days a week licence
 - The applicant had stated a willingness in principle to reduce the hours of selling alcohol to 06:00 - 22:00, from Monday to Sunday
- dd) The applicant's representative and the Licensing Manager withdrew from the meeting while the members of the Sub-committee discussed the application.

In reaching its decision, the Sub-committee considered the applicant's application form, the written observations submitted by interested parties, the Licensing Officer's report, together with the verbal representations from each party present at the hearing. The Council's Licensing Policy and Home Office guidelines were considered. The Sub-committee gave due consideration to all the observations and weighed these up against the licensing objectives under the Licensing Act 2003, namely:

- a. Prevention of crime and disorder
- b. Prevention of public nuisance
- c. Ensuring public safety
- d. Protection of children from harm

Observations submitted which were irrelevant to the above objectives were disregarded.

RESOLVED: To approve the application

Opening Hours:

Sunday 0:00 - 23:59

Monday 0:00 - 23:59

Tuesday 0:00 - 23:59

Wednesday 0:00 - 23:59

Thursday 0:00 - 23:59

Friday 0:00 - 23:59

Saturday 0:00 - 23:59

Licensable Activities: The sale of alcohol: Off the premises

Sunday 06:00 – 00:00

Monday 06:00 – 00:00

Tuesday 06:00 – 00:00

Wednesday 06:00 – 00:00

Thursday 06:00 – 00:00

Friday 06:00 – 00:00

Saturday 06:00 – 00:00

The additional measures, as set out in section M of the application, to be included as conditions on the licence:

- **Install and maintain a comprehensive external and internal CCTV system, with recordings to be stored for at least 30 days**
- **Fire safety equipment to be installed and maintained;**
- **Staff training in alcohol sales and safety procedures;**

- **Sufficient bins**
- **Internal accident book**
- **Train staff on implementing the Challenge 25 scheme. A 'till prompt' to be used for all age-restricted products**
- **A sales refusal register to be kept and maintained on the property**
- **Spirits to be located behind the counter and alcohol to be stored away from the entrance**
- **No drink-driving warnings to be displayed on the site**
- **Training on refusing sales to those under the influence of alcohol**
- **Signs on the premises noting that alcohol will not be sold to those under the influence.**

In the context of **Crime and Disorder Prevention**, no observations or evidence had been submitted which related to this principle.

In the context of matters of **Public Safety**, no observations or evidence had been submitted which related to this principle.

In the context of **Prevention of Public Nuisance**, observations and objections were received from the BCUHB Public Health highlighting concerns relating to the availability of alcohol for significantly extended opening hours which would influence the use levels, drinking patterns and alcohol-related harm. In addition, concerns were raised about the potential increase in offences related to driving under the influence of alcohol and public nuisance due to cars arriving at the site late at night or early in the morning which would potentially lead to light pollution and noise nuisance to nearby residents. The concerns were amplified by the fact that Clynog Fawr was a deprived area and a very rural village with the proposed site located in a residential area.

The Sub-committee accepted that the applicant had considered a compromise of the potential reduction in the hours of selling alcohol which could, in principle, alleviate some of the concerns raised by the BCUHB Public Health. The hours proposed by the BCUHB Public Health was 06:00 to 22:00. It was acknowledged that the applicant had also requested that the Sub-committee considered the application as it was originally submitted.

Despite receiving the BCUHB Public Health's concerns and observations, the Sub-committee did not consider that the evidence submitted was sufficient and it did not highlight that the levels of use and associated problems would arise from this specific location, given that other sites in the County, especially petrol stations with a convenience store operated similar hours. The Sub-committee also noted that no objections or observations had been received from residents or nearby properties. The Sub-committee proposed that the hours should be amended to 6:00 - 00:00.

As with any other application, if any problems arose in connection with the Licensing principles, the Act would allow a licence to be referred for review by the Licensing Authority.

In the context of **Protecting Children from Harm**, the applicant had provided details regarding the steps to take to ensure that alcohol would not be sold to minors, and these steps would be included as conditions on the licence.

The Solicitor reported that the decision would be formally confirmed by letter to everyone who had submitted written observations. It was added that all parties to the application had the right to submit an appeal to Caernarfon Magistrates' Court against the Sub-committee's decision. Any such appeal should be lodged by giving notice of appeal to the

Chief Executive, Llandudno Magistrates' Court, Llandudno within 21 days of the date that the appellant receives the letter (or a copy of the letter) confirming the decision.

The meeting commenced at 10:00am and concluded at 12:40pm:

CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

1 December 2025

Attendance:

Councillors: Gwynfor Owen (Chair), Gareth T Jones and Gareth Williams

Officers: Nia Grisdale (Legal Department Manager), Gwenan Mai Roberts (Licensing Manager) and Lowri Haf Evans (Democracy Services Officer)

Others invited:

Item 4: ROBERTS'S NEWSAGENTS, 63 HIGH STREET, PORTHMADOG, LL49 9LR

Robert Mariyampillai **Applicant**

Nira Suresh **The applicant's representative**

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Local Member)

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None to note

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note

4. APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE: ROBERTS'S NEWSAGENTS, 63 HIGH STREET, PORTHMADOG

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

a) The Licensing Department's Report

The report by the Head of the Environment Department was presented, providing details of a premises licence application from Roberts's Newsagents (Pikes). The property was described as a newsagent store with the intention of continuing to operate mainly as a shop, but to include a provision for the sale of alcohol to be consumed off the premises.

