



Epping Forest District Council

LICENSING COMMITTEE **Thursday 26th October 2023**

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Licensing Committee**, which will be held at:

Council Chamber - Civic Offices
on **Thursday 26th October 2023** at **7.00 pm**

Georgina Blakemore
Chief Executive

Democratic Services Officer: T Larsen, Democratic Services
Tel: 01992 564243 Email:
democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members: Councillors R Morgan (Chairman), L Mead (Vice-Chairman),
I Allgood, I Hadley, S Heather, P Keska, A Lion, T Matthews,
L Morgan, Caroline Pond, R Sharif, D Stocker, D Sunger and
J M Whitehouse

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND

This meeting will be broadcast live and recorded for repeated viewing.

1. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

1. This meeting is to be webcast and Members are reminded of the need to activate their microphones before speaking.
2. The Chairman will read the following announcement:

“I would like to remind everyone present that this meeting will be broadcast live to the Internet and will be capable of subsequent repeated viewing, with copies of the recording being made available for those that request it.

By being present at this meeting, it is likely that the recording cameras will capture your image and this will result in your image becoming part of the broadcast.

You should be aware that this may infringe your human and data protection rights. If you have any concerns then please speak to the Webcasting Officer.”

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To be announced at the meeting.

Please use the Members Portal webpage to report non-attendance at meetings https://eppingforestdc-self.achieveservice.com/service/Member_Contact to ensure your query is properly logged.

Alternatively, you can access the Members portal from the front page of the Council's website, at the bottom under 'Contact Us' <https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/your-council/members-portal/>

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare interests in any item on this agenda.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, together with paragraphs (6) and (24) of the Council Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution require that the permission of the Chairman be obtained, after prior notice to the Chief Executive, before urgent business not specified in the agenda (including a supplementary agenda of which the statutory period of notice has been given) may be transacted.

In accordance with Operational Standing Order (6) (non-executive bodies), any item raised by a non-member shall require the support of a member of the Committee concerned and the Chairman of that Committee. Two weeks notice of non-urgent items is required.

5. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE (Pages 4 - 9)

To confirm the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 22 March 2023 (attached).

6. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

The minutes from the Sub-Committee's meetings will be available for the relevant Chairmen to sign off.

7. LICENSING STATISTICS MARCH TO SEPTEMBER 2023 (Page 10)

To consider the attached report regarding the Licencing statistics for the last 6 months.

8. NATIONAL REGISTER OF TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE REVOCATION AND REFUSALS (NR3). (Pages 11 - 13)

To consider the attached report regarding the national register of taxi and private hire licence revocation and refusals (NR3).

9. PAVEMENT LICENCING (Pages 14 - 15)

To consider the attached report regarding pavement licencing.

10. TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICES (Page 16)

To consider the attached report concerning temporary event notices.

11. MARTYN'S LAW (Pages 17 - 18)

To consider the attached report concerning 'Martyn's Law'.

12. REVIEW OF LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

To review the proceedings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held during the preceding period and consider any issues of procedure, policy or organisation that have adversely affected the operation or management of meetings.

13. REVIEW OF CURRENT AND FUTURE TRAINING NEEDS FOR THE COMMITTEE

To highlight any further training considered necessary for the members tasked with discharging the Council's Licensing function.

14. MATTERS ARISING

To consider any further matters arising in respect of the Council's Licensing function, not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Licensing Committee has been scheduled for 19 March 2024 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber.

Agenda Item 5

EPHING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee:	Licensing Committee	Date:	Wednesday, 22 March 2023
Place:	Council Chamber - Civic Offices	Time:	7.00 - 7.30 pm
Members Present:	Councillors R Morgan (Chairman), S Heather, P Keska, T Matthews, L Mead, Caroline Pond, D Stocker, D Sunger and J M Whitehouse		
Members Present (Virtually):	Councillors		
Other Councillors:	Councillors		
Other Councillors (Virtual):	Councillors		
Apologies:	J Jennings, I Hadley, A Lion, M Sartin and P Stalker		
Officers Present:	A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer), D King (Licensing Manager), A Buckley (Higher Level Apprentice (Internal Communications)) and M Thompson (Interim Acting Service Director (Technical))		
Officers Present (Virtually):	J Leither (Democratic Services Officer)		

15. Webcasting Introduction

The Chairman reminded everyone present that the meeting would be broadcast live to the internet and would be capable of repeated viewing, which could infringe their human and data protection rights.

16. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made by the Councillors present pursuant to the Council's Member Code of Conduct.

17. Any Other Business

The Committee noted that there was no additional business for consideration at the meeting.

18. Minutes of the Licensing Committee

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 01 November 2022 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

It was noted that the Licensing statistics would be circulated separately (*now attached to these minutes*).

19. Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committees

The minutes of the following meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee be taken as read and signed by their Chairmen as a correct record:

08 November 2022 (am);	17 January 2023 (am);
08 November 2022 (pm);	17 January 2023 (pm);
17 November 2022;	07 March 2023.
06 December 2022;	

20. Coronation Road Closures and Extended Licensing Hours

The meeting noted that following the success of the simplified application for road closures held to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, the Licensing Committee agreed at its meeting on 1st November 2022 to adopt the same process for the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort.

As agreed in November the Council has put in place special relaxations to make it easier for residents to come together and celebrate this momentous occasion.

Residents wishing to host a street party still need to apply for a temporary road closure however, for non-commercial events held on 6th, 7th or 8th May 2023, the Council has determined to waive the fees normally associated with such applications and to simplify the application process.

The Government had also consulted on whether to relax licensing hours for the sale of alcohol (on-sales only) and late-night refreshment on Friday 5th, Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May 2023.

This has been agreed, and this would now extend the opening hours from 23.00 to 01.00 on these dates however the relaxation will not apply to off licences, supermarkets, or late-night takeaways.

Resolved:

That the Committee noted the update.

21. Road Closure Policy

The Committee noted that Epping Forest District Council had the power to issue temporary Road Closure Orders for special public events such as a public procession, street party, festival etc. under s.21 Town Police Clauses Act 1847. As the powers came under the Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, it was noted that the Licensing Committee had the power to agree this policy change without going to full council for adoption, contrary to the report's recommendation.

Currently the Council did not have a policy that sets out the general approach to regulation under the Act, guides administration of its functions and its expectations in relation to road closure applications for special events. If adopted the policy and process will simplify the process, provide clarity to residents, and assist the Council in ensuring that an appropriate balance was drawn between the interests of those wishing to apply for a road closure, and those who might be affected by such activities.

Currently the Council did not have a road closure policy, however, given the success of the process adopted for both Her Majesty The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration and the forthcoming Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort, it was recommended that the Licensing Committee agree the policy. Officers noted that in case of any objections received for an application, the ward councillors and the relevant town and parish councils would be consulted.

Resolved:

The Licensing Committee agreed the proposed road closure policy.

22. Gambling Act 2005 - Statement of Licensing Principles

The Committee noted that the Gambling Act 2005 required all licensing authorities to prepare and publish a statement of licensing principles that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act, commonly known as a policy statement. The policy must be reviewed every 3 years and where reviewed and changes proposed, licensing authorities must consult on any revision. The statement must then be re-published.

The policy statement sets out the licensing authorities' general approach to regulation under the Act, guides administration of its functions and its expectations in relation to operators with premises in the locality. It will assist in ensuring that an appropriate balance was drawn between the interests of those wishing to provide and take part in legal gambling, and those who might be affected by such activities.

The current policy was approved by the Council in 2020 and only minor amendments have been made to reflect the latest guidance and to update the area profile in line with the Essex County Council Census 2021 and the Office for National Statistics data.

The Committee agreed the revised statement of Gambling licensing principles.

Resolved:

1. The revised statement of licensing principles be agreed; and
2. The Licensing Committee recommend to Full Council to adopt the revised statement of licensing principles.

23. Review of Current and Future Training Needs for the Committee

The Committee noted that training arrangements would be made for any new members appointed to the Committee in the new municipal year and also refresher training for any current members that would like it.

