

Briefing Note

Committee name: Licensing Committee

Date: 3 June 2026

Responsible officer: Licensing and Public Protection Manager

This note provides information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Cabinet or a committee but where no decisions from Members are needed.

If Members have questions relating to matters shown, they are asked to contact the officer indicated.

Cheltenham Festival Summary

CBC's licensing team were joined by officers from Tewkesbury, South Gloucestershire, Stroud, Publica, City of Wolverhampton, Gloucestershire police and Avon and Somerset's 'taxi cop'.

Compliance checks were carried out across all licensing regimes. We are pleased to report that all premises were compliant with licensing conditions.

Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEV's):

Two licensed SEV's were in operation and these were visited several times over the course of the week and fully compliant with licence conditions. There were also two unlicensed SEV's in operation.

Street Trading:

There were more pedlars' certificates in place this year which meant some traders were able to trade. However, we still encountered unlicensed traders. Seven letters of advice have been sent ahead of next year and the police have been debriefed and will be seizing goods in 2027.

Security Industry Authority (SIA):

The SIA were in town on the Friday (Gold Cup Day) and visited several premises to carry out checks on SIA licences (door staff).

No issues were reported.

Taxi and private hire:

A trade meeting has been held and feedback regarding the traffic plans and the issue of out-of-town vehicles has been raised.

Licensing will work with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and look at temporary taxi ranks for November and March race meets.

On the Friday, the 'taxi cop' stopped and checked the following:

Local Authority	Checked	Non-Compliance issues.
South Glos	11	3
North Somerset	2	1
Cheltenham	4	3
Tewkesbury	6	3
TFL (London)	1	1
Gloucester	5	2
Bath and NE Somerset	1	1
Bristol	2	0
Wolverhampton	3	1
Wychavon	1	1
Malvern	1	0
Birmingham	3	1
Cotswold	1	0
Somerset	1	0
Total	42	17 (40%)

All actions have been followed up. This also includes:

- 1 x Immediate suspension for an illegal tyre
- 1 court summons and immediate suspension for illegal hiring and 2 tyres under 1.6mm

In relation to CBC's licensing team, officers have processed:

- 8 actions for CBC licensed drivers (strikes x 8 and one FPN for smoking in smoke free place)
 - 7 actions sent to South Gloucestershire
 - 15 actions sent to Tewkesbury
 - 15 actions sent to Gloucester City
 - 15 actions to other LA's (Birmingham/ Wolverhampton/N. Somerset/ Wychavon/ Worcester/ et al.
- Total: 60 Local Authority actions

Current consultations

[Martyn's Law: draft statutory guidance](#)

The SIA are currently consulting on a draft guidance which sets out how it proposes to exercise its functions as the Martyn's Law regulator.

Members are asked to pass any comments onto the licensing team so that they can be compiled into a response.

Consultation closes 12 June 2026.

Developing legislation

[Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026](#)

The Tobacco and Vapes Act has now become law marking one of the most significant public health reforms in a generation and introducing a suite of new enforcement powers designed to curb illegal tobacco and vape sales. The legislation, which received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026, establishes the UK's first smoke-free generation by prohibiting the sale of tobacco to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.

This will introduce a new licensing regime similar to the Licensing Act 2003 whereby any premises selling licensable products will require a premises/personal licence.

This will be the largest new framework since the introduction of the Licensing Act in 2005.

The committee will be kept updated on developments.

[The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026](#)

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill has received Royal Assent, marking a significant milestone in the Government's programme to expand devolution and strengthen local decision-making across England.

The Act reinforces a shift toward place-based, strategic governance designed to strengthen community empowerment while aligning with wider public-sector reforms, including the NHS 10-Year Plan, the abolition of Police and Crime Commissioners, police reform, and the broader prevention agenda. By allocating new powers and responsibilities to both new and existing Strategic Authorities, it signals a significant reconfiguration of local accountability and service delivery.

For licensing professionals—particularly those operating within local authorities—the implications are substantial. Centralising powers and redrawing regional responsibilities will reshape day-to-day practice, alter decision-making pathways, and redefine professional boundaries. Although the reforms create opportunities to modernise and elevate licensing functions within newly structured local government systems, they also carry real risks. Communities could be adversely affected if the profession's expertise, statutory role, and public-protection contributions are not fully recognised, protected, and embedded within the new governance landscape.