It was noted that the Licensing Authority's Officers had sufficient evidence that the application had been submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 and the relevant regulations. Reference was made to the measures recommended by the applicant to promote the licensing objectives, and it was highlighted that these measures would be included on the licence.

It was reported that the Local Member had submitted observations expressing concerns in relation to the prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance and public safety. With the proposal to sell alcohol from 6.00 until 00:00, 7 days a week, this could influence drinking levels, drinking patterns, and alcohol-related harm. The Member had recommended shortening the hours to reduce the likelihood of crime and disorder in the town and in the interests of public safety.

The Licensing Manager highlighted that the applicant, since receiving the Local Member's observations, had proposed shortening the hours for selling alcohol by 1 hour per day at the end of the day, but the Local Member had noted that the proposal did not alleviate concerns, despite appreciating the offer of a compromise.

The officers, in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003, recommended for the Committee to consider the observations and recommendations made to shorten the operational hours and make a decision in line with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.

- b)** In considering the application, the following procedure was followed:-
- Members of the Sub-committee given an opportunity to ask questions of the Council's representative.
 - At the Chair's discretion, the applicant or his representative to ask questions of the Council's representative.
 - The applicant and/or his representative to be invited to expand on the application and to call witnesses.
 - Members of the Sub-committee to be given the opportunity to ask questions of the applicant and/or his representative.
 - At the Chair's discretion, the Council's representative to ask questions of the applicant and/or his representative.
 - Every Consultee to be invited to support any written representations.
 - The Council's representative and the applicant and/or his representative to be given the opportunity to summarise their case.
 - The legal officer to summarise the requirements of the application.
- c)** In response to a question why observations had not been received from the Police and Public Protection Service, it was noted that the Department had undertaken a public consultation for 28 days which allowed plenty of time for anyone to present observations. In this case, no response had been received from the responsible authorities.

In response to a question about the current use of the shop, as a newsagent and one that sells fishing tackle and whether this service would continue, it was confirmed that these elements would continue.

- d)** In elaborating on the application, the applicant's representative noted the following observations:
- That the shop was a family-run shop
 - They intended to protect and promote the four licensing objectives
 - That no concerns had been highlighted by the responsible authorities
 - That the applicant had experience of running a business
 - An observation and an opinion had been presented, not an objection
 - That they had considered the opening hours of similar shops
 - That 'need' was not a consideration under the Licensing Act 2003
 - Although willing to compromise, there was no agreement
 - There would be a significant investment in the shop
 - That the Sub-committee needed to consider the application on its own merits

In response to a question regarding how the applicant intended to stop people from convening outside the shop, it was noted that signs would be placed outside the shop asking people to consider neighbours and to move on. The shop manager would also step in and ask customers to move on.

Taking advantage of the right to conclude her case, the Licensing Manager noted that the application was to be considered as presented and that no objections had been received from members of the public or responsible advisers. Although a compromise had been offered, there was no agreement

Taking advantage of the opportunity to conclude their case, the applicant's representative noted that this was an opportunity for the shop to remain open and that they would promote the licensing objectives.

- e) The Legal Officer took the opportunity to summarise the requirements of the application;
- Application for a licence to sell alcohol from 6:00 – 00:00

The applicant's representative and the Licensing Manager withdrew from the meeting while the members of the Sub-committee discussed the application.

In reaching its decision, the Sub-committee considered the applicant's application form along with written observations submitted by interested parties, the Licensing Officer's report, and the verbal representations from each party at the hearing. The Council's Licensing Policy and Home Office guidelines were considered. The Sub-committee gave due consideration to all the observations and weighed these up against the licensing objectives under the Licensing Act 2003, namely:

- i. Prevention of crime and disorder
- ii. Prevention of public nuisance
- iii. Ensuring public safety
- iv. Protection of children from harm

Observations submitted which were irrelevant to the above objectives were disregarded.

RESOLVED: To approve the application

Opening Hours:

Sunday 08:00 - 00:00

Monday 08:00 – 00:00

Tuesday 08:00 – 00:00

Wednesday 08:00 - 00:00

Thursday 08:00 – 00:00

Friday 08:00 – 00:00

Saturday 08:00 – 00:00

Licensable Activities: The sale of alcohol: On and off the premises

Sunday 08:00 - 23:30

Monday 08:00 - 23:30

Tuesday 08:00 - 23:30

Wednesday 08:00 - 23:30

Thursday 08:00 - 23:30

Friday 08:00 - 23:30

Saturday 08:00 - 23:30

The additional measures, as noted in part M of the application, and agreed at the hearing, to be included as conditions on the licence:

DECISION: To approve the application

Opening Hours:

Sunday 06:00 – 00:00

Monday 06:00 – 00:00

Tuesday 06:00 – 00:00

Wednesday 06:00 – 00:00

Thursday 06:00 – 00:00

Friday 06:00 – 00:00

Saturday 06:00 – 00:00

Licensable Activities: The sale of alcohol: On and off the premises

Sunday 06:00 – 23:00

Monday 06:00 – 23:00

Tuesday 06:00 – 23:00

Wednesday 06:00 – 23:00

Thursday 06:00 – 23:00

Friday 06:00 – 23:00

Saturday 06:00 – 23:00

Additional measures,

- All staff selling alcohol or supplying alcohol to customers will receive training under the licence within six weeks of being employed, which will be documented.
- A CCTV camera in the form of a recordable system will be provided, and the images retained for 31 days. The recordings will be made available to any responsible authorities.
- The licence holder to ensure that appropriate fire safety provisions are in place, and clearly marked escape routes that will be kept free of obstructions.
- The store manager to ensure that customers move away from the premises and do not loiter in the area.
- The premises will implement a 'Challenge 25' policy.
- ID cards with holographic markings, passport or PASS cards will be accepted, and till prompts will be used for age-restricted products.

