

Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003 Functions)

Date: 8 October 2026

Time: 3.00pm

Venue Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall

Members: **Councillors:** Czolak (Chair), Cattell (Deputy Chair), Pickett (Opposition Spokesperson), Bagaeen, Davis, Helliwell, Hewitt, Lyons, Nann, Parrott, Sheard, Sykes and Thomson

Contact: **Francis Mitchell**
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AGENDA

PART ONE

Page No.

9 Procedural Business

(a) Declaration of Substitutes: Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.

(b) Declarations of Interest:

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

(c) Exclusion of Press and Public: To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part Two of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

10 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

7 - 10

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2026.

11 Chair's Communications

12 Callover

- (a) All agenda items will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.

- (b) Those items not reserved will be taken as having been received and the reports' recommendations agreed.

13 Public Involvement

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions presented to the full council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 28 Sept 2026;
- (c) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 28 Sept 2026.

14 Member Involvement

To consider the following matters raised by councillors:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions submitted to the full Council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to consider any written questions;
- (c) **Letters:** to consider any letters;
- (d) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion referred from Council or submitted directly to the Committee.

15 Licensing Authority Annual Report 2025-2026

11 - 30

Contact Officer: Sarah Cornell, Senior Tel: 01273 295801
Licensing Officer

Ward Affected: All Wards

16 Items Referred for Council

To consider items to be submitted to the Full Council meeting for information.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 24.3a, the Committee may determine that any item is to be included in its report to Council. In addition, any Group may specify one further item to be included by notifying the Chief Executive no later than 10am on the eighth working day before the Council meeting at which the report is to be made, or if the Committee meeting take place after this deadline, immediately at the conclusion of the Committee meeting

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FURTHER INFORMATION

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Francis Mitchell, (01273 294183, email Francis.Mitchell@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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Date of Publication - Wednesday, 30 September 2026

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSING COMMITTEE (LICENSING ACT 2003 FUNCTIONS)

3.00PM 18 JUNE 2026

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Czolak (Chair), Bagaeen, Davis, Hewitt, Miller, Nann, Pickett, Sykes and Thomson

Apologies: Councillors Cattell and Parrott

Officers: Rebecca Siddell (Lawyer) and Shaun Hughes (Democratic Services)

PART ONE

1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 There were none for this meeting.

(b) Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were no declarations of interests in matters listed on the agenda.

(c) Exclusion of Press and Public

1.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any of the items listed on the agenda.

1.4 **RESOLVED:** That the press and public would not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the agenda items.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 **RESOLVED** – The minutes of the Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003 Functions) Meeting held on 6 November 2025 were agreed.

3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The chair welcomed the committee to the meeting and stated they were looking forward to working together. It was noted that a report on taxi fares would be going to Cabinet, and the committee will see the report. The chair will be looking at training for committee Members in July 2026 and requested if the Members preferred online or in person. The committee choose online.

4 CALLOVER

- 4.1 The Democratic Services officer stated that the committee would be asked to whether they would wish to discuss all agenda items. However, the agenda included only one item, and this was mandatory. Therefore, all agenda items would be discussed.

5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 There was no public involvement for this agenda.

6 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 There was no Member involvement for this agenda.

7 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS RE LICENSING COMMITTEE AND FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LICENSING PANEL HEARINGS

- 7.1 The legal officer introduced the report to the committee.

Answers to Committee Member Questions

- 7.2 Councillor Sykes was informed that the report regarding licensing was a role-over from last year and would be required every year going forward. The report also covered possible urgency subcommittees, and it was confirmed that this was included as a 'in case-of-need'.

Vote

- 7.3 A vote was held, and the committee agreed the recommendations unanimously.

7.4 RESOLVED:

- 2.1. That the committee's terms of reference, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be noted.
- 2.2. That the Committee establish the Licensing Panel as a sub-committee to deal with licensing applications in accordance with the Terms of Reference set out at Appendix A to this report. The membership of such Licensing Panels shall consist of three Members drawn from those Members appointed to the Licensing Committee who have received relevant training.
- 2.3. That the Committee agree to disapply the proportionality rules so far as a Licensing Panel is concerned in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990;
- 2.4. That an Urgency Sub-Committee be further established, consisting of the Chair of the Committee and two other Members (nominated in accordance with the scheme for the allocation of seats for committees), to exercise the Committee's powers in relation to matters of urgency, on which it is necessary to make a decision before the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be approved.

