



**Join the Conversation**



# **Joint Licensing Act Policy Review**

## **SUMMARY REPORT**

**A review of the feedback on the Joint Licensing Act Policy consultation.**

**NOVEMBER 2025**

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**Note:** When stating percentages in the analysis, we are referring to the percentage of respondents that answered the specific question, rather than the total number of responses to the overall survey. Response percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding up over .5 and rounding down under .5. Words that appear in italics are quotes taken from comments received

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been produced by council officers to analyse the comments received to the Licensing Act Policy consultation. The policy was due a review, which resulted in updates to legislation and expansion to various sections of the policy to provide further detail and to add more clarity. The councils consulted the public for a six-week period from Thursday 4 September until 11:59pm on Thursday 16 October 2025.

A total of 30 responses were received, with the majority (80 per cent) from individuals/members of the public and 14 per cent from district, county or town/parish councillor (7 per cent) and district, county or town/parish officers (7 per cent).

## Key findings

### Level of agreement to the overall policy

Respondents were asked how far they agree or disagree with the proposed licensing policy. The majority (73 per cent) expressed agreement, more specifically 53 per cent agreeing and 20 per cent strongly agreeing. Conversely, 6 per cent expressed a level of disagreement, with 3 percent selecting strongly disagree and 3 per cent selecting disagree.

### Frequently mentioned qualitative feedback

We asked respondents to provide their qualitative comments on the proposed Licensing Policy. 13 comments were received, with some resulting in additional amendments or additions to the policy which will be reviewed by the committees, ready for adoption. Other comments covered topics around national statutory guidance, and retail of vapes which cannot be amended by the councils as it is not regulated by the licensing policy. The Licensing Team is liaising separately with Public Health, one of the respondents, and that work will continue separate to the policy document itself and this will result in revised guidance and local alcohol profiles to better inform applicants.

### Support for local businesses

We want to ensure we are supporting local businesses. The consultation included a section asking businesses/originations to provide their feedback if they felt that any part of the licensing policy makes it harder for small businesses to succeed. 8 qualitative comments were received with the most frequently mentioned item being Martyn's Law which is a legislative requirement and therefore not something being imposed by the Councils. Any information provided by the Government or the relevant regulator (the Security Industry Authority) will be shared as this becomes available.

### How we have used the results of the consultation

Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation. All the comments have been reviewed, and an officer has provided a response where required. This report along with the proposed licensing policy will be shared with the Licensing Committees in January 2026, who will make a recommendation to the Councils who will make the final decision to adopt the policy.

# ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

We contacted members of the public, businesses/organisations and statutory consultees from Thursday 4 September until 11:59pm on Thursday 16 October 2025 for a six-week period.

A survey was conducted to gather feedback regarding the proposed inclusion and updates to the policy.

**2,209** notifications were sent to members of the public and businesses/organisations via the council's consultation database (including emails and letters), and shared with statutory consultees, such as Trading Standards, Thames Valley Police and Environmental Health etc. The consultation was also promoted on the council's social media platforms, Facebook, Instagram and Nextdoor.

## Reporting methodology

The qualitative comments received to the consultation are included in this report, alongside an officer response. Please note, the purple response ID numbers indicate that the comments come from the same respondent, but they've been separated in the report to make it easier to read.

Any personal information supplied to us within the comments that could identify anyone has been redacted and will not be shared or published in the report. Further information on data protection is available in our general consultation's privacy statement on our [South](#) or [Vale](#) website.

Some spelling, grammatical and punctual errors in the original comments raised were corrected in the main body of this report.

# QUANTITATIVE AND QUALATATIVE DATA

## Are you responding as:

Most of the respondents are individuals/members of the public (80 per cent). 14 per cent of respondents represent a district, county or town/parish councillor (7 per cent) and a town/parish officer (7 per cent).

Option	Total	Percent
A business/organisation	1	3%
A district, county or town/parish councillor	2	7%
A district, county or town/parish officer	2	7%
An individual/member of the public	24	80%
Other (please specify below):	1	3%

## What is the name of your business, organisation, council or body you're representing?

- Brightwell Vineyard
- Thames Valley Police - SODC area

## Is the business you own or represent considered a small business?

Two respondents answered this question (6 per cent), with one (3 per cent) considering their business as small, whilst the other does not (3 per cent).

