



# **Pavement Café Licensing Policy (July 2024)**

**Business and Planning Act 2020**

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## 1. Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic affected businesses across the economy causing many to cease trading for several months while others have had to significantly modify their operations. As the economy started to re-open, on 25th June 2020 the Government announced further and urgent relaxation to 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, received Royal Assent on 22nd July 2020, and introduced a temporary fast-track process for these businesses to obtain permission, in the form of a “pavement licence”, from Fylde Borough Council for the placement of furniture such as tables and chairs on the pavement outside their premises which will enable them to maximise their capacity whilst adhering to social distancing guidelines.

In March 2024, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 made permanent the temporary provisions set out in the Business and Planning Act (BPA) 2020.

Between the introduction of the temporary Pavement Licences and them becoming permanent, Fylde Council considered and approved applications submitted under both the Business and Planning Act provisions and for those in existence prior to the pandemic, under Part 7A of the Highways Act 1980.

The fee varied between local authorities and there is a time consuming 28-day consultation period which was reduced to 7 days for the fast-track process. The maximum fee which an Authority was permitted to charge was set at £100 under the temporary process.

The new permanent measures place a cap on the application fee for businesses of a maximum fee of £500 for new applications, £350 for renewals, extends the consultation period from 7 days to 14 days (excluding public holidays) and allows licences to be issued for up to 2 years. A 14-day determination period ensures that businesses can obtain licences in a timely and cost-effective manner.

## 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 place removable furniture over certain highways adjacent to the premises in relation to which the application was made, for certain purposes.

### 2.2 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.

### 2.3 Eligible Locations

Licences can only be granted in respect of highways listed in part 7A of the 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 over the Crown land are exempt (so a licence cannot be granted).

#### 2.4 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.

This furniture is required to be removable, which in principle this means it is not a permanent fixed structure, and is able to be moved easily, and stored away of an evening.

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

#### 2.5 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 £400.00
- a plan showing the location of the premises 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,
- evidence of the right to occupy the premises (e.g. the lease);
- photos or brochures showing the proposed type of furniture and information on potential siting of it within the area applied;
- (If applicable) reference of existing pavement licence currently under consideration by the local authority;
- 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 £5 million, and
- any other evidence needed to demonstrate how the Council's local conditions, and any national conditions will be satisfied.

3.2 Fees
<p>The fee for applying for a licence under the new process are set local but are capped at £500 for new applications and £350 for renewals. The Council has determined that for the financial year 2025-26 the fee for new applications will be £400, and £350 upon renewal, and will be reassessed as part of the annual review.</p>
3.3 Consultation
<p>Applications are consulted upon for 14 days, starting with the day on which a valid application was made to the Council.</p> <p>The Council will publish details of the application on its website at <a href="http://www.fylde.gov.uk">www.fylde.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>The Council is required by law to consult with the Highways Authority. In addition, to ensure that there are not detrimental effects to the application the Council will consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fylde Council Regeneration</li> <li>• Fylde Council Environmental Services (including Food and Safety Teams)</li> <li>• Fylde Council Planning Department</li> <li>• Lancs Fire &amp; Rescue Service</li> <li>• Lancashire Police</li> <li>• Ward Councillors</li> </ul> <p>Members of the public and others listed above can contact the Council to make representations.</p> <p>The Council must take into account representations received during the public consultation period and consider these when determining the application.</p>
3.4 Site Notice
<p>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.</p> <p>Evidence of the site notice requirement must be supplied to the Council.</p> <p>The Site Notice must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• state that the application has been made and the date on which it was made;</li> <li>• state the statutory provisions under which the application is made;</li> <li>• state the address of the premises and name of the business;</li> <li>• describe the proposed use of the furniture;</li> <li>• indicate that representations relating to the application may be made to the Council during the public consultation period and when that period comes to an end;</li> <li>• state the Council's website where the application and any accompanying material can be viewed during the consultation period;</li> <li>• state the address to which representations should be sent during the consultation period; and</li> <li>• the end date of the consultation (5 working days starting the day after the application is submitted to the authority).</li> </ul> <p>A template Site Notice is shown as Appendix 1.</p>
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 as set out in Section 3.1 of [Inclusive Mobility](#), and
  - 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 to the local authority, and so take any issues around noise, and nuisance into consideration as part of the proposal.