- 2.5. That having noted the benefits of holding virtual meetings - both in terms of enabling greater participation in the Licensing process, and in ensuring the most efficient use of resources - Committee resolves that Licensing Panels continue to meet virtually until such time as these arrangements are further reviewed by this Committee in June 2027.
- 2.6. That Committee delegates authority to the Director of Law and Governance, after consultation with the Chair and Deputy, to determine arrangements for Licensing Panel hearings should any changes be required before the next scheduled meeting of the Licensing Committee.
- 2.7. That the Committee recommends that in exercising the authority given Pursuant to recommendation 2.6, the Director of Law and Governance take into account all relevant factors including any relevant public health and government guidance, the approach taken to other council meetings and the need to ensure fair and transparent procedures in accordance with the Hearings Regulations 2005.

8 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 8.1 There were no agenda items referred to Full Council.

The meeting concluded at 3.13pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Brighton & Hove City Council

Licensing Committee

Agenda Item

(Licensing Act 2003 Functions)

Subject: Licensing Annual Report 2025-2026

Date of meeting: 08 October 2026

Report of: Corporate Director of City Operations

Contact Officer: Name: David Curtis Tel: 01273 294429

Email: david.curtis@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report provides a comprehensive overview of the work undertaken by the Licensing Team during the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. It summarises the scale of licensing activity undertaken by the service, including applications received, licences granted, hearings conducted, compliance and enforcement activity undertaken, and key projects delivered during the year. The report also includes three years of comparative information across licensing, compliance, and enforcement activity, enabling Members to consider trends in demand, regulatory activity, and service performance over time. It further provides Members with an overview of how the service has supported the Council's strategic priorities through the effective regulation of licensed activities.
- 1.2 The Licensing Service contributes directly to the Council Plan 2023 to 2027 vision of creating "a better Brighton & Hove for all" by supporting the delivery of a city that is safe, inclusive, fair, and welcoming, while helping to ensure well-run regulatory services. Through the administration and enforcement of licensing legislation, the service promotes public safety, prevents crime and disorder, protects children and vulnerable adults from harm, supports public health objectives, and helps create environments in which residents, businesses and visitors can thrive. The work of the service also supports the Council's wider corporate priorities relating to community safety, equality and inclusion, economic growth, and public protection.
- 1.3 The Licensing Team delivers the Council's responsibilities under a range of licensing legislation and operates in accordance with the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and other relevant regulatory and public protection policies. In doing so, the Licensing Team seeks to strike an appropriate balance between supporting a vibrant and diverse economy, including the city's hospitality, leisure, cultural and visitor sectors, and ensuring that licensed activities are conducted responsibly and in a manner that protects local communities from nuisance, harm and disorder.

- 1.4 As the first annual report bringing together the full range of licensing functions administered by the Licensing Team, this report presents information on licences and permits in force, compliance outcomes and regulatory activity delivered during 2025/26. The report structure provides members with a single consolidated overview of licensing functions that have historically been reported separately.
- 1.5 Comparative information has been included for 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/2026 where reliable historical data is available. This enables Members to consider longer-term changes across the full range of licensing functions administered by the Council, including licences and permits in force, application volumes, compliance activity, and enforcement outcomes. Detailed information is provided in Appendices 1 to 4.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of this report.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The Licensing Team delivers a broad range of statutory licensing functions on behalf of the Council. These include responsibility for the licensing of alcohol sales, regulated entertainment and late-night refreshment under the Licensing Act 2003, and the regulation of premises-based gambling activities under the Gambling Act 2005. The service also administers legislation relating to street trading, charitable collections, special treatments, scrap metal dealers, sex establishments, campsites and caravan sites, hypnotism, and film classification. Through these functions, the service supports public safety, protects consumers and vulnerable people, promotes responsible business activity, and provides a proportionate regulatory framework that supports both public protection and the city's economy.
- 3.2 **Licensing Team resources:** During 2025-26, the Licensing Team consisted of 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Senior Licensing Officer, 3.02 FTE Licensing Officers and 4 FTE Technical Support Officers. These resources were responsible for administering the Council's licensing functions, processing applications, undertaking compliance, and enforcement activity, supporting Licensing Panels, and contributing to policy development and partnership working across a wide range of licensing regimes.

Staffing Resource	FTE
Senior Licensing Officer	1.0
Licensing Officers	3.02
Technical Support Officers	4.0
Total Establishment	8.02

- 3.3 The establishment outlined above reflects the position during the 2025-26 reporting period. Following the Regulatory Services restructure implemented in April 2026, technical support for Licensing is now provided through a shared Regulatory Services Technical Support Team, supporting Licensing, Food & Safety and Environmental Protection functions.

