

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Implementation of a Street Trading Policy

Meeting/Date: Licensing & Protection Committee – 22/10/2025

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Resident Services and Corporate Performance – Councillor Stephen Ferguson

Report by: William Dell'Orefice (Licensing Officer)

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

Executive Summary:

This report provides the Licensing & Protection Committee with a proposed Street Trading Policy, attached as **Appendix A**. Street Trading is defined, in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as the selling or exposing or offering for sale of any article (including a living thing) in a street

The draft policy was subject to a public consultation, which was active from the 24th of July 2025 until the 24th of September 2025. All responses received are attached **Appendix B**.

A revised fee structure has been attached as **Appendix C**.

If approved by the Committee, the final policy, with any amendments made, will be adopted and implemented from the 23rd of October 2025.

The changes proposed are in-keeping with both regulatory codes of conduct, statutory guidance and the Council's Corporate Plan. All costs associated with the implementation of this policy will be financed from the receipt of licence fees.

Recommendation(s):

The Licensing & Protection Committee is recommended to consider the proposed policy along with its conditions, as well as the consultation responses and approve the Street Trading Policy to take effect from the 23rd of October 2025. Members are also asked to consider and approve the designation of all streets within the district to be consented streets and to approve the proposed consent fees.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to allow members of the Licensing & Protection Committee the opportunity to review and approve the draft Street Trading Policy and its conditions, along with all comments received during the public consultation.
- 1.2 It also allows members to consider and approve the designation of all streets within the district to be consented streets and to approve the proposed consent fees.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At present, Huntingdonshire District Council as the licensing authority do not have a street trading policy which make effective regulation difficult.
- 2.2 Unregulated trading creates risks for both the council and the community. When traders operate without permission, it becomes difficult to enforce health and safety standards, exposing the public to potential hazards and undermining fair oversight. At the same time, the council loses valuable income from licensing fees, while legitimate traders may feel discouraged if others are allowed to trade without following the same rules. This results in unfair competition and weakens confidence in the system.
- 2.3 The lack of regulation also leads to practical problems in managing public spaces. Noise, litter, congestion, and damage to shared areas often arise when trading is uncontrolled, sparking complaints from residents and local businesses. These issues affect council resources and can strain relationships within the community, making it harder to maintain safe and welcoming spaces.
- 2.4 Beyond these challenges, unregulated trading means missed opportunities for positive growth. Properly managed traders and events can create vibrant spaces, support local businesses, and boost the economy. Without regulation, these benefits are lost, leaving disorder where there could be thriving, well-organised trading that benefits everyone.

3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Consideration has been given to the impact on protecting the public, the livelihood of the licensed trade, the impact on existing businesses and the ability to provide a reliable and cost-effective service.
- 3.2 To make street trading more accessible and appealing, it is considered that flexible consent options are introduced. Consent periods of varying lengths, such as one day, one month, six months, or a year, should be offered to give traders flexibility. For any new trader, a 10-day trial period gives applicants the chance to test their business before committing long-term. Consents should also include a built-in pavement licence allowance, with a set number of tables and chairs permitted, avoiding the need for a separate application and simplifying the process for traders.

- 3.3 Consideration has also been given to creating supporting materials and resources to attract and retain traders. A supplementary information pack, presented in a creative brochure-style format, should be produced to showcase the benefits of licensed street trading in an engaging way, rather than relying on standard policy documents. In addition, grants or financial support should be explored in collaboration with the Economic Growth team to provide new traders with the tools and confidence they need to get started.

4. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 4.1 This policy provides a clear framework for regulating street trading activities in a way that balances economic opportunity with community wellbeing. By setting standards that promote public safety, prevent nuisance, and ensure fairness, the policy directly contributes to improving residents' everyday experiences and supporting vibrant, thriving local communities.
- 4.2 The only key risk identified is potential lack of applicant uptake, but these risks have been identified in the project planning stage and mitigating steps have been put into place, as discussed in sections 3.2 and 3.3.

5. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the final approved Street Trading Policy will be implemented from 23rd of October 2025.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The Street Trading Policy plays a vital role in supporting Huntingdonshire District Council's Corporate Plan to 2028, which is centred around three key priorities: improving the quality of life for local people, creating a better Huntingdonshire for future generations, and delivering our core work effectively.
- 6.2 Aligned with the Council's commitment to Do, Enable, Influence, the policy encourages collaboration between traders, residents, and the Council. This partnership approach helps create an environment where street trading can flourish responsibly, contributing to the local economy and enhancing the public realm

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The policy was subject to a public consultation, which was active from the 24th of July 2025 until the 24th of September 2025.
- 7.2 Social media comms, direct emails and communication through the Town & Parish Newsletter was issued to key stakeholders, the general public and existing consent holders.
- 7.3 All responses received are attached **Appendix B**.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Legal implications may arise in the event of non-compliance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 if a formal Street Trading Policy is not adopted and enforcement action against non-consented traders is taken.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The implementation of a street trading policy will have an impact on staff resource as it will require the setting up of new application processes and well as ongoing compliance and enforcement processes. Once this has been set up though, an effective policy will allow for greater compliance efficiencies, reducing the overall staff impact in the long term.
- 9.2 The implications will be met from existing resource.
- 9.3 All fees and charges associated with street trading must be self-financing and on a cost recovery basis only.
- 9.4 A new fee structure has been proposed as part of the implementation, and it is expected that these fees will cover all costs associated with the implementation and ongoing costs of a street trading framework

10. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The implementation of a street trading policy will have no direct implications on the environment or climate change.
- 10.2 All traders will be required to undergo a site and unit assessment before consent is granted and traders utilising a vehicle will be required to present an MOT certificate.
- 10.3 If concerns are identified during this assessment, such as a vehicle that is showing signs of excessive exhaust emissions or the proximity of a proposed trading site, the appropriate environmental considerations will be applied.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 11.1 The recommended decisions introduce a Street Trading Policy for Huntingdonshire District Council to address the lack of regulation, which risks public safety, fairness, and effective management of public spaces.
- 11.2 The policy creates a clear framework balancing trader support with community protection, offering flexible consent options, trial periods, and streamlined processes to encourage compliant trading. Backed by supporting materials and a self-financing fee structure to cover costs, it aims to boost local vibrancy, ensure fairness, and align with the Council's priorities to improve quality of life, foster collaboration, and deliver services effectively.

12. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

- Appendix A – Draft Street Trading Policy

- Appendix B – Consultation Responses
- Appendix C – Proposed Fee Structure

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- [Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance)
- [Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1982](http://www.gov.uk/government/legislation/local-government-miscellaneous-provisions-act-1982)
- [Code of practice on noise from ice-cream van chimes - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-on-noise-from-ice-cream-van-chimes)

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