

Lancaster City Council

Pavement Licensing Policy

Business and Planning Act 2020

Effective: 31 July 2020 v3
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1. Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected businesses across all sectors of the economy causing many to cease trading for several months while others have had to significantly modify their operations.

On 25 June 2020 the Government announced an intention to relax planning and licensing laws to help the hospitality industry recover from the coronavirus lockdown by removing short term obstacles that could get in their way.

The Business and Planning Act 2020 received Royal assent on 22 July 2020 and provides a fast track process for premises selling food and drink such as bars, restaurants, cafes and pubs, to sell and provide seating for customers outdoors through temporary changes to legislation. The Act introduces a temporary permission, in the form of a “pavement licence”, to be issued by Lancaster City Council for furniture such as tables and chairs to be placed on the pavement adjacent to their premises which will enable them to sell food and drink from that area and to maximise seating capacity whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines.

The measures included in the Act modify provisions in the Licensing Act 2003 to provide automatic extensions to the terms of on-sales alcohol licences to allow for off-sales. It is a temporary measure, with provisions lasting until the end of September 2024.

Currently, tables and chairs permissions are granted as Street café licences issued by Lancaster City Council, under Part 7A of the Highways Act 1980. The Street café licence fee is currently £190 for an annual licence and is subject to a statutory 28-day consultation period. Licence conditions are also attached to the grant of these licences.

The new measures in the Business and Planning Act, places a cap on the application fee for businesses, specifies a 7-day consultation period with licences automatically granted if not determined by the Council within a further 7 day period

2. Scope

2.1 Definition of pavement licence

A pavement licence is a licence granted by the local authority, or deemed to have been granted, which allows the licence-holder to sell food and or drink and place removable furniture over certain highways adjacent to the premises in relation to which the application was made.

2.2 Highways Act Street Café Licences

A holder of a Street Café licence may choose to apply for a Pavement Licence. A holder of a Street Café licence can apply free of charge for a Pavement Licence, to cover the same licensed area as the Street Café Licence, up to and including 30 September 2024. The application process is as outlined in this policy.

2.3 Eligible Businesses

A business which uses (or proposes to use) premises for the sale of food or drink for consumption (on or off the premises) can apply for a licence. Businesses that are eligible

include: public houses, cafes, bars, restaurants, snack bars, coffee shops, and ice cream parlours.

A licence permits the business to use furniture placed on the highway to sell or serve food or drink and/or allow it to be used by people for consumption of food or drink supplied from, or in connection with the use of the premises.

2.4 Eligible Locations

Licences can only be granted in respect of highways listed in section 115A (1) Highways Act 1980.

Generally, these are footpaths restricted to pedestrians or are roads and places to which vehicle access is restricted or prohibited. Highways maintained by Network Rail or Crown land are exempt (so a licence cannot be granted).

2.5 Type of furniture permitted

The furniture which may be used is:

- counters or stalls for selling or serving food or drink;
- tables, counters or shelves on which food or drink can be placed;
- chairs, benches or other forms of seating; and
- umbrellas, barriers, heaters and other articles used in connection with the outdoor consumption of food or drink.
- Ancillary items such as hand sanitising stations required to ensure that the area is covid secure

The furniture is required to be removable, and must be capable of being easily moved, and stored away in a secure safe manner when not in use.

The Council would also expect the type of furniture to be 'in keeping' with the local area.

2.6 Planning Permission

Once a licence is granted, or deemed to be granted, the applicant will also benefit from deemed planning permission to use the land for anything done pursuant to the licence while the licence is valid.

3. Application and Determination of Pavement Licences

3.1 Submission of the Application

An application for a Pavement Licence must be made to the Council, and the following will be required to be submitted with the application:

- a completed Application Form
- the required fee of £100, (online payment)
- a plan showing the location of the existing premises and the area to which the application relates (ie pavement licensed area) shown by a red line, so the application site can be clearly identified

- a plan clearly showing the proposed area covered by the licence in relation to the highway, if not to scale, with measurements clearly shown. The plan must show the positions and number of the proposed tables and chairs, together with any other items that they wish to place on the highway. The plan shall include clear measurements of, for example, pathway width/length, building width and any other fixed item in the proposed area.
- the proposed days of the week on which, and the times of day between which, it is proposed to put furniture on the highway,
- photos or brochures showing the proposed type of furniture.
- Reference of any current street café licence (Highways Act 1980) issued by Lancaster City Council.
- evidence that the applicant has met the requirement to give notice of the application (for example photographs of the notice outside the premises and of the notice itself).
- a copy of a current certificate of insurance that covers the activity for third party and public liability risks, to a minimum value of £2 million,

3.2 Fees

The Council has determined that the fee for applications will be £100. A pavement licence if granted will be issued from the date the application is granted until 30 September 2024. The £100 fee is payable irrespective of the duration of the licence, and is non-returnable

3.3 Consultation

Applications are consulted upon for 7 days, starting with the day on which a valid application was made to the Council.

The Council will publish details of the application on its website at www.lancaster.gov.uk.

The Council is required by law to consult with the Highways Authority ie Lancashire County Council. In addition, to ensure that there are not detrimental effects to the application the Council will consult with:

- Lancaster/ Morecambe Town Centre Management/ Business Improvement Manager, Carnforth Chamber of Commerce as appropriate
- Lancaster City Council Environmental Health Service (including Noise pollution and Food and Safety Teams)
- Lancaster City Council Planning Department
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service
- Lancashire Police
- Lancaster City Council Environmental Services (refuse/street cleaning)

Representations from the above parties or members of the public should be provided to Lancaster City Council's licensing team by emailing licensing@lancaster.gov.uk. The email should be headed Pavement licence representation followed by the name of the premises.

The Council will take into account representations received during the public consultation period and consider these when determining the application. The application will be determined in accordance with the relevant sections of the Council's scheme of delegation outlined at **Appendix 4**

3.4 Site Notice

An applicant for a pavement licence must on the day the application is made, fix a notice of the application to the premises so that the notice is readily visible to, and can be read easily by, members of the public who are not on the premises. The notice must be constructed and secured so that it remains in place until the end of the public consultation period.

Evidence of the site notice requirement must be supplied to the Council.

The Site Notice must: contain the information as detailed in **Appendix 1** and must be a minimum size of A4 and use Black type in a minimum font size 16.

3.5 Site Assessment

The following matters will be used by the Council and consultees in considering the suitability of the proposed application:

- public health and safety – for example, ensuring that uses conform with latest guidance on social distancing and any reasonable crowd management measures needed as a result of a licence being granted and businesses reopening;
- public amenity – will the proposed use create nuisance to neighbouring occupiers by generating anti-social behaviour and litter; and
- accessibility – taking a proportionate approach to considering the nature of the site in relation to which the application for a licence is made, its surroundings and its users, taking account of:
 - any other temporary measures in place that may be relevant to the proposal, for example, the reallocation of road space. This could include pedestrianised streets and any subsequent reallocation of this space to vehicles;
 - whether there are other permanent street furniture or structures in place on the footway that already reduce access;
 - the impact on any neighbouring premises
 - the recommended minimum footway widths and distances required for access by mobility impaired and visually impaired people
 - other users of the space, for example if there are high levels of pedestrian or cycle movements.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to talk to neighbouring businesses and occupiers prior to applying for a pavement licence, and so take any issues around noise, and nuisance into consideration as part of the proposal.

3.6 Determination

Once the application is submitted the Council has 14 days from the day after the application is made (excluding public holidays) to consult on and determine the application. This consists of 7 days for public consultation, and then 7 days to consider and determine the application after the consultation.

If the Council determines the application before the end of the determination period the local authority can:

- grant the licence in respect of any or all of the purposes specified in the application and impose conditions,
- grant the licence for some or all of the part of the highway specified in the application, and impose conditions, or
- refuse the application.

Where a valid application has been made and no objections received the application will be granted by licensing officers

Where a valid application has been made and relevant representations are received the application will be determined by The Licensing Sub Committee

If the Council does not determine the application within the 14-day period, the application will be deemed to have been granted.

A template for the notice required is provided at **Appendix 1**

3.7 Approval of Applications

On approving the application, the Council will issue a Pavement Licence to which conditions will be attached. The licence will also contain specific terms such as days and hours of operation and appearance and location of the furniture corresponding to the application.

The Council generally will only permit Pavement Licences between 09:00 and 22:00 hours

Applications outside these hours will be assessed in terms of the criteria detailed above. The Council however retains the right to specify permitted hours of trading that are less than those specified above in appropriate circumstances.

3.8 Licence Duration

The provisions regarding pavement Licences will remain in place until 30 September 2024. As such, the Council will normally grant applications to 30 September 2024.

A licence granted or deemed to be granted will not be valid beyond 30 September 2024.

3.9 Refusal of Applications

If the site is deemed unsuitable for a Pavement Licence, or if relevant representations are made which cannot be mitigated by conditions, then the application may be refused.

There is no statutory right of appeal detailed in the Act.

4. Conditions

The Council's standard conditions are set out at **Appendix 2**. In some cases, extra measures may be required. This will be considered when determining any application which has been subject to representations, on a case-by-case basis.

However, this is not the case for the national licence conditions which are applied to all Pavement licences. These are detailed at **Appendix 3**.

5. Enforcement

The Council aims to work closely with other enforcement authorities to enforce the provisions of all appropriate legislation. The case remains that an obstruction of the Highway is an offence under The Highways Act 1980 and will be dealt with by the Highways Authority or the Police.

Obtaining a licence does not confer the holder immunity in regard to other legislation that may apply, e.g. Public Liability, Health & Safety at Work, Food Hygiene and Safety, Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing, Social distancing controls, Applicants must ensure all such permissions, etc. are in place prior to applying.

If a condition imposed on a licence either by the Council or via a National Condition is breached the Council will be able to issue a notice requiring the breach to be remedied and the Council can take action to cover any costs.

The Council may revoke a licence in the following circumstances:

1. For breach of condition, (whether or not a remediation notice has been issued) or
2. Where:
 - There are risks to public health or safety – for example by encouraging users to breach government guidance on social distancing by placing tables and chairs too close together;
 - the highway is being obstructed (other than by anything permitted by the licence);
 - there is anti-social behaviour, statutory nuisance or public nuisance – for example, the use is increasing the amount of noise generated late at night and litter is not being cleaned up;
 - it comes to light that the applicant provided false or misleading statements in their application – for example they are operating a stall selling hot food and had applied for tables and chairs on which drinks could be consumed; or
 - the applicant did not comply with the requirement to affix the notice to notify the public for the relevant period.
3. The Council may also revoke the licence where all or any part of the area of the relevant highway to which the licence relates has become unsuitable for any purpose for which the licence was granted or deemed to be granted. For example, the licensed area (or road adjacent) is no longer to be pedestrianised. The Council will give reasons where these powers are used.

6. Review Procedures

This Policy covers the Temporary Permission for Pavement Licences under the Business and Planning Act which are scheduled to expire on 30 September 2024.

This Policy will be reviewed from time to time should changes occur in relevant legislation, the nature of Pavement Licence's generally, relevant social distancing measures or as a result of local considerations within the Lancaster City Council area.

BUSINESS AND PLANNING ACT 2020
Notice of Application submitted to
LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL
In respect of a Pavement Licence for

NAME OF PREMISES]
[FULL ADDRESS OF PREMISES]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Business and Planning Act 2020
(applicant name)
Has made an application to Lancaster City Council on *(Date)* for a Pavement Licence

The application is in respect of
(Description of the highway area to be utilised e.g area extending X meters from the frontage of the premises address)

And is seeking permission to utilise a Pavement Licence to facilitate
(description of the activities to be carried on)

The proposed hours of operation are as follows
(please insert days and timings)

A copy of the proposal and accompanying plan are available for inspection on the Councils website at XXXXXXXXXX

Any person wishing to make representations to the Council regarding this application may do so by emailing Licensing@lancaster.gov.uk. The email should be headed Pavement licence representation (insert premises name). Alternatively, in writing to the Licensing Manager, Morecambe Town Hall, Marine Road, Morecambe LA4 5AF **to be received no later than 7 days from the date of this notice.**

Signed Name in Print

Dated this th day of 2023/4

(The date of the notice must be stated as the day after the application was made)

Pavement Licences

Standard licence conditions

- 1.0 The Licence will have effect until 30 September 2024 unless surrendered or revoked.
- 2.0 The issue of a License does not give or imply any permission to sell intoxicating liquor in the street.
- 3.0 The Licence shall be displayed in the window of the premises to which it relates.
- 4.0 The use of the Licensed Area shall cease before 22.00 hours each day and shall not commence prior to 09.00.
- 5.0 The Licensed Area shall be vacated immediately if requested by the Council, Lancashire County Council as Highway Authority, Lancashire Constabulary or other emergency service, statutory undertaker etc. without any liability for compensation, refund of application fee, or damage arising.
- 6.0 The Council reserve the right to request the clearing of the licensed area if required for special one-off events for public safety.
- 7.0 The Licence shall be rendered invalid, should the Licensee cease to own the premises or cease employment.
- 8.0 The Licensee shall indemnify the Council and shall produce to the Council's Licensing Manager for inspection a policy of insurance indemnifying himself and the Council against any injury or damage to any person or property and against any claim liability expense or damage arising by reason or in consequence of the permission granted. The policy shall provide cover of not less than £2,000,000 in respect of any one accident or series of accidents arising from one incident unlimited during the period of the insurance.
- 9.0 Upon expiry or revocation of the permission the Licensee shall remove any structures from the highway and reinstate the highway to its former state and condition and in default thereof, the Council will be empowered to carry out such work of reinstatement and recover the expense in so doing from the Licensee.
- 10.0 For streets with footways and carriageways, the maximum width of any licensed area shall not exceed one third of the usable width of the footpath. A minimum unobstructed footpath width of 1.8 metres must be provided for safe and convenient pedestrian movement. This distance being, measured from the edge of the licensed area to any significant amount of street furniture (such as lamp posts, bollards, parking meters etc). Where there is a heavy pedestrian flow additional footpath space may be required.

- 11.0 For pedestrianised streets a minimum width of 1.8 meters or two thirds of the total width of the public highway, whichever is the greater, must remain free and unobstructed to facilitate pedestrian movement. This figure may be increased where there is a heavy pedestrian flow. The unobstructed route shall fall equally either side of the centre line of the highway to ensure the space available for tables and chairs is shared equally between premises on each side of the street.
- 12.0 A clear direct pathway of at least 1.2 metres wide shall be maintained to allow entry and exit from building premises.
- 13.0 Only the Licensed Area shall be used for trading.
- 14.0 Where tables and chairs are proposed directly outside a shop front, a well designed and constructed physical barrier or roped area of approximately 0.8 metres in height is required to designate the area and to guide persons with sight disability around the use. Such barriers must not be permanently fixed to the ground and must be of a style, design and type to be agreed by the Council.
- 15.0 Only furniture associated with the operation of the pavement licence shall be placed within the Licensed Area. .
- 16.0 Tables and chairs shall be durable and suitable for outside use. No damaged furniture should be used.
- 17.0 An area of 1 metre around the Licensed Area must be regularly cleansed and floor debris and other' waste immediately removed to the satisfaction of the Council's Head of Environmental Services.
- 18.0 Tables, chairs and umbrellas shall not be positioned so as to obstruct sight lines for drivers of vehicles at junctions.
- 19.0 No canopy or umbrella shall be lower than two metres in height and shall be adequately secured.
- 20.0 All street cafe furniture, including barriers shall be removed and safely securely and stored at the end of trading each day, or at the end of the approved trading hours as defined by the Licence, whichever is the earliest.
- 21.0 Suitable safe storage for street café furniture shall be identified by the applicant at the time of application for a license.
- 22.0 There must be adequate provision made for the collection and containment of litter and, the Licensee must provide suitable litter bins.
- 23.0 The Licensee will ensure that the designated area is maintained in a clean and tidy condition. The Licensee shall also take appropriate precautions to prevent the immediate highway from becoming littered as a result of trading activities.
- 24.0 The Licensee shall at all times when the pavement cafe is in operation make available for customers toilets and hand washing facilities, to wheelchair accessible standards where it is practicable and reasonable to do so.

- 25.0 The Licensee will be responsible for the conduct of customers. They must not be a nuisance or annoy users of the highway or other persons.
- 26.0 No speakers or playing of music shall be permitted.
- 27.0 No electrical cables shall be run along the ground in such a way that they create a trip hazard or are susceptible to mechanical damage.
- 28.0 No tables and chairs (street furniture) to be placed so as to cause an obstruction or nuisance to any Charter Market stall holder.
N.B. This may mean that a Pavement Licence cannot be used whilst the market is taking place.
- 29.0 Where alcohol is permitted to be served or consumed in the licensed area glass receptacles including bottles cannot be used. Polycarbonate or similar material receptacles should be used.
- 30.0 All patrons consuming intoxicating liquor must be seated at a table within the licensed area, there will be no vertical drinking.

National Licence Conditions

Smoke-free seating condition

The licence holder must make reasonable provision for seating where smoking is not permitted.

No obstruction condition

The licence-holder must ensure that anything done in pursuant to the pavement licence, or any activity of other persons which is enabled by the pavement licence, must not have an effect on the following:

(a) preventing traffic, other than vehicular traffic, from:

(i) entering the relevant highway at a place where such traffic could otherwise enter it (ignoring any pedestrian planning order or traffic order made in relation to the highway),

(ii) passing along the relevant highway, or

(iii) having normal access to premises adjoining the relevant highway,

(b) preventing any use of vehicles which is permitted by a pedestrian planning order or which is not prohibited by a traffic order,

(c) preventing statutory undertakers having access to any apparatus of theirs under, in, on or over the highway, or

(d) preventing the operator of an electronic communications code network having access to any electronic communications apparatus kept installed for the purposes of that network under, in, on or over the highway.

Function		Decision Delegated to
Determination of Pavement Licence	Where, during the public consultation period, no representations have been received.	Licensing Manager (ref part 2 Section 7)
	Where, during the public consultation period, representations have been received.	Licensing Sub Committee (ref part 2 Section 5)

Ref – Councils Constitution