- 3.4 The revised structure is intended to improve organisational resilience and provide greater flexibility in responding to service demand and operational priorities. Future annual reports will assess the impact of these arrangements on service delivery and performance.
- 3.5 **Service overview:** The team administers a broad range of licensing regimes, processes applications, undertakes compliance and enforcement activity, supports Licensing Panels and policy development, and works with partner agencies to promote public safety and the licensing objectives.
- 3.6 In addition to its core licensing and enforcement functions, the Licensing Team delivered a number of significant policy, partnership, and regulatory initiatives during 2025/26. These included implementation of the revised Statement of Licensing Policy, participation in under-age sales test purchasing programmes, continued promotion of Challenge 25 and the Sensible on Strength initiative, preparation for the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026, and licensing support for major city events including Brighton Festival, Brighton Pride, Boundary Festival, On the Beach events and Fan Zones.
- 3.7 The service continued to work closely with Sussex Police, Responsible Authorities, and neighbouring licensing authorities through established partnership forums, including the Safety Advisory Group, Joint Intelligence Meetings and the East and West Sussex Licensing Group. This collaborative approach supports information sharing, coordinated enforcement activity and the promotion of consistent regulatory standards across the region.
- 3.8 The scope of these responsibilities demonstrates the Licensing Team's role as a public protection service, combining regulatory oversight, compliance monitoring, partnership working, community safety and support for the city's economy, hospitality sector, and major events programme.
- 3.9 Licensing plays a significant role in supporting the city's visitor economy, hospitality sector, and cultural offer by providing a proportionate regulatory framework that enables businesses and event organisers to operate whilst promoting public safety and the licensing objectives.
- 3.10 As this is the first annual Licensing Report covering the full range of licensing functions administered by the Council, information has been drawn from a range of licensing systems, records, and management information sources. Comparative information has been included where reliable historical data is available.
- 3.11 The report provides Members with a clear overview of licensing activity during 2025-26 together with comparative information covering the previous two financial years. This enables trends in service demand, licensing activity, compliance outcomes, and regulatory workload to be identified and considered in the context of future service priorities.
- 3.12 The figures below provide a snapshot of licences, permits, and registrations in force at the year-end together with comparative information within Appendix 1.

Licence Type	2025-2026
Premises licences	1,616
Club Premises Certificates	34
Personal licences (alcohol)	7,028
Gambling premises licences	44
Gambling permits	238
Small Society Lotteries	64
Street trading consents	117
Special treatment premises licences	293
Special treatment practitioner	2184
Scrap metal licences	7
Sex establishments	4
Charitable collections	37
Hypnotism	1
Total	11,774

3.13 The figures demonstrate the scale and diversity of licensed activities operating within Brighton & Hove and the breadth of the Council's licensing responsibilities. In addition, licensing functions recover a significant proportion of their costs through fees and charges prescribed by legislation or set locally where permitted.

3.14 **Licensed activity during 2025-2026:** During 2025-26, the Licensing Team received 1,044 applications across its various licensing functions. In addition, the service processed 780 Temporary Event Notices and supported 41 Licensing Panel hearings.

Activity	2025-2026
Applications received	1044
Licensing Panel hearings	41
Temporary Event Notices	780
Total	1990

3.15 The volume of activity demonstrates the significant workload undertaken by the Licensing Team in administering and regulating licensed activities across the city. A detailed breakdown of licensing activity and demand data, including comparative information , is provided in Appendix 2.

3.16 Whilst overall licensing demand remains high, the comparative data indicates a gradual reduction in application volumes over the last three years. However, increases in certain application types, including new premises licences and full variations, suggest continued investment and change within the licensed sector.

3.17 **Compliance and Enforcement Activity:** The Licensing Team undertakes a programme of compliance, advisory and enforcement activity to promote the licensing objectives and ensure licence holders comply with legislation and licence conditions.

3.18 During 2025-26 officers carried out 102 inspections and 27 enforcement visits. A significant proportion of issues were resolved through advice and early

intervention, resulting in 31 written advice notices and 38 written warnings. Where necessary, formal enforcement action was taken, resulting in 21 suspensions and two revocations. The service also undertook one licence review and one expedited review during the year.

- 3.19 Three licensing appeals were determined during the year. In each case the Council's original decision was upheld by the court, with costs awarded in the Council's favour. Comparative data also shows an increase in suspensions and revocations during the reporting period, indicating that formal enforcement powers continue to be used where advice, engagement and voluntary compliance are not sufficient to address non-compliance.

