

DELEGATED

Report to Statutory
Licensing Committee

09 June 2026

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR OF REGULATED
SERVICES AND
TRANSFORMATION**

Licensing Act 2003 Stockton-on-Tees Statement of Licensing Policy Review 2026

Summary

Under the Licensing Act 2003 local authorities must develop and review their Statement of Licensing Policy at least every five years. The revised policy provides a pragmatic and fair approach to all those working within the licensable activity sector, whilst continuing to meet the statutory obligations under the Licensing Act 2003.

Recommendation(s)

1. That Members note the content of this report.
2. That Members recommend to Council the proposed Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy is adopted.

Detail

1. A copy of the proposed Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy can be found at: [Stockton Statement of Licensing Act Policy 2026](#)
2. The proposed Statement of Licensing Policy reflects legislation, best practice and integrates the recently published [National Licensing Policy Framework](#) which is a strategic vision for a modern, permissive licensing system that safeguards communities while enabling hospitality and leisure to thrive, and is aligned with the licensing objectives which are:
 - the prevention of crime and disorder
 - public safety
 - the prevention of public nuisance
 - the protection of children from harm
3. The proposed Statement of Licensing Policy supports the Councils vision and priorities and includes information on:
 - Martyn's Law (Protect Duty)
 - Illegal employment practices
 - Local alcohol related harm
4. The proposed Statement of Licensing Policy reinforces our commitment to:
 - Partnership working including Pubwatch

- Proactive enforcement around alcohol harm including underage sales and early morning sales
 - Engagement and compliance with the trade including the Reducing the Strength scheme
 - Developing a responsible retailer guide that can be updated and remain current outside of the 5 year policy cycle
5. For statutory consultation the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy was circulated for response to:
 - Responsible authorities under the Licensing Act 2003 including the Police
 - All members
 - Internal and external stakeholders
 - All current licence holders in the hospitality trade
 6. The proposed Statement of Licensing Policy was advertised to the public on the licensing website and social media pages. Comments were to be received by 31 May 2026.
 7. No comments objecting to the proposed policy were received. Comments were received from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) via the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV). The comments and proposed additional policy wording are attached as Appendix 1.

History and Background

8. The [Licensing Act 2003](#) places a statutory requirement on all Local Authorities to develop a Statement of Licensing Policy, and policies are to be reviewed at least every five years.
9. The Statement of Licensing Policy guides how the Council exercises its responsibilities when issuing licences for the sale of alcohol, regulated entertainment, and late-night refreshment.
10. The table below shows the current number of licensed premises under the Licensing Act 2003:

Licensed Premises (Licensing Act 2003)	24-25	25-26	Difference
Total alcohol licensed premises	470	462	-8
Alcohol - authorised for on and off sales	221	217	-4
Alcohol - authorised on sales only	83	81	-2
Alcohol - authorised off sales only	166	164	-2
Late night refreshment only	65	64	-1
Regulated entertainment only	46	46	-
Total Number of Licensed Premises	581	572	-9

11. All decisions must support the four equal-weight licensing objectives, as advised by the Section 182 [guidance which accompanies the Act](#), these objectives underpin every part of the policy, and your feedback will help ensure that Stockton-on-Tees continues to promote safe, responsible, and well-managed licensed activities.

12. The current Statement of Licensing Policy can be found at: www.stockton.gov.uk/alcohol-and-entertainment-licences

Additional Information

13. During the consultation [The Crime and Policing Act 2026](#) received Royal Assent, the Act is wide ranging and primarily police focused, but it does have several direct and indirect implications for local authorities, particularly across community and licensing related functions.
14. To ensure the policy document is relevant and up to date, the officers may implement amendments or additions, in consultation with and subject to the agreement of the Chair of the Statutory Licensing Committee, provided such changes do not result in any material alteration to the overall intent or scope.

Legislation and Policy Considerations

15. The implementation and operation of the Statement of Licensing Policy will be done in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 and associated guidance; this proposal will uphold the licensing objectives whilst meeting our statutory obligations under the Licensing Act 2003.

Members' Options

16. Detailed in recommendations.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not ward related

17. The Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety has been consulted, along with all Members and Responsible Authorities under the Licensing Act 2003 and the public.

Financial Implications

18. Licensing Act 2003 fees statutorily set, have not been reviewed by Government since 2003 and are not affected by this proposal.
19. The fees do not form part of the Councils approved Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan.

Legal Implications

20. The implementation and operation of the Statement of Licensing Policy will be done in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 and associated guidance. The risks associated with the Statement of Licensing Policy are mitigated by the administration and enforcement provisions of The Licensing Act 2003 and associated guidance.

Environmental Implications

21. Through the maintenance of a strategic licensing policy there will be opportunities to further improve the environment, to the benefit of all.

Community Safety Implications

22. The administration and enforcement of the licensing regime should assist in reducing crime and disorder. The administration and enforcement provisions within the

Licensing Act 2003 and associated guidance assist officers in dealing with problem premises and can lead to the revocation of a licence.

Background Papers

The Licensing Act 2003

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/17/contents>

Section 182 Guidance (February 2025)

Statutory guidance issued by the Home Office provides comprehensive direction on promoting the licensing objectives, handling applications, reviews, and enforcement.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003

National Licensing Policy Framework for the hospitality and leisure sectors

Strategic vision for a modern, permissive licensing system that safeguards communities while enabling hospitality and leisure to thrive.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-licensing-policy-framework-for-the-hospitality-and-leisure-sectors

The Crime & Policing Act 2026

Introduces a wide range of measures to strengthen the response to antisocial behaviour, retail crime, and serious violence. Increases expectations around partnership working, data sharing, and proactive enforcement, while providing stronger legal mechanisms to support community safety and protect town centres.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/crime-and-policing-act-2026

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