Together with the full list of the measures in Part M of the application that are proposed by the applicant to promote the Licensing Objectives

- A record of every alcohol sale refused
- Install and maintain a comprehensive CCTV system with recordings to be stored for at least 31 days with a time and date stamp
- Staff training;
- Internal accident book
- Challenge 25 Policy;
- No loud music
- Ask customers to leave quietly and respectfully;
- Conduct a noise impact assessment before opening the premises to the public. The outcome to be shared with the Public Protection Department;

- **The disposal of waste bottles or cans into containers outside the building is prohibited between 22:00 - 08:00, in accordance with the licence conditions. Empty bottles to be stored in a skip / a bin with a lid within the curtilage of the site before collection.**

In the context of **Crime and Disorder Prevention**, no observations or evidence had been submitted which related to this principle.

In the context of matters of **Public Safety**, no observations or evidence had been submitted which related to this principle.

In the context of **Prevention of Public Nuisance**, observations had been received from the Local Member highlighting concerns about the availability of alcohol during extended opening hours that would significantly influence drinking levels, drinking patterns, and alcohol-related harm.

After the observations had been submitted, the applicant informed the Sub-committee that he had considered a potential reduction in the hours of selling alcohol which would, in principle, alleviate some of the concerns raised, however he asked the Sub-committee to consider the application as originally presented. The licensable hours considered by the Sub-committee were between 6am and 11pm.

Despite noting the concerns expressed by the Local Member, the Sub-committee accepted that not much evidence had been submitted in the context of an increase in levels of use and associated problems relevant to this specific location, given that other premises in the surrounding area had an alcohol licence for similar hours. Nevertheless, the Sub-committee considered the permitted hours for similar shops nearby and as a result it was proposed and decided to revise the hours to 06:00 until 23:00.

In the context of **Protecting Children from Harm**, the applicant had provided details regarding the steps to be taken to ensure that alcohol would not be sold to minors and these steps would be included as conditions on the licence.

The Solicitor reported that the decision would be formally confirmed by letter to everyone who had submitted written observations. It was added that all parties to the application had the right to submit an appeal to Caernarfon Magistrates' Court against the Sub-committee's decision. Any such appeal should be lodged by giving notice of appeal to the Chief Executive, Llandudno Magistrates' Court, Llandudno within 21 days of the date that the appellant receives the letter (or a copy of the letter) confirming the decision.

The meeting commenced at 11:00am and concluded at 11:55am.

COMMITTEE	CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
DATE:	9 March 2026
TITLE:	CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REFORM OF THE PREMISES LICENSING SYSTEM - NATIONAL LICENSING POLICY FRAMEWORK
PURPOSE:	TO PRESENT A SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES AND HOW IT IS LIKELY TO AFFECT POLICY AND LOCAL LICENSING DECISIONS IN GWYNEDD
AUTHOR:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

1 **Background**

- 1.2 The current licensing system, under the Licensing Act 2003 and supported by statutory guidance, regulates activities such as the sale of alcohol, provision of entertainment and late-night refreshment. Local authorities issue licences and enforce conditions based on four licensing objectives:
- the prevention of crime and disorder
 - public safety.
 - the prevention of public nuisance.
 - the protection of children from harm.
- 1.3 Central government through its taskforce looking at Licensing reform has indicated that over the years it believes that greater weight is being given to public safety and crime prevention, under the statutory licensing objectives, and less of a focus on business resilience and growth.
- 1.4 The Government sought evidence and views from stakeholders during a short consultation period in October 2025 with a view to reforming the licensing system so as to support the Government's commitment to reducing regulatory burdens by 25% by the end of this Parliament.
- 1.5 The Call for Evidence focused 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.
- 1.6 Cyngor Gwynedd along with most other Welsh and English Licensing Authorities, and other organizations such as the WLGA, North Wales Police and Public Health responded to the Call for Evidence.
- 1.7 The main initial recommendations of the Task Force was the creation of a National Licensing Policy Framework (NLPF) to provide strategic non statutory guidance for licensing authorities in England and Wales. It aims to modernize

licensing practices, support economic growth, and maintain community protections through proportionate, evidence-led regulation.

- 1.8 The statutory guidance for Licensing Authorities issued under s182 of the Licensing Act 2003 remains in force , but has been reviewed recently by the Home Office Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 so as to ensure that the core principles underlined by the National Licensing Policy Framework, must be taken in to considerations locally when informing Statements of Licensing Policy and making decision on Licensing applications. (see appendix for summary)
- 1.9 The intended outcomes include the facilitation of enhanced collaboration between Local Authorities and the hospitality trade; as well as an improved alignment between licensing, Planning and regeneration objectives.
- 1.10 The government has indicated that it will be monitoring implementation of the high-level strategic steer of the National Framework carefully; and in discussion with a range of stakeholders, consider whether other steps are necessary, such as making growth of the hospitality sector a statutory licensing objective in the future.