Enforcement Activity	2025-2026
Inspections	102
Enforcement Visits	27
Written Advice Notices	31
Written Warnings	38
Suspensions	21
Revocations	2
Licence Reviews	1
Expedited Reviews	1
Appeals	3
Total	226

- 3.20 The compliance and enforcement figures presented for 2025-26 demonstrate the Licensing Team's proportionate and intelligence-led approach to regulation. Whilst many issues were resolved through advice, engagement, and early intervention, whilst formal enforcement action is taken where necessary to address more serious or persistent non-compliance.
- 3.21 The compliance and enforcement activity information presented establishes a baseline for future performance reporting and will support more detailed analysis as annual reporting arrangements develop. A detailed breakdown of compliance and enforcement activity, including comparative information where available and reliable, is provided in Appendix 3
- 3.22 **Partnership Working:** Partnership working remains an important aspect of licensing regulation and public protection. During the year, officers continued to work closely with Sussex Police, Responsible Authorities and neighbouring licensing authorities through the Safety Advisory Group, Joint Intelligence Meetings and the East and West Sussex Licensing Group.
- 3.23 These arrangements support intelligence sharing, coordinated enforcement activity and the development of consistent regulatory approaches.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The information presented demonstrates the scale of licensing activity undertaken during 2025/26 and the Licensing Team's contribution to public protection, community safety, and the local economy.
- 4.2 The level of licensing activity reflects the significance of Brighton & Hove's

hospitality, leisure, cultural and visitor economy sectors, and corresponding regulatory responsibilities placed upon the Licensing Team.

- 4.3 The comparative information contained within the appendices enables Members to assess trends in licences and permits in force, application volumes, compliance activity, and enforcement outcomes over a three-year period. The data demonstrates growth in the overall number of licences, permits and registrations administered by the Council, alongside a reduction in application volumes and increased levels of proactive compliance and enforcement activity.
- 4.4 **Licensing Decisions and Outcomes:** Of the 1,044 applications received during the year, 955 were granted, 26 were refused and 63 were withdrawn. Approximately 91% of all applications resulted in a licence being granted.
- 4.5 The relatively low number of refusals indicates that most applications were either capable of being granted as submitted or progressed following engagement between applicants and the Licensing Team during the application process.
- 4.6 The service supported 41 Licensing Panel hearings during the year, demonstrating continued demand for Member involvement in contested licensing matters.
- 4.7 Comparative information relating to licensing decisions and outcomes is included within Appendix 2 where available.
- 4.8 **Compliance and Enforcement Analysis:** The Licensing Team applies a proportionate, risk-based approach to regulation, targeting available resources towards those activities, premises and issues that present the greatest risk to the licensing objectives. The balance of advisory interventions and formal enforcement action demonstrates the continued emphasis on achieving compliance through engagement wherever appropriate, whilst taking robust action where necessary. Comparative information contained within Appendix 3 indicates increasing levels of proactive compliance and enforcement activity over the reporting period. However, Members should note that reliable historic compliance and enforcement data is not available for all activity types. This reflects differences in how activity was recorded and monitored in previous years, resulting in some categories being reported as a new baseline for 2025/26.
- 4.9 **Service Impact and Priorities:** Through the regulation of licensed activities, the Licensing Team supports public safety, responsible business activity, and the city's economy. Key priorities for 2026/27 include maintaining compliance standards, responding to legislative change, supporting major events, delivering policy reviews, and continuing to work closely with partner agencies.
- 4.10 Whilst levels of licensing activity remain high, resource pressures continue to impact the service's ability to undertake proactive compliance and advisory visits across all licensing regimes. The service therefore continues to prioritise activity on a risk and intelligence-led basis, focusing resources on those activities and premises presenting the greatest risk to the licensing objectives.
- 4.11 The comparative information contained within the appendices provides an

improved understanding of licensing activity, compliance outcomes and regulatory demand across the Council's licensing functions. Alongside operational delivery, work will continue during 2026/27 to review and improve performance recording arrangements, data quality, and reporting processes to ensure that a broader range of service activity can be consistently measured and compared over time. This will support future annual reporting and provide Members with a more complete picture of service demand, compliance activity, and regulatory outcomes.

