

A House of Lords committee has published its recommendations for the first overhaul of the “fundamentally flawed” Licensing Act in 11 years. The committee has suggested:

- **Scrapping licensing committees** and integrating their responsibilities with planning committees
- **Setting licensing fees locally**
- **Repealing Late Night Levies** and the as-yet unused Early Morning Restriction Orders
- **Introducing Minimum Unit Pricing** if it proves to be a success when implemented in Scotland
- **Bringing in a full ‘agent of change’ principle** to ensure new developments take full account of existing licensed premises during planning
- To enforce the licensing act for airside operations as well as other parts of airports
- The committee also said it did not believe the promotion of health and wellbeing should be a licensing objective

The report has been broadly welcomed by trade bodies, although there was concern around the potential unintended consequences of merging licensing and planning and called for a national cap if licensing fees are to be set locally. [Read more](#)