2 **Application of the National Licensing Policy Framework to local licensing decisions in Gwynedd**

- 2.1 Whilst the overarching objectives of the National Framework are welcomed; the close ties encouraged between licensing, growth, regeneration, and revitalisation of high streets may be difficult to achieve as Gwynedd like many other counties in rural Wales lacks the dense commercial infrastructure of urban areas, raising concerns that:
 - The Framework benefits may skew toward large urban centres of population
 - Rural Wales may see increased burdens without matching local economic gains. Localised rural high streets may not be positioned to capitalise on more flexible licensing arrangements
 - Risk of greater deregulation increasing alcohol-related harms in areas with limited enforcement resources
 - Police Authorities have expressed concerns that implementing the new approach may cause difficulty managing crime, anti-social behaviour, in rural areas and the smaller urban areas typical to the County; whilst doing nothing to tackle outlet density with potentially negative effect on community well being
 - Rural communities already facing service access challenges are vulnerable to public health impacts; and may be disproportionately impacted by increases in availability of alcohol and or entertainment venues
 - Guidance may not reflect Welsh cultural and linguistic considerations

- The promotion of economic growth could overshadow community protection from issues such as antisocial behaviour and noise.

3 Planning considerations

- 3.1 The National Licensing Policy Framework emphasis alignment of licensing decisions with planning policy and established planning use permissions and conditions.
- 3.2 Close effective links with the Planning service are encouraged so as to position Licensing as a contributor to town centre recovery and revitalising empty town centre units.
- 3.3 An endorsement and adoption of the Agent of Change Principle is encouraged; with planning - led mitigation for issues such as noise in as far as this is practical; for new developments near existing licenced venues.

4 Committee and officer decisions

- 4.1 The Home Office has published a National Licensing Policy Framework guidance document in November 2025 – which appears to be available in English only, a copy of which is included in the appendix to this report.
- 4.2 All decisions must continue to be made so as to maintain focused, necessary safeguards for crime prevention, public safety, the control of nuisance and child protection. Decisions must be clear and based on relevant evidence and proportionate to the risks identified.
- 4.3 This includes both specific risks (for example, noise complaints, crime hot spots) and broader contextual risks for example areas known for violence towards women and girls in the night – time economy. This is not a new approach for Committee decision making process; and this committee must be commended for the clarity and reasoning it provides in all its decision making.
- 4.4 The guidance does not encourage the reliance on standardized conditions or standardised core hours. Such practises have not been adopted in Gwynedd, and each application will continue to be considered on its own merits.
- 4.5 There will continue to be a presumption towards granting applications as applied for, unless there is evidence to suggest that the application has the potential to undermine the licensing objectives; or that a justified amendment to the Operating Schedule is subject to agreements between responsible authorities; and the applicant so as to avoid an objection being submitted.

- 4.6 The National Framework emphasises that there must be a dual approach of protecting communities under the four licensing objectives whilst giving due consideration to supporting economic growth, investment and regeneration.
- 4.7 These are quite often challenging and competing demands; and the committee should demonstrate that it has considered economic interests and provide clear reasoning for imposing conditions/ refusing applications in this context.

5 **Review of Cyngor Gwynedd's Statement of Licensing Policy**

- 5.1 Licensing authorities must align the strategic direction of their Statement of Licensing Policy to demonstrate how the National Licensing Policy Framework has been taken into account. However, the expectation is that this is not required until the next review of the Statement of Licensing Policy, in 2029.

6. **Recommendation**

- 6.1 **That the Central Licensing Committee agrees to have regard for the general Strategic direction of the National Licensing Policy Framework in respect of decisions made by its Sub Committee, and**
- 6.2 **That it agrees to incorporate the strategic direction of the Framework into the next review of the Statement of Licensing Policy in 2029.**

BRIEFING PAPER

Updates to Section 182 Licensing Act 2003 Guidance

1. Summary

The Home Office issued significant updates to the Section 182 Licensing Act 2003 Guidance in November 2025 and further revisions on 12 February 2026.

2. Key Changes Introduced in November 2025

2.1 Economic Growth (New Para 1.18)

Authorities must consider economic growth and benefits when making licensing decisions.

2.2 Spiking Safeguarding (Para 10.10)

Guidance now advises adding conditions to safeguard patrons from spiking where evidenced.

3. Key Changes Introduced in February 2026

3.1 Local Plans (New Para 1.19)

Authorities must account for relevant local plans and strategies.

3.2 Case-by-Case Assessment (Updated Para 8.65)

Each application must be assessed individually, with weight to applicant-proposed conditions.

3.3 TENs Updates

Updated limits and clearer intervention processes for responsible authorities.

3.4 Off-Sales Easement

Continuation of off-sales easement reflected in the guidance.

Annex A – Tracked Changes Comparison

Includes all additions and revisions from Nov 2025 and Feb 2026.



UK Government

National Licensing Policy Framework

For the hospitality and leisure sectors

England and Wales

November 2025

Home Office and the Department of Business and Trade

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Foreword

Over the past 20 years, the licensing regime has enabled over 200,000 businesses to operate, including over 145,000 'on-trade' venues such as restaurants, pubs, cafes, nightclubs and entertainment venues. Many committed professionals work within the licensing regime to process applications, hear residents' concerns, and support businesses and entrepreneurs. Plenty of good practice exists, with authorities working collaboratively to foster vibrant, inclusive and safe places.

