

### Progress against Licensing Service Priorities 2024/25

	Licensing Service Priorities 2024/25	Summary of progress during 2024/25
1.	Deliver the Licensing Service within the context of Destination City, understanding the needs of residents and businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Licensing Team continued to deliver its service within the context of Destination City with the provision of advice at Destination City event planning, concept and proposal meetings, and with a business-friendly approach through its free pre-application advice.</li> <li>The Team distributes the city event list to licensees enabling them to make choices about opening days/times, and the team also presented its Code of Good Practice, Traffic Light Scheme, and Safety Thirst Scheme to over 150 licensees at the Police Licensing Forum in November 2024.</li> <li>Activities across all workstreams encourage growth and demonstrate support for city businesses whilst balancing their needs with those of residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The mapping tool is an important resource for business and residents alike, enabling good choices to be made on location of events;</li> <li>The Safety Thirst Accreditation Scheme celebrates well managed venues and raises the profile of the City as a safe place to enjoy a night out;</li> <li>The Alfresco Dining and Gambling policies were consulted on via the Commonplace platform, both of them soliciting interest from trade, residents and other stakeholders, with the refreshed policies taking all those comments into consideration.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.	Publish a refreshed Street Trading Policy (by 31 March 2025).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This workstream was carried forward into 2025/26 to enable alignment with the new Destination City programme.</li> </ul>
3.	Carry out a mapping project to identify streets, spaces or areas of The City that could be suitable for markets, events, later licensing hours or more licensed premises.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project was completed in June 2024 and presented to the Licensing Committee in July 2024.</li> <li>The Interactive Map provides local information such as locations of licensed premises, residents, public transport points, and open spaces, and is available for use on the City of London GIS webpages.</li> <li>Positive media coverage was received: <a href="#">City maps out its future as a Square Mile of restaurant pubs and bars   The Standard</a>.</li> </ul>

## Appendix A

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4.	Work with the City Operations Transportation and Destination City Teams to explore the potential for enhanced waymarking to hospitality and other visitor venues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions are ongoing to explore waymarking options which could be of benefit to the hospitality trade.</li> <li>The Team continues to engage with Transportation and Destination City colleagues.</li> </ul>
5.	Enhance and relaunch the City of London Safety Thirst accreditation scheme, realigned with the new Licensing Code of Good Practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Scheme was relaunched in February 2024, with assessments carried out between May and June 2024. The awards ceremony was held in July 2024 and saw a record 75 City venues accredited.</li> <li>In preparation for the 2025 scheme, the criteria have been enhanced and realigned with the new Licensing Code of Good Practice to include additional questions on CCTV, Martyn's Law (counter terrorism risk assessments), ID scanners, anti-drink spiking awareness, and provision of safe havens.</li> <li>Positive media coverage was received: <a href="#">City Licensed Premises Celebrate Wins At Safety Thirst Awards</a>.</li> </ul>
6.	Review and re-publish the City of London Statement of Licensing Principles under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Statement of Licensing Principles was reviewed and consulted on via the Commonplace platform. Comments received were taken into consideration and incorporated in the final statement which was approved by Licensing Committee on 31 October 2024 and ratified by Court of Common Council on 3 December 2024.</li> <li>The revised statement has been published on the City's website.</li> <li>The Gambling Commission is due to publish new guidance to licensing authorities during 2025 at which point a further review of the policy will be required. This workstream has therefore been replicated into 2025/26.</li> </ul>
7.	Implement the provisions of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA2023) (subject to pending government regulations) in respect of the Business and Planning Act 2020, and a permanent pavement licence regime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new pavement licence regime was implemented in July 2024, incorporating the changes as set out in the LURA2023. As part of this implementation, the Licensing Team has been exploring the option of establishing a pavement licence appeals sub-committee. This workstream is ongoing and has been carried into 2025/26.</li> <li>Online application forms were developed with the City's Digital Services team offering applicants a streamlined application process and these were implemented in August 2024.</li> </ul>

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8.	Review the City of London's Al Fresco Eating and Drinking Policy following permanency of the pavement licence regime.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Alfresco Dining policy was reviewed and consulted on via the Commonplace platform. Comments received were taken into consideration, and the final policy was noted by Licensing Committee on 31 October 2024 and ratified by Planning and Transportation Committee on 5 November 2024.</li> <li>The revised policy has been published on the City's website.</li> </ul>
9.	Review the Licensing pages of the City of London website to ensure up-to-date and accurate information is available to users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A review of the licensing pages on the CoL website commenced in February 2024 and has been carried forward into 2025/26 for completion.</li> <li>Part of this review is to ensure a fair balance in the support offered by the Licensing Team to businesses and residents. Part of this review is to ensure a fair balance in the support offered by the Licensing Team to businesses and residents</li> </ul>
10.	Enhance the licensing back-office software (Idox Uniform) to further underpin the management of the Licensing Service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The back-office system has been enhanced to capture new processes such as the permanent pavement licence regime.</li> <li>The 'Public Access' component of Idox went live in June 2024 enabling residents, licensees and other stakeholders to search for applications received and licences granted. The system is being further enhanced to enable online comments to be made on applications and to generate better reports.</li> <li>The Licensing Team has also started sourcing an alternative online application provider to replace the gov.uk provision which is being phased out by government in 2026. This latter part of the workstream is ongoing and has been carried forward into 2025/26.</li> </ul>
11.	Determine the financial implications for licensing income generally and determine annual fees for each of the licensing categories.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual fee determinations were carried out for Sexual Entertainment Venues; Gambling; Massage and Special Treatment Premises; and Pavement Licences. These were reported to the relevant Committees for decision.</li> </ul>