In the UK, a small business is typically defined as a company with fewer than 50 employees.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	1	3%
No	1	3%
Not applicable	0	0%
Not Answered	28	93%

## How far do you agree or disagree with the proposed licensing policy?

73 per cent of respondents expressed agreement with the proposed licensing policy, more specifically 53 per cent agree and 20 per cent strongly agree, whilst 6 per cent expressed disagreement with 3 per cent disagreeing and another 3 per cent strongly disagreeing.

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	6	20%
Agree	16	53%
Neither agree nor disagree	6	20%
Disagree	1	3%
Strongly disagree	1	3%

**If you have any comments on the proposed Licensing Policy, please provide your comments below.**

43 per cent of respondents provided qualitative feedback to the licensing policy which is provided below alongside an officer response. Please note, for ease of reading the comments have been separated from respondents who addressed multiple sections of the policy.

Response ID	If you have any comments on the proposed Licensing Policy, please provide your comments below	Para ref.	Officer response
ANON-UZUR-3GVS-S	The policy changes are generally beneficial as people should feel safe and be safe on a night out. From the policy I am not sure how they will be 'policed', and am conflicted about adding all of these additional responsibilities on landlords who are already having a tough time.	None	The additions to the policy are in the main for guidance and reference and will not require 'policing'. The only mandatory requirement added which may incur a cost is Martyn's Law but this is not a matter imposed by the councils and will not fall within our enforcement responsibilities.
ANON-UZUR-3GVH-E	It is already too complex. This adds yet more layers that are impossible to monitor without an army of people who would be better employed elsewhere	None	Officers do not feel the policy document is complex and without specific examples cannot comment further on this response. The additions to the policy are in the main for guidance and reference and will not require any additional resource within the licensing team.
ANON-UZUR-3GV6-V	I could not see the economic impact of the changes. I think the hospitality sector already faces a lot of burdens and would want to be reassured that these changes will not add to the burdens.	None	The additions to the policy are in the main for guidance and reference and will not necessarily be applicable to all business types. The only mandatory requirement added which may incur a cost is Martyn's Law but this is not a matter imposed by the councils.
ANON-UZUR-3GVA-7	You talk about women and girls which, in my mind, is top priority but there may be vulnerable men and boys which may be affected as well. Should they not be included.	5.14	The safeguarding section is aimed at protection of all vulnerable persons. The inclusion of the paragraph to deter violence against women and girls is due to this being a national policing priority, but this does not mean that violence against men and boys is any less important.

ANON-UZUR-3GVQ-Q	I have reviewed the new policy and am content that all of the changes from the previous policy are clear and reasonable.	None	This comment is noted.
ANON-UZUR-3GV2-R	<p>1.11 The Licensing Authority, on behalf of the councils, may notify parties they consider appropriate such as district councillors, town and parish councils of relevant applications.</p> <p>I feel that the local parish council should be notified of any application or review etc as a requirement in all cases, and it should not be a matter for discretion. The 'may' should become a 'must', and if this is considered too onerous, it should be done to the local parish council to state whether they want to be notified of all applications. Just advertising them in a local paper is not a good enough way for local consultation to occur, as errors of inclusion in the wrong paper for an area, or the omission by the paper's editor can result in the proper consultation not taking place.</p> <p>Also it seems daft to possibly have the situation where you can issue a licence for a venue that does not have planning permission.</p>	1.11 and 1.5	<p>We consult all statutory consultees on applications as outlined in the legislation. We are in the process of migrating to a new licensing database and we hope that in due course this will notify other bodies such as parish councils. Officers do check that the notice has been placed in a newspaper circulating in the local area (which is the legislative requirement) so notices in an incorrect paper would not be accepted.</p> <p>In respect of the comment reference planning permission, this is within national statutory guidance so this is not something we can change.</p>
ANON-UZUR-3GVP-P	Adding all this extra verbiage will just make things more confusing, vague and difficult. Keep it simple. Keep it as it is. It doesn't need unnecessary enhancement.	None	Thank you for your feedback, but without specific examples we cannot comment further on this.
ANON-UZUR-3G5E-A	The policy does not sufficiently consider the location of the licenced premises, for example in rural areas, where access is likely to be by car. While the law on driving while intoxicated is clear, the location of some premises may result in an increased risk of drivers being over the legal limit for alcohol. I think that rural access to licensed premises by private motor car is a risk to other road users, particularly vulnerable users like cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders.	None	Many licensed premises are situated in rural areas and not all those attending will drink alcohol; it would not be proportionate to prohibit licensed premises in rural areas for this reason. Any concerns about drink-driving should be reported to the Police for action.
ANON-UZUR-3G5Z-Y	It's positive to see increased safeguarding measures such as Ask Angela, Martyn's Law and details about prevention of spiking.	4.20-4.21, 5.15, 5.21	This comment is noted.