Members should have refresher training at least every 3 years and when any new legislation changes came in.

24. REVIEW OF LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

Members would like the covering report to summarise all conditions that had been agreed by the applicants so that they did not have to hunt through the background papers and try and work out which extra conditions had been agreed before the meeting.

25. Matters Arising

D King noted that a consultation report had gone before this committee in November 2021 questioning the need for a 150mtr consultation area. This was over and above what the council was legally required to do. They noted that in doing so it costs the Licensing section more than was generated in income which was unaffordable in these tight financially times and when licensing was required to act under a cost recovery basis.

Officers had looked at what the Planning Section did about consultations on planning applications and noted that they only informed the adjacent properties or if it was a large development, they would look at that under a case-by-case basis. On this principal and with the financial constraints facing the council and the resource element, this was something that they were looking to remove.

They would continue to consult with the relevant ward councillors and the Parish or Town Councils, who could choose to consult on a wider basis if they wished.

The meeting noted this revised way of consultations for future applications.

CHAIRMAN

Report to Licensing Committee**Date of meeting: 22nd March 2023**

**Epping Forest
District Council**

Subject: Licensing Statistics**Officer contact for further information:**

David King Licensing Manager, 01992 564888

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry, 01992 564246**Recommendations: To note the results of the statistics****Background**

- The statistical report below details the number of applications received under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 between 1st October 2021 – 30th September 2022. For information and comparison, the figures for the previous two twelve-month periods have also been provided.

	01/10/2019 – 30/09/2020	01/10/2020 – 30/09/2021	01/10/2021- 30/09/2022
PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATIONS/VARIATIONS			
Number of new applications	7	35	17
Number of renewals	251	386	403
Change of designated premises supervisor/variation	24	53	64
Number of applications considered by the sub-committee	5	28	16
Number of applications granted subject to conditions	5	12	15
Number of applications refused	0	1	0
Number of appeals to Magistrates	0	0	1
Number of revocations	0	0	0
TENS			
Application received	139	142	193
Late TENS	35	42	64
REVIEWS			
Application	1	0	1
Reviews refused	0	0	0
PERSONAL LICENCE APPLICATIONS			
Number of applications received	46	48	53
Number of applications granted under delegated authority	46	48	53
Number of applications refused	0	0	0
Number of appeals to Magistrates	0	0	0
GAMBLING ACT 2005			
Betting office applications granted	0	0	0
Club gaming permit granted	2	0	0

Notifications for 2 gaming machines	0	5	5
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Agenda Item 7

Report to Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 26th October 2023

Subject: Licensing Statistics

Officer contact for further information:

David King Licensing Manager, 01992 564888

Committee Secretary: Therese Larsen 01992 564 243



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Recommendations: To note the results of the statistics

Background

1. The statistical report below details the number of applications received under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 between 1st October 2022 – 30th September 2023. For information and comparison, the figures for the previous two twelve-month periods have also been provided.

	01/10/2020 – 30/09/2021	01/10/2021- 30/09/2022	01/10/2022- 30/09/2023
PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATIONS/VARIATIONS			
Application for Grant	35	17	14
Renewal	386	403	402
Change of designated premises supervisor/variation	53	64	79
Applications considered by the sub-committee	28	16	10
Applications granted subject to conditions	12	15	7
Applications refused	1	0	1
Appeals to Magistrates Court	0	1	1
Number of revocations	0	0	0
TENS			
Standard TENS	142	193	295
Late TENS	42	64	74
REVIEWS			
Application	0	1	0
Reviews refused	0	0	0
PERSONAL LICENCE APPLICATIONS			
Number of applications received	48	53	65
Number of applications granted under delegated authority	48	53	65
Number of applications refused	0	0	0
Number of appeals to Magistrates	0	0	0
GAMBLING ACT 2005			
Betting office applications granted	0	0	0
Club gaming permit granted	0	0	0
Notifications for 2 gaming machines	5	5	5

