

The background of the slide features a blurred image of absentee ballot applications and American flags. The text on the ballot applications is partially legible, including the words 'ABSENTEE', 'APPLICATION FOR', and 'ABSENTEE BALLOT'. There are also checkboxes for 'Democratic' and 'Republican' parties. The American flags are positioned at the bottom of the frame, with their red and white stripes and blue fields with stars visible.

Licensing Taskforce Report: Summary of 10 Recommendations and Government Response

Overview of key
recommendations and official
government feedback

Licensing Taskforce Recommendations

National Licensing Policy Framework

Framework Recommendation

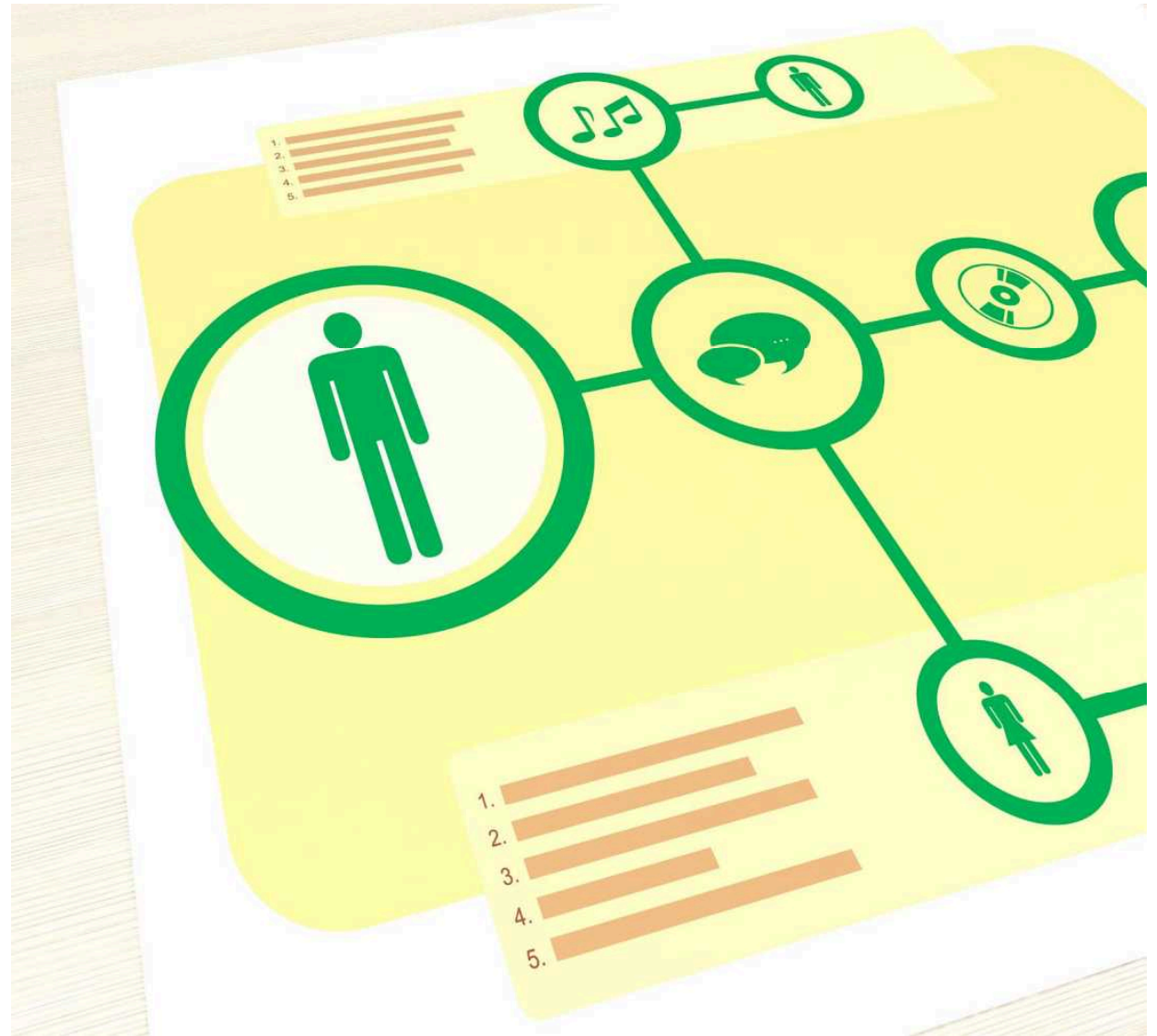
The Licensing Taskforce recommended a national policy framework to unify licensing practices and improve consistency across local authorities.

Government Support

The government expressed positive response and intent to consult on aligning licensing with broader government priorities.