The 4 statutory objectives – public safety, prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance, and protection of children from harm – remain vital. However, when 1 in 5 high street properties stands empty in some areas, licensing must also support broader ambitions: business investment and growth, high street revival, businesses supporting rural communities, festivals and events, local jobs, and community cohesion.

Hospitality and leisure businesses have made a significant contribution to local economies and communities, helping to create places where people want to live, work, visit and invest. If we are to support them, we need to provide these key sectors with the ability to invest and adapt so that they can provide the types of services that people today want, need and deserve.

To achieve this, we need a licensing system that is flexible and responsive – a tool for enabling innovation and investment, not just managing risk. Licences should be granted on the terms sought, with conditions that are necessary and proportionate, ensuring they are fit for purpose and support the evolving needs of businesses, consumers and communities. Licensing decisions should complement, not undermine, planning and regeneration efforts. By making licensing predictable and proportionate, we aim to boost local economies and support local communities, create good jobs, keep costs down for consumers, and help meet the government's target to reduce administrative costs of regulatory burdens by 25%.

This Framework sets out a strategic vision for a modern licensing system, one that safeguards the public while empowering businesses to adapt, invest, and succeed in a changing world.

Introduction

We aim to ensure a responsive and enabling licensing system for hospitality and leisure businesses that not only protects and safeguards communities, but supports:

- investment in existing and new venues – providing a wide range of cultural and social experiences, from dining experiences to theatre and live music to family friendly experiences
- Extended consumer choice – giving local communities and visitors greater freedom over where, when and how they enjoy leisure time
- Regeneration – unlocking the potential of day and night-time economies helping drive investment, employment and vibrancy in the places and communities that need it most

- Better regulation – reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and enabling businesses to adapt quickly to changing consumer expectations

This is the first iteration of the National Licensing Policy Framework. It recognises and builds on existing good practice by licensing authorities and licensees across the country, providing a high-level strategic steer for how the current licensing system should operate, both in safeguarding communities and enabling responsible hospitality and leisure businesses to succeed.

The framework has been developed in response to the call for evidence on the Licensing Policy Taskforce proposals, which showed strong support for the overarching objective of a consistent, transparent licensing system which empowers local authorities while promoting economic growth, cultural development, public safety and community wellbeing.

This new strategic steer from government should help to achieve these aims. We will monitor its impact carefully and in discussion with a range of stakeholders, consider whether other steps, such as making growth of the hospitality sector a statutory licensing objective, may be needed to help deliver these outcomes

We have heard from hospitality businesses that disproportionate licensing conditions can stifle their growth and reduce options for consumers. We are therefore asking licensing authorities to explicitly consider the need to promote growth and deliver economic benefits in their decisions and setting this out in the first National Licensing Policy Framework.

The government is committed to working in partnership with local authorities, hospitality and leisure businesses, and other stakeholders to develop future iterations of the framework. This will include responding to wider recommendations of the Licensing Taskforce. While some reforms may require legislation in due course, the government does not wish to delay progress. This framework has therefore been developed at pace to provide immediate direction and start seeing impacts on the ground.

Scope of the framework

The government wants to ensure that hospitality, leisure, cultural and night-life venues are supported to thrive in a safe way. This National Licensing Policy Framework therefore applies exclusively to on-trade premises - that is, premises authorised under the Licensing Act 2003 for on-sales of alcohol, regulated entertainment or late-night refreshment. This includes, but is not restricted to pubs, bars, restaurants, cafés, and hotels as well as entertainment and cultural venues such as theatres, cinemas, concert halls, festivals and events. For the purposes of this framework, the premises includes beer gardens and licensed pavement areas.

The framework does not apply to off-trade premises, which are licensed primarily for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises. This includes, but is not limited to, off-licences, supermarkets, convenience stores and specialist retail outlets selling alcohol for takeaway. The guidance under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 continues to apply to all premises. Other statements of government policy may be material when preparing plans for deciding applications, such as licensing circulars and Written Ministerial Statements.

A national framework for a balanced licensing system

This National Licensing Policy Framework sets out the government's strategic vision for a modern, consistent and pro-growth premises licensing system for England and Wales and how this should be applied in practice. It aims to align licensing practices with national priorities including economic growth, cultural development, jobs, regeneration, public safety and community wellbeing. It also can guide local statements of licensing policy and related strategies with wider government priorities for the economy and for society.

The framework builds on the Licensing Act 2003 and guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 and aims to provide a strategic steer to help support the original intention of the Act, including supporting the viability of hospitality and leisure businesses so that they can invest and adapt to changing consumer demand.

Supporting a changing hospitality and leisure landscape

Hospitality and leisure businesses remain central to community life, with traditional venues such as cafes, restaurants, theatres, pubs and nightclubs remaining important social spaces. However, consumer preferences have evolved significantly in recent decades. There has been a marked shift away from alcohol-centric socialising toward more diverse, experience-led activities - including live music, interactive entertainment, and health-conscious offerings such as low and no-alcohol drinks.

This changing landscape presents both opportunities and challenges. Businesses need the flexibility to evolve and invest - in their premises, programming, and service models - and a licensing system that supports innovation while maintaining public safety. The Licensing Policy Taskforce highlighted the need for this framework to support a more consistent, transparent and pro-growth licensing system.