ANON-UZUR-3G5X-W	<p>Prevention of public nuisance</p> <p>6.1 Public nuisance is a broad concept, which concerns how the activity of one person (or business) affects the amenity of other persons living and working in the area of the licensed premises, for example, how noise from playing music interferes with another person's right to sleep, or adverse impacts from light or odour.</p> <p>6.2 The Act requires, and the Licensing Authority expects, applicants to demonstrate within their operating schedule how they intend to prevent public nuisance arising. This will be of particular importance where there are residential properties in the vicinity of the licensed premises.</p> <p>6.3 When appropriate on application or review the Licensing Authority will consider the adequacy of proposed measures to remove or effectively manage the potential for public nuisance, anti-social behaviour and other crime which may impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives.</p> <p>6.4 When an operating schedule does not sufficiently address the prevention of public nuisance the Licensing Authority will consider all reasonable conditions suggested by responsible authorities in any relevant representation to prevent public nuisance. In some locations it may be appropriate and proportionate to limit opening hours, the times of licensable activities or the types of licensable activities taking place.</p> <p>6.5 Where considerations apply to late night refreshment premises, they shall only be taken to apply to their operation between the hours when a premises licence would be required.</p> <p>6.6 Applicants should carefully consider how they intend to promote the prevention of public nuisance objective in their operating schedule. This can include several considerations:</p>	6.1 to 6.6 <b>Any issues with noise from a licensed premises should be reported to Environmental Protection in the first instance. They will assess whether there is a public (or statutory) nuisance and/or breach of licence conditions and will liaise with licensing officers as required.</b>
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	Question: how do you ensure that noise considerations are being followed in the license application - I live near a village all and when events are taking places in the hall I find I have to close my bedroom windows and wear earplugs and can still hear the noise :-(		
ANON-UZUR-3GUN-K	Things that should be non-negotiable for any pub, restaurant or venue are safeguarding, the safety of women & girls, participation in Ask Angela, drink spiking awareness (and a clear plan on what to do if it's suspected), plus zero tolerance of drugs & violence.	4.20-4.21, 5.11-5.17	This comment is noted.
BHLF-UZUR-3GUA-6	4.20 /4.21  Far to many Turkish barbers selling vapes in Abingdon. This is a national problem which no-one takes responsibilities for. I THINK there are at least six in Abingdon 2 being only 3-4 doors apart in the high street!	4.20-4.21	This comment is noted but retail of vapes and similar products is not something within the remit of the Licensing team and therefore not something we can consider within the policy.
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	The Alcohol Harm Reduction section of the policy is very welcomed, however it makes repeated references to the Local Alcohol Profile on the council website but the data within the profile is 4-5 years out of date. The alcohol profile should be updated with the more recent data and kept up-to-date or otherwise removed. Also, the weblink should be included so that readers know where to go. Other data sources that might be helpful for alcohol related data include <a href="https://data.oxfordshire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/community-insight-profiles/">https://data.oxfordshire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/community-insight-profiles/</a>  (Abingdon Caldecott and Berinsfield have their own community insight profiles). The Oxfordshire Data Hub more generally may also be useful <a href="https://data.oxfordshire.gov.uk/">https://data.oxfordshire.gov.uk/</a>	2.9	We will liaise with Public Health to develop new LAPs separately to the policy to ensure that these remain up to date.
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	Please change terminology in 2.8, 5.7 and 5.8 from alcohol misuse to alcohol use. The term misuse can be stigmatising for some people and we therefore try to refrain from using this term in Public Health.	2.8, 5.8, 5.10	Wording updated throughout policy accordingly (paragraph numbers changed for final draft).
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	Section 4 (consumption of alcohol) please include a statement about it being an offence to sell alcohol to a drunk person (section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003) and also that alcohol should be stored securely, when on premises, at all time (to	4.10	Added reference to section 141 in 4.10. There is no requirement within the Act (section 19 or otherwise) to ensure that alcohol is stored securely, but we will look to add this as a model condition