Furthermore, consideration must be given to Counter Terrorism measures and how operators consider security at Publicly Accessible Locations and ensure that protective security form a routine part of the business. The Metropolitan Police Service, National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO), and Centre for the Protection of the National Infrastructure (CPNI) provided Local Authorities with proportionate advice to protect public realm space which led to the Metropolitan Police Service developing two Counter Terrorism Pavement Licence conditions which contain appropriate security features. Those conditions are included in appendix 2 and are supported by Lancashire Constabulary.

### 3.6 Determination

Once the 14-day consultation period has concluded, the Council has 14 days (from the day after) to determine the application.

If the local authority 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,
- grant the licence for some or all of the part of the highway specified in the application, and impose conditions, or
- refuse the application.

If the local authority does not determine the application within the 10-working day period, the application will be deemed to have been granted.

### 3.7 Approval of Applications

The Council may approve applications meeting the criteria contained within these guidelines.

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 when tables and chairs are permitted and appearance and location of the furniture corresponding to the application.

A copy of the Council's standard conditions, which will be attached to all Pavement Licences are shown at

Appendix 2. Additional conditions may be attached if the Council considers it appropriate in the circumstances of any particular case.

The Council generally will only permit Pavement Licences between 09:00 and 21:00.

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

If the Council determines an application before the end of the determination period (which is 14 days, beginning with the first day after the public consultation period, excluding public holidays) they can specify the duration of the licence, with Guidance stating, *“To help support local businesses and give them more certainty, the expectation is that local authorities are pragmatic and will grant licences the maximum 2 years, unless there are good reasons for granting a licence for a shorter period such as plans for future changes in use of road space.”*

At a meeting of Full Council on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 which considered the introduction of the temporary provisions, it was determined that licenses be granted to for a duration of six months unless specific considerations related to the site or application indicate a different duration to be appropriate. On the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021, the Public Protection Committee resolved to update the Policy so that licences be granted for a duration of 12 months.

At a meeting of the Public Protection Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024, it was determined that licences be granted for a duration of 12 months.

If a licence is ‘deemed’ granted because the authority does not make a decision on an application before the end of the determination period, then the licence will be valid for 2 years. However, a licence that has been deemed granted which does not meet the conditions set out in the legislation or any local conditions, can be revoked at any time on the grounds that it has breached the conditions.

### 3.9 Refusal of Applications

The Highways Authority is a statutory consultee, and the local authority will anticipate a response from them. Generally speaking, where no response is received from the Highways Authority, an application will be refused.

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 appeal process against decision to refuse an application.

## 4. Conditions

The Council’s standard conditions are set out at Appendix 2. In some cases, extra measures may be required. This will be determined when assessing any application, on a case-by-case basis.

Where a local authority sets a local condition that covers the same matter as set out in national published conditions, then the locally set condition takes precedence over the national condition where there is reasonable justification to do so.

However, this is not the case for the statutory no-obstruction condition which is as applies to all Licences. The National ‘no obstruction’ condition is shown in 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, and 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 authority can take action to cover any costs.

The authority 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 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.
4. In cases where furniture which would normally be permitted by a pavement or other licence has been placed on a relevant highway without the required licence, notice may be given requiring the business to remove the furniture before a date specified and to refrain from putting furniture on the highway unless they gain a licence.

If furniture continues to be placed on the highway, in violation of the notice, the furniture may be removed and stored, the costs recovered from the business for the removal and storage of the furniture and also refuse to return the furniture until those costs have been paid. If within 3 months of the notice, the costs are not paid, the authority can dispose of the furniture by sale or other means and retain the proceeds.