The framework should enable responsible operators to diversify, with proportionate and responsive regulation. It recognises the value of entertainment and late-night refreshment in sustaining vibrant, inclusive high streets and town centres, while upholding the licensing objectives as set out in the Act.

Status and legal effect

This framework is non-statutory guidance designed to support consistent, lawful and proportionate licensing. Licensing authorities must have regard to the Secretary of State's Guidance under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 and to their Statements of Licensing Policy. The framework does not displace those duties, create new legal obligations, or restrict authorities' discretion to determine each application on its merits.

Authorities should, however, take this framework into account as guidance. At the next review, authorities should explain in their statement of licensing policy how they have had regard to it. Where any inconsistency arises between this framework and the 2003 Act or section 182 Guidance, the latter prevails. Decisions must be necessary and proportionate, non-discriminatory and consistent with the Regulators' Code.

General references to licensing policies in the framework should be applied in a way that is proportionate to the type of plan being produced, considering existing legislation and policy. The government recognises the importance of licensing policy being applied at a local level but notes this framework should allow for broader government priorities to be considered in licensing decisions.

Strategic direction for a modern licensing system

As described, the National Licensing Policy Framework sets out a clear and forward-looking vision for a licensing system that protects communities while enabling responsible businesses to grow, adapt and thrive. It reaffirms the importance of the 4 statutory licensing objectives as the foundation of a safe and well-regulated hospitality and leisure sectors.

But the framework also recognises the need to go further. Licensing policy must reflect the evolving role of hospitality, leisure and entertainment in modern society, and support wider government ambitions around economic growth, public health, and cultural vitality. It must be enabling as well as protective: deliver licences that are granted on the terms sought, with conditions that are necessary and proportionate, ensuring they are fit for purpose and support the evolving needs of businesses and communities.

To that end, the framework provides a strategic steer for licensing authorities, central government and industry to work together in support of:

- business resilience and growth – licensing should be proportionate, evidence-based and responsive, giving responsible operators the freedom and flexibility to meet changing consumer expectations, diversify their offer, and invest in innovation
- place-making and regeneration – licensing and planning policy should work in harmony to support vibrant, mixed-use areas, revitalise high streets, and unlock investment in the night-time economy. Licensing should be a tool for shaping successful places, not just managing risks
- cultural and community life – licensing should help facilitate live music, theatre, dancing and other forms of entertainment that enrich local identity and bring people together — whether in rural villages or city centres
- consumer choice and tourism – licensing should support a diverse range of venues and experiences that reflect the UK’s rich hospitality and leisure offer and meet the needs of both domestic and international visitors

Licensing is only about regulated activities within licensed premises. It should continue to play a key role in supporting safe day and night-time environments and ensuring that venues operate responsibly and contribute positively to their local area. Licensing should promote safe, regulated environments for socialising, and as part of the statutory objectives, protect children by preventing underage exposure and access to alcohol. It can also support the availability of low and no-alcohol options and encourage venues that are inclusive and family friendly.

This framework invites licensing authorities to take a strategic, place-based approach that supports long-term success for businesses and communities alike.

Implementation

As with the whole framework, this section is advisory and non-statutory. The recommendations show how the government’s strategic steer can be implemented within

existing powers and resources. We are aware some licensing authorities have already adopted good practice, which the government commends.

Predictability, consistency and supporting growth

Licensing authorities should use this framework to guide the revision of their Statements of Licensing Policy, inform training, and review local approaches to ensure consistency, transparency and alignment with national strategic aims.

Strategic alignment

Licensing policies should complement local economic, cultural, and night-time economy strategies, and work in harmony with planning policy to avoid conflict. This includes applying the Agent of Change principle, ensuring new developments near existing licensed premises take responsibility for mitigating impacts such as noise, rather than placing undue burdens on established venues. Authorities are encouraged to embed this principle in local licensing guidance and collaborate with planning colleagues to protect the viability of pubs, music venues, cultural spaces and events.

Framework hours

Many authorities publish evidence-based guidelines (“framework hours”) indicating typical opening and closing times for different premises types. These are reference points, not blanket conditions, and each application is still considered individually. Premises should be granted licences under the terms sought, with the existence of guideline hours alone not grounds to refuse.

Service standards

Service standards set out expected timelines for processing applications, helping applicants understand what to expect. Authorities without these practices should consider adopting them to improve predictability and transparency, while retaining case-by-case decision-making.

Permissive by design

The Licensing Act is designed to be enabling, not prescriptive. In line with good practice, many authorities are already taking a light-touch approach to regulating compliant and responsible businesses, focusing on supporting entrepreneurship, innovation, investment and customer experience. Licensing policies should be framed to encourage operators to demonstrate how they will manage risks to the licensing objectives to a reasonably practicable level, rather than imposing unnecessary constraints.

Proportionate and evidence-led decision-making

Licensing decisions should be based on clear, relevant evidence and proportionate to the risks identified. This includes both specific risks (for example, noise complaints, crime hotspots) and broader contextual risks, such as the known prevalence of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in the night-time economy. Decisions to proceed to a hearing should also be evidence-led. The Taskforce made recommendations about hearings and appeals which the government will be examining in due course.