- 4.12 **Alternative Options.** This report is presented for information only and no alternative options have therefore been considered.
- 4.13 **Achievements and Priorities.** In addition to its statutory licensing functions, the Licensing Team has continued to support major city events, lead policy development, deliver partnership initiatives and contribute to a range of multi-agency forums during 2025/26.
- 4.14 The team played a key role in the planning and delivery of several significant events, including Brighton Festival 2025, Brighton & Hove Pride 2025, Boundary Festival, On The Beach events, and Fan Zones established at St Peter's Church for the Women's Rugby World Cup.
- 4.15 A major review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy was completed during the year. The review included a Licensing Summit, public consultation, and Equality Impact Assessment, resulting in the adoption and implementation of a revised Statement of Licensing Policy in January 2026.
- 4.16 Partnership working remains a central component of the team's approach to promoting the licensing objectives. During the year, officers undertook 16 test purchasing operations with Trading Standards and Sussex Police, together with follow-up interventions where required. The team also delivered a Challenge 25 compliance project with Sussex Police involving approximately 20 off-licensed premises, supported by follow-up advisory and enforcement activity.
- 4.17 Prior to Brighton & Hove Pride, officers participated in approximately 140 multi-agency inspections and compliance visits alongside Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and Environmental Protection colleagues to support event safety, preparedness, and regulatory compliance.
- 4.18 The Sensible on Strength (SoS) scheme continues to be promoted through licensing inspections and partnership engagement. Approximately 204 premises are currently accredited, and work is underway to review membership records and support further growth of the initiative.
- 4.19 The comparative information contained within the appendices suggests that many aspects of the service's work remain relatively stable year-on-year. This includes partnership meetings, Safety Advisory Group attendance and Joint Intelligence Meetings, demonstrating the continued importance of partnership working in supporting the licensing objectives.
- 4.20 During 2026/27 the team will continue to support major city events, strengthen partnership working, maintain high levels of compliance activity and build upon initiatives that contribute to the reduction of alcohol-related harm and the

promotion of the licensing objectives. The service also continues to receive a significant number of complaints and enquiries relating to licensed activities, reflecting ongoing public expectations around compliance, public nuisance, community safety, and regulatory intervention where appropriate.

- 4.21 **Challenges and Emerging Pressures:** Whilst the Licensing Team continues to deliver a high volume of licensing, compliance and enforcement activity, several challenges remain. Demand for licensing services continues to be influenced by the scale and diversity of Brighton & Hove's hospitality, leisure, cultural and visitor economy, alongside increasing expectations around public protection, safeguarding, and regulatory compliance. The service must balance support for a thriving night-time economy and major events programme with the need to protect residents from crime, disorder, nuisance, and other adverse impacts. In addition, forthcoming legislative changes, including those arising from the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026, will create new regulatory responsibilities and training requirements. Within the context of finite resources, the service will continue to adopt a proportionate, risk-based, and intelligence-led approach, prioritising activities that present the greatest risk to the licensing objectives whilst seeking to maintain effective engagement with businesses, residents, and partner agencies.
- 4.22 **Looking Ahead: Risks, Emerging Issues and Priorities:** While levels of licensing activity remain high, maintaining a programme of proactive compliance and enforcement visits continues to present a challenge. Such visits play an important role in promoting the licensing objectives, identifying non-compliance at an early stage, and supporting businesses to meet their legal responsibilities.
- 4.23 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) remains a key priority across community safety, policing, and public protection services. The Licensing Team will continue to work with partner agencies, licensed premises, and event organisers to consider how licensing policy, licence conditions, training, and compliance activity can contribute to wider efforts to improve safety and reduce violence, harassment, and intimidation within the night-time economy.
- 4.24 A key priority for 2026/27 will be preparing for the implementation of provisions contained within the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026. The legislation introduces a smoke-free generation and new regulatory controls relating to vaping products, with implementation being introduced in phases from 2027. The Council will continue to monitor national guidance and prepare for any local regulatory and enforcement implications.
- 4.25 During 2026/27 the Council will also undertake a review of its Statement of Gambling Policy to ensure it remains up to date, reflects current legislation and guidance, and continues to support the licensing objectives under the Gambling Act 2005.
- 4.26 Further information regarding the Licensing Team's projects, partnership activity, policy development, key achievements during 2025/26, and looking ahead is provided in Appendix 4.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The Licensing Team routinely engages with licence holders, trade representatives, Sussex Police, neighbouring licensing authorities, and other stakeholders in the exercise of its statutory functions.
- 5.2 Engagement also takes place through public consultation processes, licensing applications, policy reviews, partnership meetings and regular liaison with businesses and stakeholders.
- 5.3 No formal consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report as it is presented for information only.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 This report is for information purposes only and has no direct financial implications.

Name of finance officer consulted: David Wilder
Date consulted (09/09/2026)

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 The Council has statutory responsibilities for the administration and enforcement of licensing functions under a range of legislation, including the Licensing Act 2003, the Gambling Act 2005, and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The activities outlined in this report have been undertaken in accordance with those statutory powers and duties.
- 7.2 This report is for information only and does not require Members to make a regulatory decision.