	prevent theft or misuse – section 19 of Licensing Act 2003).		in our Applicant and Licence Holder Guidance document.
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	4.11 – as well as avoiding promotions that encourage irresponsible drinking, please could external promotions be added. I.e. “Promotions, including external promotions, that encourage irresponsible consumption of alcohol should be avoided...” The avoidance of external alcohol promotions (e.g. A boards outside a REDACTED) is particularly relevant where street drinking is an issue and in areas where alcohol dependency and homelessness is higher.	4.11	Section 4.11 relates to a specific mandatory condition which does not prohibit external advertising of promotions, but rather the promotions themselves. This is however already included at section 4.22, and we will also look to add this as a model condition in our Applicant and Licence Holder Guidance document.
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	4.11 – Related to the advertising and promotion of alcohol, we'd recommend including something about discouraging the promotion (internal and external) of high, fat, salt sugar foods. This recommendation stems from the county's action as part of our Whole Systems Approach to healthy weight pillar 'healthier weight environments' to introduce planning policy (local plans, health impact assessment) to limit proliferation of less healthy food vendors especially around places where children and young people go'. It also relates to the National Planning Policy Framework which states local planning authorities should refuse applications for hot food takeaways and fast-food outlets that are near where children congregate (unless in a designated town centre) <a href="https://foodactive.org.uk/reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-announced-food-active-response/">https://foodactive.org.uk/reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-announced-food-active-response/</a>	4.11	As above, this mandatory condition only relates to irresponsible promotions reference consumption of alcohol. There is no ability within the Act to govern the type of food sold at late night refreshment premises.
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	In 4.19, we'd recommend adding to this sentence the following: 'It may also be appropriate to have procedures in place such as regular toilet checks and staff training to recognise the signs of drug taking on a premises. Staff may also be trained on recognising the signs of overdose and emergency harm reduction measures such as naloxone usage. Further information about naloxone, including where to get a free naloxone pack and training on its use, is available at <a href="https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/social-and-health-care/public-health-and-wellbeing/alcohol-and-drugs/alcohol-or-drug-use-support">https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/social-and-health-care/public-health-and-wellbeing/alcohol-and-drugs/alcohol-or-drug-use-support</a>	4.19	Wording added to 4.19

ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	4.21 – we'd strongly recommend that training should include how staff can spot the signs and symptoms of people who have had their drink spiked, and how to respond if they suspect someone has been spiked	4.21	Wording added to 4.21
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	In section 5 (alcohol harm reduction), we would propose adding the following statement “We aim to ensure that alcohol is sold and supplied responsibly, to prevent alcohol intoxication where possible, and prevent the sale of alcohol to underage persons. We also aim to ensure the availability of alcohol does not foster a supportive environment for people who are dependent on alcohol and need to reduce their drinking.”	5.5	Wording added as 5.5.
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	Section 5.8 – these statistics are out of date. The new 10-year health plan presents some more recent figures for the cost of alcohol to society (page 66) – “The estimated total societal cost of alcohol harm in England was £27.4 billion per year in 2021 to 2022 <sup>144</sup> , equivalent to over 1.2% of GDP. While many people enjoy a drink in moderation, 4% of people drink as much as 30% of alcohol consumed each year <sup>145</sup> .” The link to the new 10 year health plan is <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6888a0b1a11f859994409147/fit-for-the-future-10-year-health-plan-for-england.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6888a0b1a11f859994409147/fit-for-the-future-10-year-health-plan-for-england.pdf</a>	5.9	Wording updated (now section 5.9).
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	In section 5.8, please could you expand on what is meant by “[Higher risk of alcohol misuse] is also seen in higher proportion in areas of deprivation and increases health inequality”. The current wording may not resonate with a lay audience. See suggested wording below. “Research has shown there is a link between increased availability of alcohol and increased alcohol consumption. However, the impacts of alcohol consumption in a population are not felt equally across society. Increased levels of deprivation are associated with increased levels of alcohol-related harm. Higher rates of deaths from alcohol and higher rates of alcohol-related hospital admissions have been reported in more deprived areas, despite similar or lower levels of alcohol consumption when compared to less deprived areas. In the UK, alcohol-specific	5.9	Wording updated (now section 5.9).