Key licensing measures include:

- Gambling Impact Assessments, enabling councils to better manage the concentration of gambling premises on high streets.
- National taxi and PHV standards, including powers for enforcement officers to suspend licences issued by other authorities where drivers operate outside their licensed area.

Cheltenham Markets Bill

The [Bill](#) will repeal section 83 of the Cheltenham Improvement Act 1852 (the "1852 Act"). The 1852 Act makes it an offence for a "Fair, Market, Mop or Hiring" and any other related activities to be held upon the High Street or any other street within the Borough of Cheltenham.

Currently, markets are licensed through Street Trading Consents with each trader making an application. This creates an administration burden for both the council and the market operator.

It is proposed to apply Part III of the Food Act 1984 (Sections 50-61) that grants local authorities' powers to establish, acquire, and regulate markets, covering market places, days, hours, and the recovery of charges for market use, including weighing services. These powers extend to

controlling existing market undertakings and allowing the creation of byelaws to regulate conduct, prevent nuisances, and manage the sale of goods to ensure orderly market operations. While that act itself provides the foundational powers, specific market regulations are enacted through byelaws made by the local authority under these powers.

At present, the Bill has entered the House of Lords and it is expected that it will receive Royal Assent by the Summer recess.

Green Events Code of Practice (GECOP) pilot

Cheltenham Borough Council is participating in the [Green Events Code of Practice](#) pilot programme, along with a number of other local authorities across the UK. As part of the permissions process, we'll soon be asking all event organisers using CBC land to complete the DATE (Doughnut Advisory Tool for Events), which was adapted from our own Climate Impact Assessment Tool. We'd like to extend this requirement to market operators as well, so that our expectations around sustainability are consistent across all types of events - whether they take place in our parks or on the streets. Using DATE will help us start building a baseline of sustainability data for events across Cheltenham. This is not about judging, scoring, or penalising anyone. This first year is all about getting a baseline and starting an open, honest conversation with event organisers about the sustainability challenges they face, the good practice already happening, and what support they'd like from CBC to help make events more sustainable. We will reflect on our in-house events as well i.e. ice rink and Party in the Park. The information gathered will help shape future strategy, establish clearer guidance, and set minimum sustainability criteria for events on CBC land from next year onwards.

Purple Flag Interim Assessment

We are delighted to announce that Cheltenham has been awarded the Purple Flag accreditation for the eleventh year running.

The annual award, made by the national Association of Town & City Management, assesses qualities, underpinned by clear evidence, of safety, diversity, vibrancy, accessibility, cleanliness and partnership working, and it gives positive reassurance to those people planning a night out in the town.

Key successes in Cheltenham's submission include the strong branding as the "Festival Town," supported by a diverse events programme that attracts a wide range of audiences, Cheltenham BID securing a new five-year term, national accreditation for the local Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP), and the delivery of a proactive ENTE strategy supported by strong partnerships. Initiatives such as venue briefings, the development of a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)/Night Charter, and the Nightcare Hub further demonstrate Cheltenham's commitment to safety and support after dark.

Evening and Night-time Economy (ENTE) Strategy update

The strategy is nearing the end of completion, and the working group will sign off the document in June.

As part of the strategy, a Charter will be developed, and ENTE venues will be able to sign up to this to demonstrate their commitment to offering a safe venue and supporting a safe town to visit and live in. It is hoped that the Charter will be finalised in the summer and a campaign will be delivered.

The ENTE strategy will then be presented to Full Council for approval, and a new website page will be designed to celebrate the ENTE which will be linked to Marketing Cheltenham and the Cheltenham BID.

Licensing team changes

One of our licensing officers left the team in April to take up a position at South Gloucestershire. Since then, we have recruited the post and we are delighted to welcome Gavin McCaugherty to the team. Gavin has worked for CBC for 10 years and previously worked as a revenues officer.

The team are:

Michelle Bignell	Licensing and Public Protection Manager
Jake Johnstone	Senior Licensing Officer
Craig Daly	Licensing Officer
Gavin McCaugherty	Licensing Officer
Sarah Hughes	Licensing Enforcement and Compliance Officer
Jeremy Sansom	Licensing Enforcement and Compliance Officer

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