Report to Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 26th October 2023



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Subject: National Register of Taxi and Private Hire Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3)

Officer contact for further information:

David King Licensing Manager, 01992 564888

Committee Secretary: Therese Larsen 01992564243

Recommendations: For Information

Background

1. On 31st March 2022, the Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Act 2022 received Royal Assent. The Act came into effect in May 2022 and places duties on licensing authorities to improve information-sharing regarding taxi and private hire vehicle drivers, these duties include:
 - If any licensing authority has information regarding a taxi or private hire driver licensed by another licensing authority that is relevant to safeguarding or road safety concerns in its area, it must share that information with the authority that issued that drivers licence.
 - Any licensing authority provided with information by another licensing authority regarding safeguarding or road safety concerns relating to one of its drivers, must consider whether to suspend or revoke that drivers licence and inform the authority that shared the information of its decision.
 - Licensing authorities must input into a central database, instances where the authority has refused, suspended, revoked, or chosen not to renew a taxi or private hire drivers licence based wholly or in part on information relating to safeguarding or road safety concerns.
 - Licensing authorities must search the database for any new entry before it determines to grant or renew a taxi or private hire driver's licence. Where there is the licensing authority must contact the recording authority to request the relevant information. The decision-making authority must then have regard to the information provided when making its decision.
2. The aim of legislation is to improve public safety and confidence in taxi and PHV licensing. It follows numerous high-profile cases where drivers who have been refused licences or had a licence revoked in one area have gone to another area and received a licence in another area by failing to disclose their previous history.
3. Under the Act the Secretary of State for Transport has the power to provide or designate someone to provide the database. The designated database provider is the National Anti-Fraud Network.
4. It is a requirement that the Council record certain taxi and PHV driver licensing decisions relating to safeguarding or road safety concerns in the designated database. The types of licensing decision which must be recorded include:
 - refusing a taxi or PHV driver's licence application
 - refusing to renew a taxi or PHV driver's licence application

- suspending a taxi or PHV driver's licence
 - revoking a taxi or PHV driver's licence
5. The requirement to record these decisions is limited to decisions based wholly or partly on safeguarding or road safety concerns. This includes:
- committed a sexual offence (regardless of whether the person was charged with, prosecuted for or convicted of the offence)
 - harassed another person
 - caused physical or psychological harm to another person
 - committed an offence that involves a risk of causing physical or psychological harm to another person (regardless of whether the person was charged with, prosecuted for or convicted of the offence)
 - committed an offence under section 165, 168 or 170 of the Equality Act 2010 (regardless of whether the person was charged with, prosecuted for or convicted of the offence)
 - did anything that constitutes unlawful discrimination or victimisation against another person for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010
 - threatened, abused or insulted another person
 - poses a risk to road safety while driving
 - may be unsuitable to hold a taxi or PHV driver's licence for other reasons related to the safeguarding of passengers or road safety
6. When recording an entry on the database, the licensing authority must do so within 5 working days of notifying the driver or applicant of the decision and the record must include:
- the driver/applicant's full name
 - the driver/applicant's date of birth
 - the driver/applicant's home address
 - the driver/applicant's national insurance number
 - the driver/applicant's driving licence number, whether that person holds a GB, Northern Ireland or Community driving licence
 - the name of the licensing authority recording the decision
 - contact information for the licensing authority recording the decision to help searching licensing authorities get further information on the decision
 - the date the decision was made and the date it takes effect (if different)
 - the date any subsequent change to the decision was made and the date it takes effect (if different)
 - the end date for the suspension of the driver's licence, if relevant
7. The data is retained on the register solely to assist licensing authorities fulfil their statutory duty to ensure that an applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a taxi or private-hire vehicle licence.
8. Licensing authorities are required to keep any decisions they record on the database for 11 years. This requirement applies where a subsequent change is made to the decision, on appeal to Magistrates Court.
9. Since the new requirements have come into force, the Councils Licensing Team have added 8 entries to the database following the suspension or refusal to grant a licence.

10. As a result of searches of the National Register of Taxi and Private Hire Licence Revocations and Refusals database, 3 applications have been referred to the Councils Licensing Sub-Committee for determination, all of which have been refused.