Equitable Licensing Approach

The initiative aims to reduce disparities in licensing decisions and promote fairness across different regions.



Licence 'Amnesty'

Purpose of Licence Amnesty

The licence amnesty aims to modernise and streamline licences by removing outdated or disproportionate conditions.

Outdated Licensing Conditions

Many licensing conditions originated from the Licensing Act 2003 and no longer reflect current operational realities.

Government Support and Reform

The government supports targeting premises with obsolete conditions to reduce administrative burdens and improve relevance.



Longer Licensing Terms for Pavement Areas

Extended Licence Duration

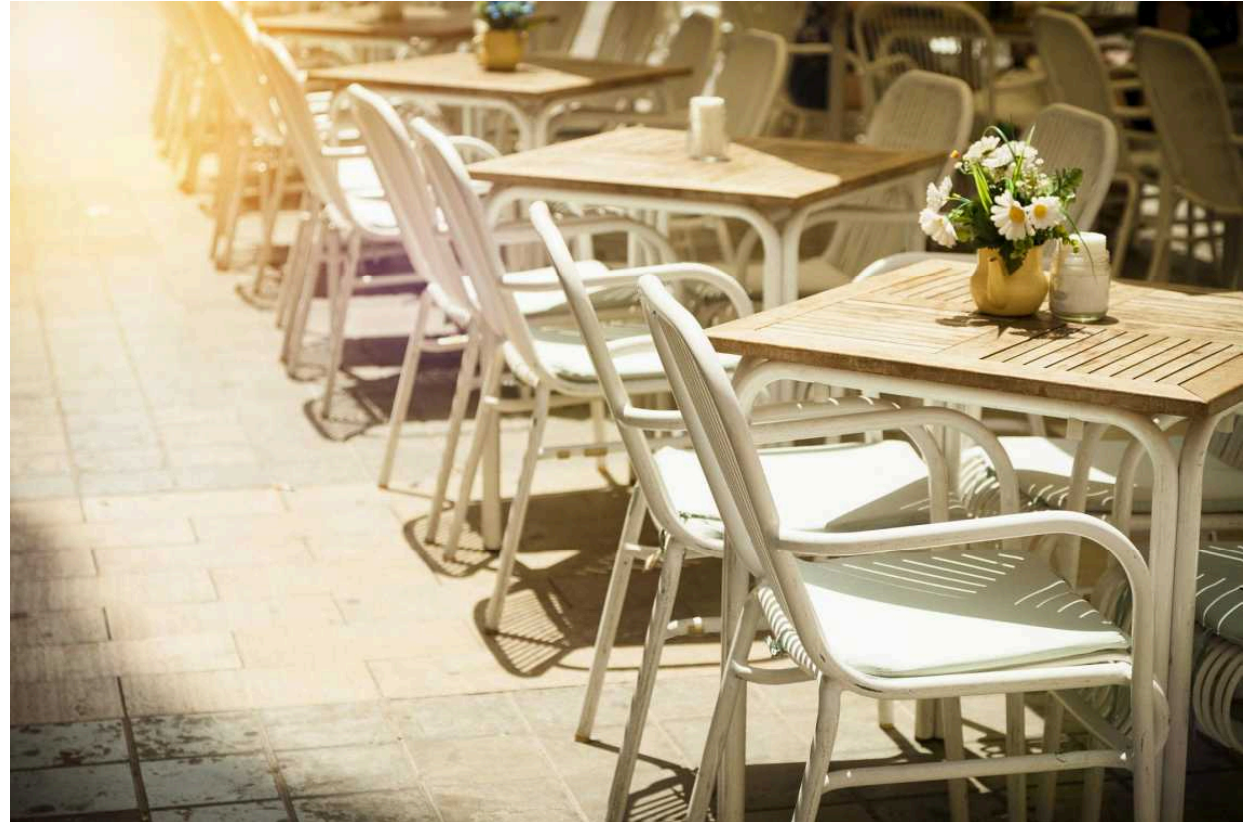
Longer pavement licence terms enable businesses to plan and operate with greater certainty over extended periods.

Support for Hospitality Sector

Pavement licences are essential for hospitality businesses relying on outdoor spaces for service and customer engagement.

Economic and Customer Benefits

Longer licence terms help seasonal and recurring events thrive, improving economic stability and customer experience.



Temporary Event Notice (TEN) Limits

Need for Flexibility

The taskforce stressed the importance of more flexible Temporary Event Notices to better support short-term event planning.

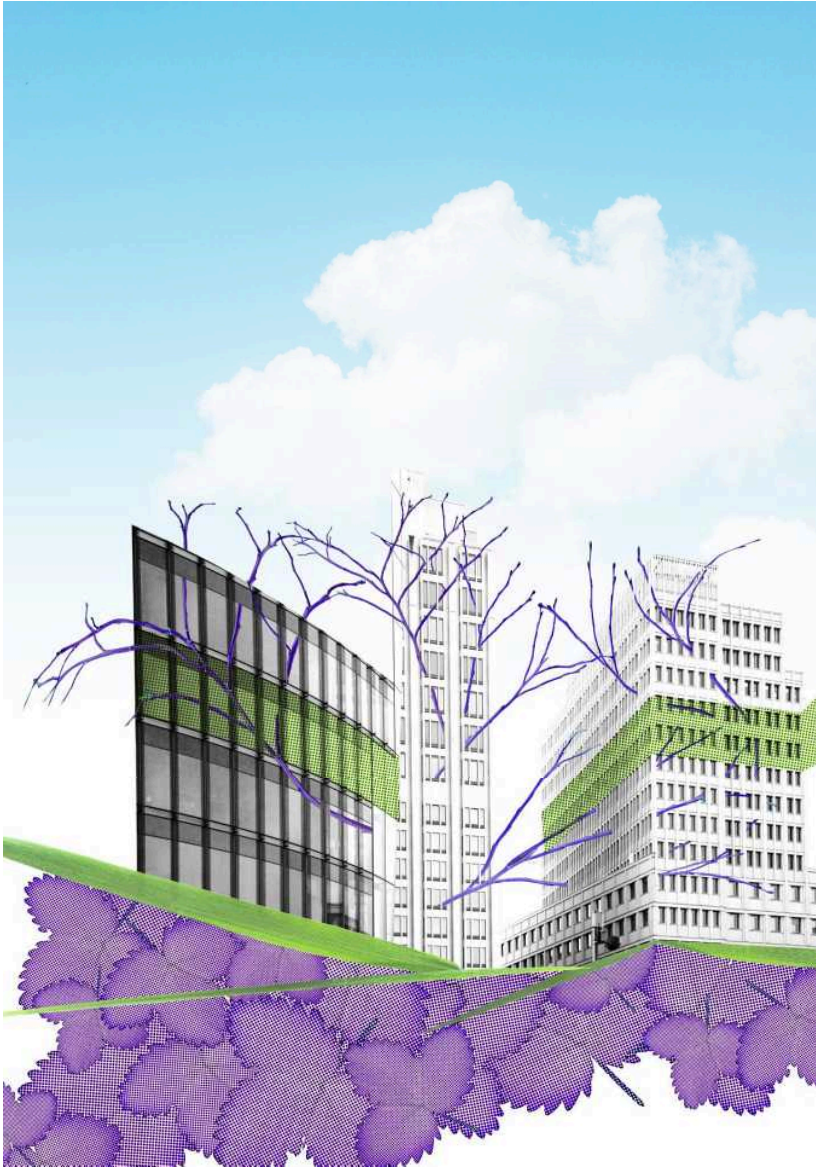
Current Limitations

Existing TEN limits are restrictive for operators trying to meet market demands and community needs effectively.

Government Review

The government has committed to reviewing TEN limits to balance responsiveness with public safety and community welfare.





Agent of Change Principle

Protecting Established Venues

The principle protects existing venues from impacts caused by new nearby developments, ensuring their sustainability.

Responsibility of New Developments

New developments must mitigate adverse effects on existing licensed premises to comply with the principle.

Government Support and Integration

The government aims to embed the principle consistently across licensing and planning systems for better protection.

Safeguarding Community Venues

This approach prevents cultural and community venues from being unfairly penalized due to external changes.

Hospitality and Night-Time Economy Zones

Creation of Designated Zones

Establishing hospitality and night-time economy zones can foster vibrant and well-managed entertainment areas.

Support for Strategic Planning

Zones help local authorities develop effective plans for nightlife management and cultural activities.

Economic and Safety Benefits

Concentrated resources improve safety, attract tourism, and stimulate local economic growth.



Licence Length and Fees for Festivals

Challenges with Short Licences

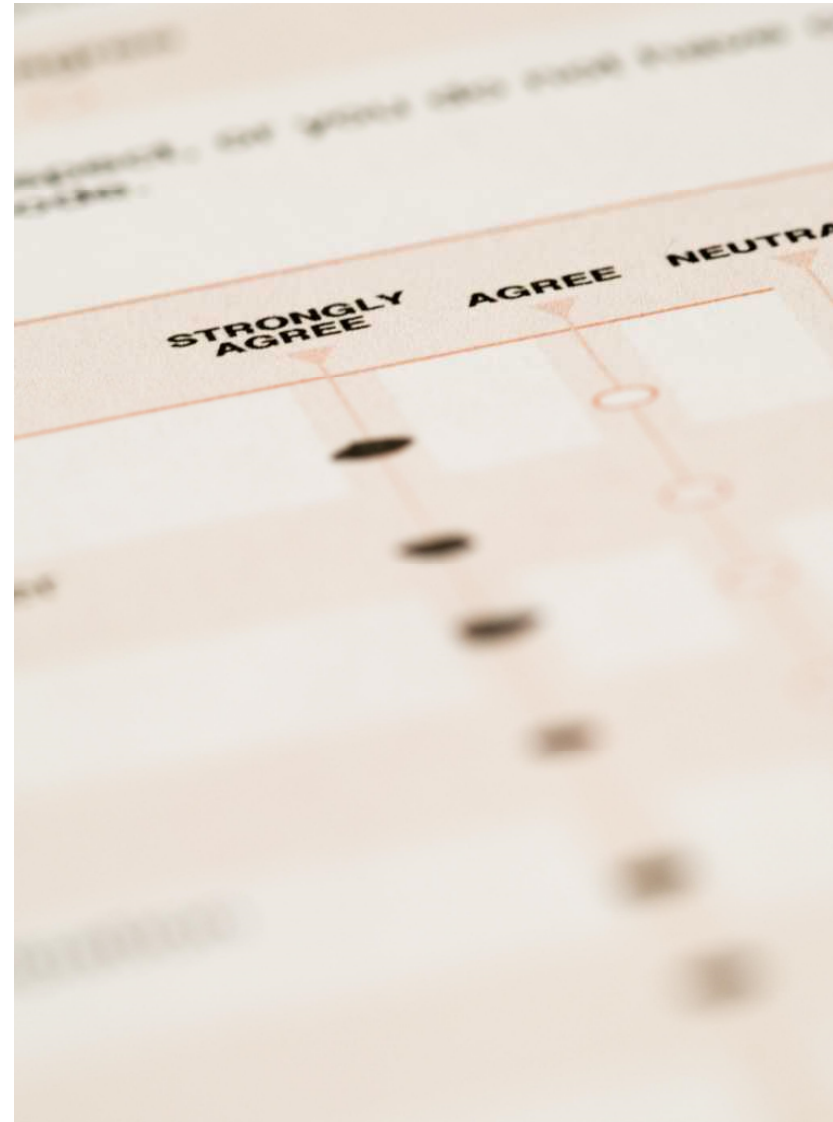
Short-term licensing creates uncertainty, complicating festival planning and financial security.

Government Consideration

Government recognizes the need to review licence durations and fees to support festivals.

Benefits of Licence Reform

Longer licence terms and adjusted fees can promote diverse, frequent cultural events benefiting communities.



Grandfathered Conditions Review

Outdated Licensing Conditions

Grandfathered conditions originate from pre-2005 regimes and often fail to reflect current operational needs.

Need for Modernization

Removing obsolete requirements will simplify licensing and align conditions with modern business practices.

Government Support for Reform

The government endorses reform efforts aimed at updating licensing conditions to enhance business compliance and growth.



Licensing Data and Transparency

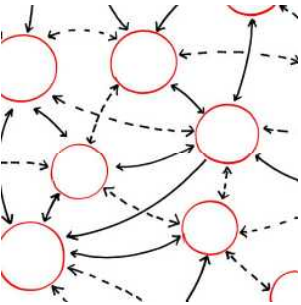
Enhanced Data Access

Improving access to licensing data promotes transparency and accountability in decision-making processes.



Collaborative Data Sharing

Sharing data between authorities and stakeholders supports effective governance and public engagement.



Building Public Trust

Greater transparency fosters trust in licensing systems and helps in evidence-based policy development.



Licensing Training and Capacity Building

Importance of Training

Investing in training ensures licensing officers understand and implement policies consistently and effectively.

Government Support

Government commitment to support local authorities in building skills and resources for licensing implementation.

Strengthening Professional Capabilities

Enhancing licensing teams' skills is key to maintaining standards and adapting to regulatory changes.



Walsall Council

Consultation Response

- Merge Tobacco and Vapes Bill & Pavement Café Licences into the Licensing Act 2003 as one regime.
- Introduction of a national Personal Licence holder database (register) to confirm personal licence holders.
- Introduction of a National Temporary Event Register so that restrictions can be enforced.
- Reduce restrictions on TENs to allow more use for events that would enhance local areas.
- Increase fees for applications so local authorities can provide adequate resources.
- Streamline applications, eg Transfer, Vary DPS and Minor variations to one Minor variation change, and keep full variation.
- Standard conditions prescribed by legislation to allow consistency in wording of conditions.
- Introduce licensing hours dependant on the type of premises (similar to Gambling Act 2005).
- Public Health Licensing Objective to be introduced.

Key changes proposed through
consultation