Avoiding blanket conditions

Conditions must be tailored to the specific premises and risks and should not duplicate requirements under other regimes (for example, planning, fire safety, environmental

health, or Martyn's Law where applicable). Model conditions may be used as drafting aids but should not be defaults/prerequisites and risks creating a blanket regime by proxy. Where Cumulative Impact Assessment Policies are used, these should be evidenced-based, not blanket bans.

Licensing decisions should apply a necessary and proportionate approach. This means that any conditions or steps taken must be reasonable in relation to the risks identified without placing undue burden on the business. Modest, contributory measures may be appropriate where they support safer, more inclusive environments. Authorities should cite specific data, locality intelligence, or patterns linked to the premises or area.

Keeping licences specific and fit for purpose

Some licensing authorities already take a proactive and pragmatic approach to keeping licences up to date and fit for purpose. This includes conducting regular visits to licensed premises and operating licence simplification processes that help remove outdated, unnecessary or overly restrictive conditions, particularly minor ones that no longer serve a clear purpose. Where conditions do contribute meaningfully to public safety or the licensing objectives, they should be retained.

Licensing should be enabling, not unnecessarily burdensome, and authorities are encouraged to take a light-touch approach when engaging with responsible operators. Simplification efforts should be collaborative, with licensees supported to demonstrate how they manage risks effectively, and with a focus on maintaining safe, well-regulated environments without unnecessary red tape.

Risk-based regulation

Many licensing authorities already take a risk-based approach to licensing, focusing their efforts on addressing the most significant risks to the licensing objectives. However, some businesses report that this is not always the case. This framework supports and encourages a risk-based approach, recognising that most licensed premises operate responsibly and do not require intensive oversight.

In line with existing good practice, businesses should consider:

- targeted oversight – authorities should consider triaging premises visits and licensing decisions so that compliant, low-risk premises, including non-contentious Temporary Event Notices, are subject to a lighter-touch approach. This allows licensing teams to focus their resources on problem premises or locations, using graduated, problem-solving enforcement where issues persist. Where possible, visits and inspections should be co-ordinated, including licensing, environmental health, trading standards and planning
- smarter use of data – licensing authorities should make use of available data such as crime reports, complaints, ambulance demand, and licensing reviews to inform local policies and individual decisions. This evidence should be used to identify patterns, prioritise interventions, and support proportionate responses. Authorities should record concise reasons for any measures imposed, showing how they are evidenced, appropriate and proportionate to the specific risks identified
- business certainty – where consistent with local policy, evidence, and legal limits, authorities should look to grant longer-duration permissions, such as pavement licences, to provide greater certainty for businesses. Short-term or restrictive permissions should only be used where there is a clear legal or evidenced reason to do so

- light-touch for responsible operators – licensing should be permissive by design. Authorities should avoid unnecessary prescription and instead support operators to demonstrate how they are managing risks to the licensing objectives to a level that manages risks effectively and proportionately. This approach fosters innovation, reduces regulatory burden, and builds trust between regulators and businesses
- graduated enforcement – where issues arise, authorities should adopt a graduated response, starting with informal engagement and support, and escalating only where necessary. Enforcement should be proportionate, transparent, and focused on resolving problems rather than penalising businesses unnecessarily

This approach ensures that licensing remains focused, fair, and enabling – supporting responsible operators while maintaining public safety and confidence.

Partnership working first

Many authorities are already aware that effective licensing depends on strong local partnerships, and there are many good examples. It is a matter of good practice that licensing authorities work collaboratively with planning teams, responsible authorities, businesses and communities to ensure that licensing decisions support wider local priorities and deliver safe, vibrant places to live, work, study, visit and invest. Licensing authorities should consider the following:

- strategic coordination with planning – licensing authorities should engage proactively with planning teams during plan-making and site allocation processes. Licensing policies should be aligned with Local Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, and regeneration strategies to avoid policy conflict and support coherent place-making. This includes applying the Agent of Change principle. It is important that licensing decisions do not undermine planning decision, which take primacy.
- integration with neighbourhood planning – licensing committees should consider the aspirations of Neighbourhood Plans when determining applications. These plans reflect community priorities and can help guide licensing decisions that support local identity, cultural life, and economic development.
- alignment with mayoral strategies – where licensing authorities operate within areas covered by a Mayor or Mayoral Strategic Authority, they should have regard to the Mayor’s strategic plan, including Local Growth Plans and cultural or night-time economy strategies. These plans set out long-term priorities for investment, regeneration and public safety, and licensing should support their delivery.
- early engagement and mediation – in line with the Section 182 guidance, authorities should encourage early dialogue between applicants, responsible authorities, and objectors before formal hearings or appeals are initiated. Mediation and informal resolution can reduce conflict, improve understanding, and lead to more constructive outcomes. If not already doing so, licensing teams may wish to offer facilitated pre-application discussions or mediation services where appropriate.
- collaborative problem-solving – licensing should be seen as a shared responsibility. Authorities are encouraged to work with businesses, community safety partnerships, public health teams, and cultural organisations to co-design solutions that manage risks while enabling growth and innovation.

- transparent and inclusive processes – partnership working should be underpinned by clear communication, shared evidence, and inclusive engagement. In line with existing good practice, authorities should ensure that all stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and community groups, have meaningful opportunities to contribute to licensing policy and decisions.

Licensing is most effective when it is embedded in a wider ecosystem of local governance and place-making. By prioritising partnership working, authorities can ensure that licensing supports safe, inclusive and economically resilient communities.

