

To: Licensing & Gambling Act Committee

Date: 9 February 2026

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive for Citizens and City Services

Title of Report: Review of the Cumulative Impact Assessment and Special Saturation Policy

Summary and recommendations	
Decision being taken:	To confirm the decision of the Committee on the 22 September 2025 in relation to the Cumulative Impact Assessment and determine the Special Saturation Policy
Key decision:	No
Cabinet Member:	N/A
Corporate Priority:	Strong, Fair Economy & Thriving Communities.
Policy Framework:	None.

Recommendation(s): That Licensing & Gambling Acts Committee resolves to:

1. **Reaffirm** its decision of the 22 September 2025 to not renew the Cumulative Impact Assessment and Saturation Policy covering the City Centre and East Oxford areas, noting that the matter is a decision for Committee with no onwards requirement for a decision by full Council;

Information Exempt from Publication	
	N/A

Appendix No.	Appendix Title	Exempt from Publication
Appendix 1	Report to Committee 22 September 2025	No
Appendix 2	2022-2025 Cumulative Impact Assessment	No
Appendix 3	Consultation Responses & Analysis	No

Appendix 4	Licensing Authority Briefing Note	No
Appendix 5	2025-2028 Cumulative Impact Assessment	No
Appendix 6	Equality Impact Assessment	No

Introduction and background

1. The Committee, at its meeting of the 22 September 2025, took the decision to not to approve the Cumulative Impact Assessment and Saturation Policy from 2025 to 2028.
2. As members may recall, there were some queries regarding the decision-making path for this matter and, in conclusion, the Committee recommended the decision to Council.
3. Advice was sought from Counsel in relation to the matter for clarity. Officers understood that the Saturation Policy formed part of the Statement of Licensing Policy under s5A of the Licensing Act 2003, which under the legislation and the Constitution is reserved to Council to approve.
4. Advice from Counsel confirmed that the Saturation Policy and Cumulative Impact Assessment are separate from the Statement of Licensing Policy. S5 of the Act states that, unless stated otherwise in that section, all matters are to be decided upon by Licensing Committee.
5. Whilst s5 states that Council must approve the Statement of Licensing Policy, it does not say the same for the Cumulative Impact Assessment. Therefore, it is a decision that the Committee should take.
6. Though Committee made a clear recommendation to Council, it is asked to reconfirm its decision and make clear it is doing so and not referring to Council. This will ensure a clear decision by Committee and transparency and clarity in the minutes and recommendations.
7. The report that was considered by Committee is appended at Appendix 1.

Duty of the Committee

8. It is the Committee's statutory duty to promote the four licensing objectives set out in the Licensing Act 2003. The four licensing objectives are the legal foundation for all licensing decisions, and as such the authority's legal duty to prevent nuisance, crime and disorder must be the foremost consideration.

Financial implications

9. The cost for the consultation and analysis of the data for a CIA will be within the existing budget.

Legal issues

10. Any legal implications are contained within the report and appendices.

Equalities impact

11. The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:
 - a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
 - b. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't share it;
 - c. Foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not (which involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding).
12. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
13. When undertaking the Equality Impact Assessment, the Equality and Human Rights Commission guidance was used along with legislation and consultation responses.
14. The Equality Impact Assessment can be found appended to the report placed before Committee on the 22 September 2025.

Carbon and Environmental Considerations

15. There are no environmental considerations arising from this report.

Report author	Emma Jackman
Job title	Director of Law, Governance and Strategy
Service area or department	Corporate Services
Telephone	07889 170498
e-mail	ejackman@oxford.gov.uk

Background Papers:

- 1 [Licensing Act 2003](#)
- 2 [Homepage | EHRC](#)
- 3 [Committee Minutes](#) from the previous Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee on 22 September 2025

This page is intentionally left blank