## 6. Review Procedures

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 Fylde Borough.





**Application for a Pavement Café Licence.**

S2 Business and Planning Act 2020

I/We (1),

give notice that on (2) [I/we]-applied to Fylde Council for a ‘Pavement Licence’ at: (3)

known as (4)

The application is for: (5)

Any person wishing to make representations regarding this application may do so by writing to the Licensing Team, Fylde Council, Town Hall, Lytham St Annes FY8 1LW or emailing [licensing@fylde.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@fylde.gov.uk)

by: (6)

The application and information submitted may be seen at [www.fylde.gov.uk](http://www.fylde.gov.uk) or by visiting Fylde Council, Town Hall, Lytham St Annes FY8 1LW between Monday to Thursday 09am to 5pm, Friday 0900 – 4.30 pm

Signed .....

Dated (7) .....

**Guidance notes:**

Substitute the numbers with the following information:

*(1) name of applicant*

*(2) date the application is made (i.e. submitted)*

*(3) postal address of premises*

*(4) name premises is known by*

*(5) brief description of application (e.g. outdoor seating to the front of the premises for serving of food and drink)].*

*(6) last date for representations being the date 14 days after the date the application is submitted to the local authority (excluding public holidays)*

*(7) date the notice was first displayed (must be the same date as (2))*

## Appendix 2

### Standard Pavement Licence Conditions

1. Being the licence holder of a Pavement Licence does not imply an exclusive right to the area of public highway. The licence holder must be aware that Fylde Council and others (e.g. police, highways authority, statutory undertakers) will need access at various times (including emergencies) for maintenance, installation, special events, improvements etc or any other reasonable cause. This may mean that the pavement licence will need to cease operating and/or be removed for a period of time. On these occasions there would be no compensation for loss of business.
2. Fylde Council requires evidence that the licence holder has Public Liability Insurance for the operation of the Pavement Licence. This must indemnify Fylde Council and Lancashire County Council against all claims for injury, damage or loss to users of the public highway, arising from the use of the highway for the permitted purpose. The minimum level of indemnity must be £5 million in respect of any one incident.
3. Tables and chairs must not be placed in position outside of permitted times. When the licence is not in use, all tables and chairs and other furniture must be stored securely inside a premises away from the highway.
4. Fylde Council and/or Lancashire County Council are empowered to remove and store or dispose of furniture from the highway, at the cost of the licensee, if it is left there outside the permitted hours, or should any conditions of the licence be ignored. The Council will not be responsible for its safekeeping.
5. The licence holder is not to make or cause to be made any claim Fylde Council in the event of any property of the licence holder becoming lost or damaged in any way from whatever cause.
6. An unimpeded pedestrian route must be maintained at all times for people wishing to use the footway as per the National Licence Conditions.
7. The method of marking the boundary of the licensed area must be agreed between the licence holder and the Licensing Department. Whatever method is agreed a 2 metre clear walkway must be maintained for the use of pedestrians.
8. Emergency routes to the premises and adjacent buildings must not be obstructed by the pavement furniture, which should not, in normal circumstances, extend beyond the width of the premises frontage.
9. Tables and chairs should be of an approved type and should be kept in a good state of repair. Furniture should be placed so as not to obstruct driver sightlines, or road traffic signs. Placement of tables and chairs must allow pedestrians to use the footway parallel to the frontage of the premises. Care should be taken in the use of hanging baskets, awnings, protruding umbrellas etc. Alternative items may not be used without first seeking the written authority of the Council.
10. All potential obstructions must be removed from the public highway when the premises are closed to prevent a safety hazard to pedestrians, particularly during the hours of darkness.
11. The licensee should ensure that the area operates in a safe and orderly manner, thereby ensuring that any safety risk or nuisance to customers, other users of the public highway or any adjacent land or premises, is minimised.
12. The operation of the area must not interfere with highway drainage arrangements.

