

REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 MAY 2026

REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Consent Street Trading Policy Review

2026

Summary

The whole Borough has been designated as a consent area for the purposes of street trading. The Consent Street Trading (CST) policy details how the regime is managed. The policy document has been reviewed following a valid petition, a public consultation and comments received from the general licensing committee.

Cabinet will be considering this report at its meeting on 14 May 2026 and are being asked to make the following recommendation to Council.

Recommendation

1. That Council agree the proposed consent street trading policy document.

Detail

1. The CST regime has been in place since 1 March 2024. Over 60 consents have been considered and granted across Stockton-on-Tees since the beginning of the scheme.
2. The CST policy guides the Council when it considers applications for street trading consents. It also serves to inform applicants of the criteria against which applications will be considered as well as setting out the Councils framework and approach for the management of street trading in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.
3. A petition asking for certain events to be excluded from the regime was received and duly considered at full council on 19th November 2026. It was moved by Councillor Norma Stephenson, seconded by Councillor Nail Innes that the petition be referred to the General Licensing Committee for further consideration.
4. The CST policy was subsequently reviewed and includes several changes in response to the valid petition, operational procedures and comments received from General Licensing Committee including recommendations.
5. As part of this review, a public consultation was also undertaken to help inform the changes. The responses received to the public consultation are available via the link below.

6. The review also considered the design principals:
 - Put communities at the heart of everything we do - sensitive to the needs of residents, provides diversity and consumer choice.
 - Has a 'place-based' approach - compliments regeneration and business growth.
 - Has efficient processes and be digital by design - process reviews and feedback provide efficiencies.
 - Uses data and intelligence to inform our decision - consultation drives the policy framework.
7. The matter was referred to the General Licensing Committee on the 24th March 2026. The committee agreed unanimously on the revised CST policy. The simplification of the CST process was acknowledged along with a new fairer criterion for commercial, charity and hobbyists trading at events within the borough.

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

8. The CST policy is borough wide and has been operational since 2024 and the proposed changes will bring benefits for the community, licensing service, existing traders/event organisers and potential traders/event organisers.
9. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed, reviewed and signed.

Corporate Parenting Implications

10. The report does not contain corporate parenting implications.

Financial Implications

11. The fees associated with consent street trading are set to cover the costs incurred by the Council in administering the licensing scheme. The fees are reviewed annually and do not form part of the Councils approved Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan. Locally set fees are a vital means of ensuring both that costs can be recovered, reducing the risk of a subsidy or overpayment.

Legal Implications

12. Street trading is covered by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 4. [Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1982 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)
13. On the 21 January 2024 the Council agreed the resolution in accordance with Paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 4 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 following full public consultation to designate the whole Borough as a consent area for the purposes of street trading.
14. The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, Schedule 1 lists licensing functions under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act such as Consent Street Trading as a non-executive function.

Risk Assessment

15. The consent street trading policy is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward/ Councillors (refer to Concordat for Communication and Consultation with Members)

16. The Council agreed the resolution in accordance with Paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 4 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 following full public consultation to designate the whole Borough as a consent area for the purposes of street trading.

Background Papers

- Copy of consultation responses received. [Consultation responses 2026.docx](#)
- A full list of temporary event street trading consents which have been granted since the beginning of the regime can be found at: www.stockton.gov.uk/licensing-registers
- Street trading is covered by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 4. [Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1982 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](http://legislation.gov.uk)
- [Agenda for Council on Wednesday 19th November 2025, 6.00 pm - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council](#)
- General Licensing Committee Minutes [Browse meetings - Council - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council](#)
- A copy of the revised CST policy including changes/additions marked in yellow can be found at: www.stockton.gov.uk/street-trading-consent

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