	<p>mortality was reported as 2.13 times higher in the most deprived communities, despite a higher proportion of the population from the least deprived communities drinking above recommended limits" Reference: <a href="https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/research/research-and-evaluation-reports/drinking-and-deprivation-in-england/">https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/research/research-and-evaluation-reports/drinking-and-deprivation-in-england/</a> and <a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph24">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph24</a></p>		
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	5.9 – please can you update this section to the latest data from the JSNA: <a href="https://data.oxfordshire.gov.uk/deprivation/map/">https://data.oxfordshire.gov.uk/deprivation/map/</a>	5.10	Link updated (now section 5.10)
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	5.12 – recommend adding a weblink so the reader can find more information about safeguarding and child exploitation training <a href="https://www.osab.co.uk/learning-zone/osab-core-adult-safeguarding-courses/">https://www.osab.co.uk/learning-zone/osab-core-adult-safeguarding-courses/</a> and <a href="https://training.oscp.org.uk/events-list">https://training.oscp.org.uk/events-list</a>	5.14	Added (now section 5.14)
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	5.17 – please can you be more specific about how applicants find the schemes that operate in their area. If contact details may change throughout the policy's lifetime, could signposting to the Community Safety Partnership be one example (providing they have a generic email address)? Without the contact details, the information is tricky for readers/applicants to act on	5.17	Added Community Safety team contact information.
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	In section 5 (maybe in safeguarding), please could something be included about managing people who are under the influence in terms of safety. For example, we would suggest including some wording around not kicking people who are under the influence out of a premises onto a street where they will be more vulnerable, but instead providing them with a safe space to 'come around', giving them some free drinking water, calling a licensed taxi or contacting a friend/family member. Consider using local welfare services or street pastors if available. Ensuring all staff are trained in conflict resolution, alcohol awareness, and customer welfare. Having a clear intoxication policy and enforce it consistently... that sort of thing. This will support public safety, help prevent vulnerable people from being exposed to harmful environments and help to reduce the risk of alcohol-related injuries, violence and hospital admissions.	5.11-5.13,5.17	Any points not already covered in this section have been added into sections 5.11 and 5.13 where appropriate.

ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	6.14 and 6.15 – we would suggest you include the email or link to contact the Environmental Protection team.	6.14,6.15	<a href="#">Added to 6.14</a>
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	<p>Section 7 – proxy sales – we would suggest that the policy defines what this means and outline some example steps a premises can take to mitigate proxy sales, for example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular checks around and/or outside the premises for underage persons encouraging adults to purchase alcohol for them</li> <li>- Use of CCTV, particularly in external areas</li> <li>- Displaying prominent notices in the premises explaining the law in relation to purchasing alcohol on behalf of persons under 18 and the penalties involved</li> </ul>	7.12,7.14	<a href="#">Definition added to 7.12 and steps added at 7.14.</a>
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	<p>7.13 – in relation to alcohol delivery services, this is a really key and concerning area for Public Health so please could something be added about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the importance of implementing the challenge 25 policy at the point of purchase and when the alcohol is delivered (to prevent underage sales of alcohol)</li> <li>b) that the alcohol is only left to the named purchaser</li> <li>c) that the alcohol should only be delivered to a fixed address (i.e. not an open space or public park) to prevent street drinking</li> <li>d) If the recipient of the delivery exhibits signs of intoxication, the delivery of alcohol shall be withheld.</li> <li>e) that delivery staff have been given proper training in procedures relating to requesting and identifying proof of age and implement these procedures as standard.</li> </ol> <p>Alcohol delivery services pose a big risk to the four licensing objectives and we believe a section specifically for alcohol delivery services is warranted in the policy.</p>	7.13	<a href="#">Added at 4.22 (crime and disorder) and added more detail to 7.22 (protection of children from harm). Delivery services are also covered in public safety (5.14) and in addition there is a specific section on these in our Applicant and Licence Holder Guidance.</a>
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	There are many comments throughout the policy about premises staff being trained for example, in crime, violence against women and girls and alcohol. We would	None	<a href="#">Added at 3.17.</a>

	suggest recommending how often staff training should be refreshed e.g. annually.		
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	We would be interested to know the reasons for the councils not adopting the late night levy or the early morning alcohol restriction order. From a Public Health perspective, the late night levy is beneficial because it discourages late night alcohol sales and therefore helps reduce binge drinking, alcohol related injuries and hospital admissions. Similarly, early morning restriction orders limit access to alcohol during hours that are associated with binge drinking, violence and accidents. This can lead to fewer emergency hospital admissions, ambulance call outs and alcohol related injuries. Reducing late-night alcohol consumption can also help lower rates of alcohol dependency, sleep disruption, mental health issues, street violence, vandalism and noise complaints linked to excessive drinking. Wider benefits of early morning restriction orders also include less litter, vomit and broken glass in public areas which can improve public safety.	18.1018. 15	<p>An EMRO restricts the time after which alcohol may be sold or supplied, with the time being set by the Licensing Authority being between midnight and 06:00. These are intended to deal with recurring problems of alcohol-related crime and disorder, public nuisance and anti-social behaviour that cannot be attributed to individual premises. As far as officers are aware, to date, not a single EMRO has been brought into effect in England or Wales. The licensing authority has not been provided with details of any such concerns to warrant the consideration of an EMRO.</p> <p>The late night levy is a method of raising revenue in relation to the costs of policing crime and disorder connected to the late night economy, and no request to consider this has been received from Thames Valley Police. Officers are not aware of any LNLs in place outside of London other than Chelmsford, Newcastle, Southampton, Nottingham and Liverpool.</p>
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	Would it be possible to add something to the policy along the lines of “the start time for licensable activities will always be an important consideration, particularly in relation to the start time for the sale and supply of alcohol.”. Whilst South and Vale do not operate the early morning alcohol restriction order, Public Health will closely review any licensing applications where alcohol sales begin before 10am as early morning sales of alcohol can promote and encourage excessive alcohol consumption.	None	Added to 3.8.
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	This isn't to be included in the policy for now, however, please be aware that the following text was written into the recently published Government 10 year health plan	None	This comment is noted and can be included in any future reviews as appropriate.

	(page 66): “Alongside this we will explore options to restrict access to NoLo products so they are treated in the same ways as all alcohol products, including banning sales to under 18 year-olds. This work will be taken forward alongside the results of the licensing taskforce.” i.e. the Government intends to ban the sale of alcohol-free drinks that are marketed like alcoholic drinks to under 18s in the near future.		
ANON-UZUR-3GU2-Q	Finally, we invite South and Vale District Councils to be involved in the new development of the Tobacco Control Strategy which has links with licencing. The meeting is on 22nd October at 1pm. Please contact REDACTED for more info.	None	<a href="#">This comment is noted.</a>

**We want to ensure we are supporting local businesses. If you believe any part of the licensing policy makes it harder for small businesses to succeed, please provide details below.**

27 per cent of respondents provided qualitative feedback to this question which is provided below alongside an officer response. Please note, for ease of reading we've separated comments from respondents who addressed multiple sections of the policy.

Response ID	Comments - impact on local businesses	Para ref.	Officer response
ANON-UZUR-3GVS-S	<p>A pub is a business which is already subject to many rules and regulations from Weights and Measures, through being required to 'police' customers behaviour, to food hygiene. The economic climate has made publicans life hard, and we see breweries closing pubs as prices increase, clientele declines and matters such as National Insurance and Rates rises cut into profits.</p> <p>I agree with the aims of the policy and that these matters are all desirable but do wonder if it will push some of our more distinctive inns into closing due to additional costs to the business models.</p>	None	The additions to the policy are in the main for guidance and reference and will not necessarily be applicable to all business types. The only mandatory requirement added which may incur a cost is Martyn's Law but this is not a matter imposed by the councils.
ANON-UZUR-3GVH-E	As above, yet more levels of complexity and control doing nothing to improve the viability of the leisure industry or the enjoyment of customers.	None	Officers do not feel the policy document is complex and without specific examples cannot comment further on this response.
ANON-UZUR-3GV6-V	As above, asking local businesses to changes their operating systems requires extra training and cost. How does the council propose to ameliorate these costs?	None	The additions to the policy are in the main for guidance and reference and will not necessarily be applicable to all business types. The only mandatory requirement added which may incur a cost is Martyn's Law but this is not a matter imposed by the councils.
ANON-UZUR-3GV2-R	I know of a case where two local public houses are now facing competition from a retirement complex for meals and amenities. The planning permission for the retirement facility's club house did not mention any provisions for being open to the general public and it is uncertain whether they have planning permission to do so. The newspaper advert for licensing again made no mention of serving members of the general public, but was 'for members', and this leaves doubt as to who is 'allowed' to join the club. At the	None	These concerns are noted and shall be reviewed, but they do not relate to either the current or proposed policies

	planning stage it was assumed that this would be a closed club only for residents of the complex.		
ANON-UZUR-3GVP-P	Adding all this extra verbiage will just make things more confusing, vague and difficult. Keep it simple. Keep it as it is. It doesn't need unnecessary enhancement.	None	Officers do not feel the policy document is complex and without specific examples cannot comment further on this response.
ANON-UZUR-3GUN-K	Smaller, particularly village, pubs could struggle with extra paperwork burdens. For example while zero tolerance to drugs & violence, safeguarding, spiking awareness and such are all things everyone should be doing I very much suspect an anti-terrorism plan for the local village pub is not needed.	4.20- 4.21, 5.11- 5.17, 5.21	We will happily assist or advise any premises upon request. Our understanding is that the Martyn's Law requirements will not be overly onerous for small premises.
BHLF-UZUR-3GUA-6	Apart from the barber situation, everything seems reasonable at the present time although there seem to be too many cafes too. (shoplifting at school closure time is a major problem but that is a separate issue).	None	This comment is noted but it does not seem to relate to the impact of the policy on small local business.

## Our commitment to equal access for all

We are committed to making sure that residents have equal access to all council services. Please help us to keep track of how successfully we are achieving this by ticking the appropriate boxes below.

All information is confidential and will only be used to help us monitor participation rates among all groups in our community.

### What is your sex?

53 per cent of respondents are male and 33 per cent are female.

Option	Total	Percent
Female	10	33%
Male	16	53%
Prefer not to say	4	13%

### Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

87 per cent of respondents said the gender they identify with is the same as their sex registered at birth.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	26	87%
Prefer not to say	3	10%
No (please specify below)	1	3%

### How old are you?

Over half of respondents (60 per cent) are aged between 65 to 75+, more specifically 33 per cent are aged between 65 to 74 and 27 per cent are aged 75+.

Option	Total	Percent
Under 16	0	0%
16-24	0	0%
25-34	1	3%
35-44	0	0%
45-54	2	7%
55-64	4	13%
65-74	10	33%
75+	8	27%
Prefer not to say	5	17%

## What is your ethnic group?

97 per cent of respondents answered this question. Most being from a White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British ethnic group (77 per cent).

Option	Total	Percent
White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British	23	77%
White - Irish	1	3%
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0%
White - Roma	0	0%
Any other White background (you can specify below)	1	3%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	0	0%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	0	0%
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	0	0%
Asian or Asian British - Chinese	0	0%
Any other Asian background (you can specify below)	0	0%
Black, Black British- Caribbean	0	0%
Black, Black British- African background	0	0%
Any other Black, Black British, Caribbean or African background (you can specify below)	0	0%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black Caribbean	0	0%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Black African	0	0%
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups - White and Asian	0	0%
Any other Mixed or Multiple background (you can specify below)	0	0%
Any other ethnic Group - Arab	0	0%
Any other ethnic Group (you can specify below)	0	0%
Prefer not to say	4	13%
Not Answered	1	3%

## Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more?

Of the 30 per cent of respondents that answered this question, 57 per cent do not have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more, whilst 30 per cent said they do.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes	9	30%
No	17	57%
Prefer not to say	4	13%

## **Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day to day activities?**

Of the 30 per cent of respondents that have a mental health condition or illness, 17 per cent said their condition or illness reduces their ability to carry out day to day activities by a little, whilst 7 per cent said by a lot. 7 per cent said not at all.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes, a lot	2	7%
Yes, a little	5	17%
Not at all	2	7%
Not Answered	21	70%

## SURVEY

A copy of the survey is provided below.



## Licensing Act Policy Consultation

Please return this comment form by **11.59pm on Thursday 16 October 2025** to

**Freepost SOUTH AND VALE CONSULTATIONS (no other address information or stamp is needed).**

The summary of proposed changes document and proposed Licensing Act Policy is available to view alongside this comment form.

We are currently reviewing our existing joint Licensing Act policy in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. The current version of the policy, which was adopted in 2021, is now due a review and update.

The proposed policy includes updates to legislation and expansion to various sections to provide further detail and to add more clarity. You can view a document of the proposed changes and proposed Licensing Act Policy.

We invite you to share your views on the proposed policy from Thursday 4 September until 11.59pm on Thursday 16 October 2025.

If you have any questions about this consultation or require it in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, Easy Read and alternative languages), please email [licensing@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@southoxon.gov.uk) or [licensing.unit@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:licensing.unit@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and call 01235 422 556.

### What happens next?

Once the consultation has closed, we will review and consider all the comments raised. A consultation summary report of the results will be produced and published on our engagement page. This report will be shared with the Licensing Committees, who will make the final decision to adopt the policy or not.

### Personal details?

If you are responding in your capacity as a **business/organisation, council, councillor or council officer** we ask you to provide the name of your business/organisation or council - the summary report will include this information.

If you are responding as an **individual/member of the public**, you are not required to provide your name or contact details. Any personal information you provide to the councils within your comments that could identify you, will not be published in the summary report.

The consultation includes equality questions at the end. All questions are optional. All information is confidential and will only be used to help us monitor participation rates among all groups in our community. Further information on data protection is available in our privacy statement.

## About you

### Q1. Are you responding as:

- A business/organisation
- A district, county or town/parish councillor
- A district, county or town/parish officer
- An individual/memebr of the public
- Other (please specify below):  
.....

## Licensing Act Policy

You can view a summary of the proposed changes to the Licensing Act Policy for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse and the proposed policy below.

### Summary of proposed changes

Section	Policy Change
1.8	Added reference to Public Sector Equality Duty
4.20 - 4.21	Added new section on spiking and suggested measures to prevent this
5.10	Added reference to new national and local strategies reference misuse of alcohol and drugs
5.12	Added additional guidance on staff training about safeguarding
5.14	Adding reference to promotion of any initiatives that keep women and girls safe from harm
5.15	Added reference to Ask for Angela scheme
5.16	Added reference to Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) initiative
5.21	Added reference to Martyn's Law
5.25	Added suggestion to consider evacuation, emergency services access and first aid provision

8.6	Added section on the mediation process which is already in practice
9.2	Clarify that officers will use the pool of model conditions when translating the steps from the operating schedule into clear, enforceable conditions
In addition to the above, dates, addresses and any links were updated as required.	

**Q2. How far do you agree or disagree with the proposed licensing policy?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**Q3. If you have any comments on the proposed Licensing Policy, please provide your comments below.**

*Please make it clear within your comments which section of the policy you're referring to e.g. 5.15, 5.16.*

**Q4. We want to ensure we are supporting local businesses. If you believe any part of the licensing policy makes it harder for small businesses to succeed, please provide details below.**

## **Our commitment to equal access for all**

We are committed to making sure that residents have equal access to all council services. Please help us to keep track of how successfully we are achieving this by ticking the appropriate boxes below.

All information is confidential and will only be used to help us monitor participation rates among all groups in our community.

### **Q5. What is your sex?**

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

### **Q6. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?**

- Yes
- Prefer not to say
- No (please specify below)

.....

## **Q7. How old are you?**

<input type="checkbox"/> Under 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 55-64
<input type="checkbox"/> 17-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 65-74
<input type="checkbox"/> 25-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 75+
<input type="checkbox"/> 35-44	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/> 45-54	

## **Q8. What is your ethnic group?**

### **White**

- English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish, British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Roma
- Any other White background (you can specify below)

### **Asian or Asian British**

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background (you can specify below)

### **Black or Black British**

- Caribbean
- African background

Any other black, black British, Caribbean or African background (you can specify below)

#### **Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups**

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Any other mixed or multiple background (you can specify below)

#### **Other Ethnic Group**

Arab

Any other ethnic group (please specify below):

#### **Q9. Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illness lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more?**

Yes

No (skip to the end of the survey)

Prefer not to say (skip to the end of the survey)

#### **Q10. Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day to day activities?**

Yes, a lot

Yes, a little

Not at all

#### **How to send this form back to us**

Please return this comment form by **11.59pm on Thursday 16 October 2025** to **Freepost SOUTH AND VALE CONSULTATIONS** (no other address information or stamp is needed).

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like more information about this consultation and the results presented in this report, or you require this report in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, Easy Read and alternative languages) please contact:

**Consultation and Community Engagement Team**

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council  
01235 422 425  
[jointheconversation@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:jointheconversation@southandvale.gov.uk)

To enquire about the council's work on [name of service area/ team],

**Licensing Team**

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council  
01235 422 556  
[licensing@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@southoxon.gov.uk)