13. During the hours of darkness suitable and sufficient lighting must be provided to ensure safe use of the area. Any proposals to provide additional lighting to the licensed areas must be agreed with the Highway Authority.
14. All detritus (food and drink remnants, spillages, bottles, cans, wrappers etc) be regularly removed from the footway surface to reduce hazards to pedestrians. The licence holder must make arrangements to regularly check for and to remove litter and rubbish on pedestrian walkways, caused by persons using the Facility, for a distance of up to 10 metres from the boundary of the Facility. The licence holder must ensure that any tables are cleared in an efficient manner during the hours of operation. The licence holder must ensure the licensed area and surrounding highway is to be washed down at the completion of each day's usage using a method sufficient to remove food debris, grease and other spillages that may occur.
15. The licence holder is not permitted to make any fixtures, or excavations of any kind, to the surface of the highway without prior written approval. Any costs incurred as a result of damage to the highway, due to the positioning of tables and chairs etc, will be recovered in full from the licence holder by Fylde Council or the Highway Authority.
16. The Licensee of a premises not licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 or any modification or re-enactment thereof, must not allow the consumption of alcohol within licensed area.
17. The Licensee of a premises licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 or any modification or re-enactment thereof, must not allow the consumption of alcohol within the Facility outside the hours in force for the premises itself.
18. The licence must be displayed on the premises with a plan of the agreed layout in clear view.
19. The licensee is responsible for ensuring that the conditions of the licence and any other necessary permissions and regulations are adhered to. The Licence holder is to use the highway solely for the purpose of the licence in line with the provisions of this licence and for no other purpose whatsoever.
20. The licence holder must remove any tables, chairs and other furniture immediately at the end of the licence period or on revocation of the licence.
21. Fylde Council reserves the right to revoke this licence at any time if any of the above conditions are not fulfilled and maintained.

#### Counter Terrorism Model Security Considerations:

1. The pavement license holder will need to ensure that the management team of the business to which the pavement license is attached; register and successfully complete the nationally recognised counter terrorism training product referred to as ACT E Learning within 10 days of the notification of the grant of the Pavement License OR can demonstrate that the ACT E Learning product has successfully been completed within the preceding 12 months and that all staff employed by OR at the premises complete the ACT E Learning within a reasonable period not exceeding 3 months from the notification of the grant of the Pavement License.(Act E Learning certificates are provided on successful on-line completion).
2. The Pavement License holder will need to ensure that existing CCTV systems are correctly working, are compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998, Information Commissioners requirements and any other local CCTV Code of Conduct produced by the Police or Local Authority. Imagery must be retained for at least 28 days and images produced to a Police Officer or Local Authority Enforcement Officer upon reasonable request. Faults which render the CCTV system or parts of it inoperable should normally be rectified within 24 hours.

## National Conditions

The Secretary of State publishes this condition in exercise of his powers under [clause 5(6)] of the Business and Planning Act 2020:

Condition relating to clear routes of access:

It is a condition that clear routes of access along the highway must be maintained, taking into account the needs of disabled people, and the recommended minimum footway widths and distances required for access by mobility impaired and visually impaired people as set out in Section 3.1 of [Inclusive Mobility](#).

Guidance on the effect of this condition

1. To the extent that conditions imposed or deemed to be imposed on a pavement licence do not require the licence holder to require clear routes of access to be maintained, taking into account the needs of disabled people and the recommended minimum footway widths and distances required for access by mobility impaired and visually impaired people as set out in Section 3.1 of [Inclusive Mobility](#), the licence is granted subject to those requirements.
2. To the extent that a licence is granted subject to a condition which imposes requirements to maintain clear routes of access that are inconsistent with the requirements set out in this condition this condition is not imposed on the licence.







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Authorised by: