

Report to Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 26th October 2023



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Subject: Temporary Event Notices

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Committee Secretary: Therese Larsen 01992564243

Recommendations: For Information

Background

1. In June 2021 the Alcohol Licensing (Coronavirus) (Regulatory Easements) (Amendment) Regulations came into force. The regulations not only extended the temporary pavement licensing regime, it also increased the annual number of Temporary Event Notices (TENs) that a licensed premises can have from 15 to 20 and increased the maximum number of days on which temporary events may be held from 21 to 26 per calendar year.
2. The purpose of the increase was to support the hospitality trade during and post Covid it applied to the number of TENs submitted between 1st January 2022 and December 2023.
3. Between 6 March and 1 May 2023, the Government ran a consultation on whether to make permanent the alcohol licensing provisions in the Business and Planning Act 2020 (BPA) or whether to return to the pre-covid provisions in the Licensing Act 2003. One of the questions asked by Government was when the regulatory easements end on 31st December 2023, the annual allowance should remain at the extended amount or whether the allowance should return to pre-covid provisions.
4. In response to the consultation 63% of respondents indicated in favour of a return to pre-covid restrictions and Home Office statistics showed that even though the number of TENs that could be served had increased, the actual number of TENs received by Local Authorities during this period, had decreased by 33% when compared to pre-pandemic levels.
5. The Licensing Committee are advised that in light of these statistics and responses received, Government has announced that on 1st January 2024, the number of TENs permitted will return to previous restrictions. From this date the maximum number of TENs that can be served in respect of the same premises will be 15 and the maximum number of days on which temporary events may be held will be 21 per calendar year.