Name of lawyer consulted:
Date consulted (16/09/2026):

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1 Licensing functions contribute to the creation of safe and accessible environments for residents and visitors. Through its regulatory activities, the Council seeks to protect vulnerable people, promote public safety and ensure licensed activities are carried out responsibly.
- 8.2 The Licensing Team works closely with Responsible Authorities and partner agencies to ensure licensing decisions carefully consider potential impacts on protected groups and support the Council's wider equality objectives.

9. Sustainability implications

- 9.1 The licensing framework supports the city's economic, social, and environmental sustainability by enabling businesses and events to operate within an appropriate regulatory framework while protecting local communities and public spaces.
- 9.2 Licensing also supports the vitality of Brighton & Hove's hospitality, leisure,

tourism, and cultural sectors, which make an important contribution to the city's economy.

10. Other Implications [delete any or all that are not applicable]

Social Value and procurement implications

- 10.1 There are no direct social value or procurement implications arising from this report.

Crime & disorder implications:

- 10.2 Licensing plays an important role in supporting the prevention of crime and disorder through the regulation of licensed activities, partnership working and enforcement activity where necessary.

Public health implications:

- 10.3 The Licensing Team supports public health objectives through the regulation of licensed premises and activities, participation in initiatives such as Challenge 25 and Sensible on Strength, and by promoting safe and responsible operating practices across the licensed sector and through its contribution to wider public health and safeguarding objectives.

11. Conclusion

- 11.1 The Licensing Team continues to deliver an extensive programme of regulatory, compliance and enforcement activity across a diverse range of licensing regimes. During 2025/26 the service supported over 11,800 licences, permits and registrations, processed more than 1,000 applications and administered a significant programme of compliance and enforcement activity.
- 11.2 The report demonstrates the important contribution licensing makes to public protection, community safety, the visitor economy, and the effective management of major events. It also establishes a baseline for future annual reporting and performance monitoring, enabling Members to track trends, service demand, and regulatory outcomes over time.

Supporting Documentation

Appendix 1: Current Licensing and Permits Comparative Data.

Appendix 2: Licensing Activity and Demand Data.

Appendix 3: Compliance and Enforcement Activity Data.

Appendix 4: Projects, Partnerships, and Key Initiatives 2025-2026.

Appendix 1 - Current Licences and Permits Comparative Data

Licence Type	Licence Category	2025/2026	2024/2025	2023/2024	Trend
Charitable Collections	House-to-House Collection Permit	12	14	15	↓ Decreasing
Charitable Collections	Street Collection Permit	25	28	39	↓ Decreasing
Gambling Act	Gambling (Club Machine Permit)	11	12	12	↓ Decreasing
Gambling Act	Gambling (Adult Gaming Centre)	9	9	9	→ Stable
Gambling Act	Gambling (Betting)	24	24	24	→ Stable
Gambling Act	Gambling (Track)	2	2	2	→ Stable
Gambling Act	Gambling (Bingo)	5	5	5	→ Stable
Gambling Act	Gambling (Casino)	4	4	4	→ Stable
Gambling Act	Gambling (Club Gaming Permit)	3	3	3	→ Stable
Gambling Act	Gambling (Family Entertainment Centre)	1	2	3	↓ Decreasing
Gambling Act	Gambling (Occasional Use Notice)	0	0	0	→ Stable
Gambling Act	Gambling (Temporary Use Notice)	0	0	0	→ Stable
Gambling Act	Gambling (Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre Permit)	7	5	5	↑ Increasing
Gambling Act	Gaming Machine Notification (2 machines) Alcohol Licensed Premises	190	190	187	→ Stable
Gambling Act	Gaming machine notification (more than 2 machines)	18	23	23	↓ Decreasing
Gambling Act	Small Society Lottery (New)	23	21	17	↑ Increasing
Gambling Act	Small Society Lottery (Renew)	64	70	69	↓ Decreasing
Hypnotism	Hypnotism	2	1	1	↑ Increasing
Licensing Act	Club Premises Certificate	34	43	43	↓ Decreasing
Licensing Act	Community Premises Licence	27	27	27	→ Stable
Licensing Act	Interim Authority Notice	2	1	1	↑ Increasing
Licensing Act	Notification of Interest	62	74	57	↕ Fluctuating
Licensing Act	Personal Licence	7028	6736	6396	↑ Increasing
Licensing Act	Premises Licence	1616	1722	1703	↓ Decreasing
Scrap Metal	Scrap Metal Collectors Licence	3	3	6	↓ Decreasing
Scrap Metal	Scrap Metal Site Licence	4	5	5	↓ Decreasing
Sex Establishments	Sex Shop	2	2	2	→ Stable
Sex Establishments	Sexual Entertainment Venue	2	3	3	↓ Decreasing
Special Treatments	Skin Piercing Person Registration	2184	2009	1754	↑ Increasing
Special Treatments	Skin Piercing Premises Registration	293	262	229	↑ Increasing
Street Trading	Street Market	3	4	3	↕ Fluctuating
Street Trading	Street Trader - Upper Gardner Street	79	72	76	↕ Fluctuating
Street Trading	Street Trader - Zone A	1	2	1	→ Stable
Street Trading	Street Trader - Zone B	34	32	44	↕ Fluctuating
Total		11,774	11,410	10,768	↑ Increasing

Trend	Year-on-Year
→ Stable = no material change or unchanged across years	2023/24 → 2024/25: +5.96%
↑ Increasing = consistent upward trend	2024/25 → 2025/26: + 3.19%
↓ Decreasing = consistent downward trend	Overall increase since 2023/24: +9.4%
↕ Fluctuating = rises and falls between years	

Appendix 2 - Licensing Activity and Demand data

Application Type	2025/2026	2024/2025	2023/2024	Trend
New Campsite Licence/Registration	0	0	0	→ Stable
New Caravan Site Licence	0	0	0	→ Stable
House to House Collection Permit	8	7	10	↓ Fluctuating
Street Collection Permit	27	28	38	↓ Decreasing
Film Classification Request	59	81	54	↓ Fluctuating
Gaming Machine Notification (2 machines) Alcohol Licensed Premises	2	6	11	↓ Decreasing
Gaming machine notification (more than 2 machines) Alcohol Licensed Premises	2	0	2	↓ Fluctuating
Permit (Club Gaming Certificate)	1	0	0	↑ Increasing
Permit (Club Machine)	0	2	0	↓ Decreasing
Premises (New)	1	0	0	↑ Increasing
Premises Casino (Variation)	2	0	0	↑ Increasing
Small Society Lottery (New)	23	21	17	↑ Increasing
Small Society Lottery (Renew)	64	70	69	↑ Increasing
Permit (Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centre)	2	0	0	↓ Fluctuating
Hypnotism Consent Application	2	0	4	↓ Decreasing
Club Premises Certificate (New)	0	1	1	→ Stable
Interim Authority Notice	1	0	1	↓ Fluctuating
Notification of Interest	13	29	13	↑ Increasing
Personal Licence (New)	279	280	274	↓ Fluctuating
Personal Licence (notification)	1	0	1	↑ Increasing
Premises Licence (Minor Variation)	52	65	59	↓ Fluctuating
Premises Licence (New)	70	58	62	↑ Increasing
Premises Licence (New) (Time Limited)	3	3	7	↓ Decreasing
Premises Licence (Transfer)	95	117	95	↓ Decreasing
Premises Licence (Vary)	38	25	29	↑ Increasing
Premises Licence Review (Summary & Expedited)	3	3	3	→ Stable
Temporary Event Notice (Late)	189	217	282	↓ Decreasing
Temporary Event Notice (Standard)	591	602	774	↓ Decreasing
Vary Designated Premises Supervisor	153	149	155	↓ Fluctuating
Collector Licence	0	1	0	↓ Fluctuating
Site Licence (new and renewal)	2	0	1	↑ Increasing
Sex Shop (Renewal)	2	2	2	→ Stable
Sexual Entertainment Venue (Renewal)	2	3	3	↓ Decreasing
Skin Piercing Person Registration	183	256	278	↓ Decreasing
Skin Piercing Premises Registration	36	43	59	↑ Increasing
Hot chestnut seller	1	0	1	→ Stable
Street artist	1	1	1	→ Stable
Street Market	0	2	2	↓ Decreasing
Street Trader - Upper Gardner Street	17	26	41	→ Stable
Street Trader - Zone A	1	1	1	↑ Increasing
Street Trader - Zone B (mobiles)	23	26	17	↓ Decreasing
Total applications	1949	2125	2367	↓ Decreasing

Trend	Year-on-Year	
→ Stable = no material change or unchanged across years	2023/24 → 2024/25:	-10.2%
↑ Increasing = consistent upward trend	2024/25 → 2025/26:	-8.30%
↓ Decreasing = consistent downward trend	Overall reduction since 2023/24:	-17.7%
↕ Fluctuating = rises and falls between years		