Agenda Item 9

Report to Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 26th October 2023

Subject: Pavement Licensing

Officer contact for further information:

David King Licensing Manager, 01992 564888

Committee Secretary: **Therese Larsen 01992564243**



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Recommendations: For Information

Background

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill proposes to make the regime for pavement licences issued under the Business and Planning Act permanent.

Pavement licensing was introduced in 2020 through emergency legislation in response to the COVID pandemic. Its intent was a simplified and fast track route for pubs, restaurants, and cafes to obtain a temporary permission to place furniture including outdoor tables and seating on the highway, allowing them to increase their outdoor capacity safely, quickly and at a low cost.

The regime was first extended in 2021 and again in 2022, and it was due to end on 30th September 2023. However, Government announced in August that it will again extend the temporary regime for a further 12-month period until 30th September 2024.

This extension will also include the automatic entitlement to provide off sales for the consumption of alcohol in the external areas covered by the pavement licence even where off sales is not specified on the existing premises licence.

In summary the Bill proposes to make pavement licensing a permanent fixture subject to the following amendments:

- Amend the fee councils can charge applicants, increasing it from £100 to £350 for premises which already hold a pavement licence, and £500 for new applicants.
- Extend the public consultation period and council determination period from 7 days to 14 days.
- Extend the maximum duration of pavement licences from 1 year to 2 years. The length of a licence is however at the discretion of the local authority.
- Provide that pavement Licences can also be amended by the local authority with the consent of the licence holder if it is considered that the conditions on the licence are not being met.
- Prohibit a local authority from granting a tables and chairs licence under the old regime (Highways Act 1980) if a pavement permit is capable of being granted under this legislation.
- Insert a new Enforcement schedule providing powers to the local authority to remove furniture if a premise is not abiding by its pavement licence conditions and hours.

One of the current benefits of the existing procedure is that once a pavement licence is issued, the premises automatically benefits from planning permission for the furniture for the duration of the licence. There is currently no proposal to change this.

Due to the temporary extension until 2024, we have adopted the same approach taken in previous years, namely:

- Licence holders wishing to keep the same timings, quantity of furniture, layout and making no changes; no fee was charged.
- A public notice be displayed in the window of the premises and in the absence of any objection the licence was automatically extended until 30th September 2024.
- If the licence holder wished to make any changes, they would have to submit a new application, pay the relevant fee (£100) and the application would have been subject to the full consultation and approval process i.e. automatic grant if no objections or where objections received, officer recommendation and determination by Head of Technical Services, Councillor Williamson (Technical Services Portfolio Lead) and Councillor Morgan as Chair of the Licensing Committee.

All premises were written to in August and advised accordingly. They have all renewed their licence for a further period without any variation being sought.

The Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill remains at Committee stage in the House of Commons having had its 1st and 2nd reading and will hopefully receive Royal Assent in due course.

Agenda Item 10

Report to Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 26th October 2023

Subject: Temporary Event Notices

Officer contact for further information:

David King Licensing Manager, 01992 564888

Committee Secretary: **Therese Larsen 01992564243**



Recommendations: For Information

Background

1. In June 2021 the Alcohol Licensing (Coronavirus) (Regulatory Easements) (Amendment) Regulations came into force. The regulations not only extended the temporary pavement licensing regime, it also increased the annual number of Temporary Event Notices (TENs) that a licensed premises can have from 15 to 20 and increased the maximum number of days on which temporary events may be held from 21 to 26 per calendar year.
2. The purpose of the increase was to support the hospitality trade during and post Covid it applied to the number of TENs submitted between 1st January 2022 and December 2023.
3. Between 6 March and 1 May 2023, the Government ran a consultation on whether to make permanent the alcohol licensing provisions in the Business and Planning Act 2020 (BPA) or whether to return to the pre-covid provisions in the Licensing Act 2003. One of the questions asked by Government was when the regulatory easements end on 31st December 2023, the annual allowance should remain at the extended amount or whether the allowance should return to pre-covid provisions.
4. In response to the consultation 63% of respondents indicated in favour of a return to pre-covid restrictions and Home Office statistics showed that even though the number of TENs that could be served had increased, the actual number of TENs received by Local Authorities during this period, had decreased by 33% when compared to pre-pandemic levels.
5. The Licensing Committee are advised that in light of these statistics and responses received, Government has announced that on 1st January 2024, the number of TENs permitted will return to previous restrictions. From this date the maximum number of TENs that can be served in respect of the same premises will be 15 and the maximum number of days on which temporary events may be held will be 21 per calendar year.

Report to Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 26th October 2023

Subject: Martyn's Law

Officer contact for further information:

David King Licensing Manager, 01992 564888

Committee Secretary: **Therese Larsen 01992564243**



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Recommendations: For Information

Background

1. On 19 December 2022, the Government announced details for the Protect Duty, now to be known as 'Martyn's Law' in tribute of Martyn Hett, who was killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack in 2017.
2. The purpose of Martyn's law is to enhance our national security and to reduce the risk to the public from terrorism in public venues. It will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures.
3. The legislation will ensure parties are prepared, ready to respond and know what to do in the event of an attack. It will impose a legal duty on the owners and operators of certain locations to increase their preparedness for and protection from a terrorist attack by requiring them to take proportionate steps, depending on the size and nature of the activities that take place there.
4. The legislation will apply across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Premises will fall in scope where "qualifying activities" take place. This will include:
 - entertainment and leisure
 - retail, food and drink
 - museums and galleries
 - sports grounds
 - visitor attractions
 - temporary events
 - places of worship, health, and education
 - public areas of local and central and local government buildings (e.g., town halls).
5. It will apply to eligible premises including any location or event that has a defined boundary, allowing capacity to be known (including temporary events). Eligible locations will be drawn into the scope of the legislation if they meet the following three tests:
 - That the premises is a building or event with a defined boundary.
 - That a qualifying activity takes place at the location; and
 - The maximum occupancy of the premises meets the specified threshold – either 100+ or 800+
6. Depending on the capacity, eligible premises will fall into either a standard or enhanced tier. Standard tier premises will be required to undertake simple yet effective activities to improve protective security and preparedness. This will apply to qualifying locations with

a maximum capacity of over 100 including larger retail stores, bars, restaurants, and outdoor events etc. The suggested measures include:

- completion of free training
 - awareness raising and cascading of information to staff
 - completion of a preparedness plan to embed practices to delay attackers progress
7. Enhanced tier will see additional requirements placed on high-capacity locations in recognition of the potential catastrophic consequences of a successful attack. This will apply to locations with a capacity of over 800 people at any time including music venues, theatres, cinemas, large outdoor events and department stores. These premises will need to undertake a risk assessment and provide a security plan and additional measures could include implementation of physical measures like CCTV or new systems and processes to enable better consideration of security.
 8. It is proposed that some limited exclusions and exemptions will apply, these include:
 - locations where transport security regulations already apply
 - those that are vacant over a reasonable period or are permanently closed
 - Those with a large floor space and low occupancy in practice (e.g., warehouses and storage facilities)
 - offices and private residential locations
 9. The legislation is currently at draft bill stage and the Home Affairs Select Committee conducted pre-legislative scrutiny in June. Whilst there is support for the bill, concerns have been raised regarding its proportionality and in particular the impact and burden it will have on smaller premises within the standard tier.
 10. The Home Affairs Select Committee have also raised concerns that as it stands a village hall would have to take safety precautions however, an open-air farmers or Christmas market would not, and this makes little sense.
 11. Therefore, at this time the bill is still subject to change however, it has been suggested that Royal Assent will be given early 2024. This will be followed by a transitional period during which businesses can prepare before the Act comes into force in 2025.
 12. Once approved, dedicated statutory guidance and support will be provided by government to ensure those in scope can effectively discharge their responsibilities. Once we are aware of the final details, the Council will also be providing advice and guidance to those premises likely to be affected by the requirements.