High streets and communities

The role of hospitality and leisure businesses

Hospitality and leisure businesses are central to creating safe, vibrant high streets and supporting community health and wellbeing. Licensed premises provide regulated spaces where people can socialise safely, reducing risks associated with unregulated environments. They also generate employment and offer inclusive spaces for communities to come together, strengthening social cohesion and contributing to mental and physical health.

While licensing applies only to licensable activities within licensed premises, many businesses voluntarily adopt measures that go beyond statutory requirements, demonstrating leadership in promoting safer streets and healthier communities. This should be recognised and commended.

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

Licensed premises play a vital role in creating welcoming spaces for people to socialise. Good licensing authorities and operators are committed to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour and recognise that these risks need to be managed in a way that is reasonably practicable to ensure venues remain safe, inclusive, and enjoyable for all. The police play an important role, with dedicated licensing officers supporting and advising compliant businesses as well as taking necessary and proportionate action against irresponsible businesses to keep the public safe. In particular, the government recognises the contribution made by policing to the licensing regime.

The government is committed to reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, including halving incidents of violence against women and girls. The deployment of additional neighbourhood policing officers and staff will support these goals, alongside local partnership working.

Many operators already demonstrate strong leadership in this space, adopting a range of voluntary measures to promote safety and prevent harm. The government recognises and commends this good practice and encourages all operators to consider how they can contribute to safer environments. It is not the role of licensing officers to prescribe the adoption of voluntary schemes safety measures, unless there is clear evidence that such steps are necessary to promote the licensing objectives. However, authorities can encourage the uptake of good practice, particularly where it can help mitigate known or emerging risks.

Responsible operators should be supported to demonstrate how they are managing risks to the licensing objectives to a reasonably practicable level.

Community health and wellbeing

Hospitality and leisure businesses are more than places to eat and drink, they are hubs of social life that underpin community cohesion. By creating safe, inclusive environments and supporting wellbeing initiatives, they contribute significantly to safer streets, healthier lifestyles and stronger communities. This is not only good for communities, it is good for business, particularly given the increasing demand for low and no-alcohol drinks and for more food-led and experiential hospitality.

Responsible licensed premises therefore play a positive role in protecting public health and supporting healthy communities. By providing regulated environments, they help reduce excessive alcohol consumption and prevent injuries or risky behaviours caused by intoxication, providing welcoming spaces that help address isolation and loneliness.

There are lots of examples of voluntary good practice, including supporting people to drink within the [UK's Chief Medical Officers' low risk drinking guidelines](#) of 14 units of alcohol per week spread over 3 or more days with several alcohol-free days each week, and promoting customer wellbeing, including:

- health-conscious offerings – expanding menus to include a range of low and no-alcohol beverages and healthy food options, providing customers with information to support informed decisions
- activity-led social experiences - hosting events such as live music, quiz nights, board games, and cultural evenings encourages social interaction that is not centred solely on alcohol consumption, helping to moderate drinking
- inclusive safe spaces for all – creating welcoming environments for families, non-drinking social groups, and individuals seeking alternative leisure options or just company
- partnerships with local organisations – collaborating with charities and health bodies to tackle loneliness and promote wellbeing – for example, coffee mornings for older residents or hosting community fitness classes. Additionally, engaging with local public health teams to understand local patterns of alcohol-related harm and explore joint intervention
- supporting government/sector-led/charity initiatives – many operators work closely with organisations such as Pub is the Hub, the Inn Crowd, and the Centre for Ageing Better, showing how the sector contributes to wider social goals, including tackling loneliness and isolation
- promoting low-risk drinking – to help create these inclusive environments, avoiding promotions that encourage excessive consumption, such as “all-you-can-drink” offers and supporting campaigns such as THINK! “Drink a Little, Risk a Lot” to highlight the dangers of drink driving. Operators should protect children by preventing underage sales and good operators should monitor and recognise the signs of intoxication so that they can intervene early

In line with the principles of proportionate regulation, these should not be mandated through licensing conditions. However, where licensed premises do not comply with their legal obligations and licence conditions, the government fully expects licensing authorities to take the appropriate action.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

The government recognises the importance of monitoring the impact of the National Licensing Policy Framework. In response to the call for evidence, many stakeholders, particularly licensing authorities, emphasised the need to avoid creating new reporting burdens or resource impacts, especially given the non-statutory nature of this first iteration. While some respondents called for more robust monitoring, the prevailing view was that a proportionate, light-touch approach is appropriate at this stage.

Accordingly, the government will track the impact of this framework using existing data and feedback mechanisms, without introducing new reporting requirements. This will include stakeholder feedback on the framework's impact and data on on-trade premises, feeding into future iterations and informing whether further action is needed, including reserving the right to make it statutory.

Licensing authorities may, as part of their normal policy cycle, take a light-touch look at their own outcomes using data they already hold and routine feedback from responsible authorities, operators and communities. There should therefore be no impact on licensing authority resources.

The framework will be reviewed 6 months after publication to assess early impact and whether further clarification is needed. If the strategic steer is not having the intended effect on consistency, predictability and enabling growth alongside the licensing objectives, the government will consider options to strengthen the approach (for example, clearer expectations, examples or statutory changes) and engage further with partners. The framework is then likely to be subject to further periodic reviews.

As the framework develops, the government will work with stakeholders to consider whether a more detailed set of monitoring tools is needed, ensuring any future approach remains proportionate and evidence based.

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