Appendix 3 - Compliance and Enforcement Activity Data

Compliance and Enforcement Activity	2025/2026	2024/2025	2023/2024	Trend
Inspections	102	n/a	n/a	New Baseline
Enforcement Visits	27	n/a	n/a	New Baseline
Test Purchase Operations	16	3	1	↑ Increasing
Written Advice	31	n/a	n/a	New Baseline
Written Warnings	38	n/a	n/a	New Baseline
Simple Cautions	0	0	0	→ Stable
Fixed Penalty Notices	0	0	0	→ Stable
Suspensions	21	5	16	↑ Increasing
Revocations	2	0	1	↑ Increasing
Prosecutions	0	0	0	→ Stable
Licence Reviews	1	3	2	↓ Decreasing
Expedited Reviews	1	0	1	→ Stable
Appeals Lodged	3	1	3	↑ Increasing
Appeals Determined	3	n/a	n/a	New Baseline
Appeals Successfully Defended	3	n/a	n/a	New Baseline
Costs Awarded to the Council	3	n/a	n/a	New Baseline
Joint Operations with Other Agencies	22	n/a	n/a	↑ Increasing
Closure Notices	0	0	0	→ Stable
Closure Orders	0	0	0	↓ Fluctuating
Enquiries / Complaints Received	741	922	875	↓ Fluctuating
Complaints Investigated	741	922	875	↓ Fluctuating
Out-of-Hours Operation visits	29	65	63	↓ Decreasing
Partnership Meetings Attended	4	4	4	→ Stable
Safety Advisory Group Meetings Attended	12	12	12	→ Stable
Joint Intelligence Meetings Attended	24	24	24	→ Stable
Totals	1824	1961	1877	↓ Fluctuating

Trend	Year-on-Year	
→ Stable = no material change or unchanged across years	2023/24 → 2024/25:	+4.5%
↑ Increasing = consistent upward trend	2024/25 → 2025/26:	- 7.0%
↓ Decreasing = consistent downward trend	Overall increase since 2023/24:	-2.8%
↕ Fluctuating = rises and falls between years		
New Baseline = no historic comparison available		

Appendix 4 - Projects, Partnerships, and Key Initiatives 2025/26

Major Events Supported

Project/Event	Description
Brighton Festival 2025	Licensing support and regulatory oversight for one of the city's flagship cultural events.
Brighton & Hove Pride 2025	Multi-agency planning, compliance, and event support activity.
Boundary Festival 2025	Licensing and regulatory support for major outdoor music event.
On The Beach	Ongoing licensing involvement in planning and delivery of beachfront events.
Rugby World Cup Fan Zones	Regulatory support for fan zone activities at St Peter's Church.

Policy Development

Activity	Outcome
Statement of Licensing Policy Review	Comprehensive review including Licensing Summit, stakeholder consultation, and Equality Impact Assessment.
New Policy Implementation	Revised Statement of Licensing Policy implemented in January 2026.

Partnership Working and Compliance Projects

Activity	Outcome
Test Purchasing Operations	16 visits undertaken jointly with Trading Standards and Sussex Police, with follow-up meetings and interventions.
Challenge 25 Compliance Project	Approximately 20 off-licence visits undertaken with Sussex Police using a volunteer aged over 18 but under 25, followed by advisory letters and re-test visits where appropriate.
Pre-Pride Multi-Agency Inspections	Approximately 140 inspections completed jointly with Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and Environmental Protection.

Appendix 4 - Projects, Partnerships, and Key Initiatives 2025/26

Key Initiatives

Initiative	Progress
Sensible on Strength (SoS)	Around 204 accredited premises. Initiative promoted through inspections and partnership working. Membership records are being reviewed and premises revisited to support future expansion of the scheme.

Partnership Forums and Engagement

Forum/Activity	Frequency
Safety Advisory Group (SAG)	Monthly virtual meetings.
Joint Intelligence Meeting (JIM)	Fortnightly virtual meetings chaired by the Licensing Team.
East and West Sussex Licensing Group (EWSSLG)	Attendance at two in-person meetings (Crawley) and two virtual meetings each year.

Looking Ahead

Key Risks

- Maintaining sufficient levels of proactive compliance and enforcement activity across all licensing regimes.
- Balancing increasing workloads alongside statutory responsibilities and partnership commitments.

Emerging Issues

- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and the role of licensing in supporting wider community safety objectives.
- Responding to new national policy and legislative developments affecting the licensed trade.

Priorities for 2026/27

- Prepare for implementation of the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026, including the introduction of smoke-free generation provisions and new vape regulations.
- Complete the review and adoption of the Council's Statement of Gambling Policy.
- Continue to strengthen partnership working and intelligence-led enforcement activity.

Appendix 4 - Projects, Partnerships, and Key Initiatives 2025/26

- Increase proactive compliance visits where resources allow.
- Support the safe delivery of major city events and promote the licensing objectives across all licensed sectors.

