

LICENSING COMMITTEE ***Agenda***

Date Tuesday 24 February 2026

Time 9.30 am

Venue J R Clynes Ground Floor Room 1 - The JR Clynes Building, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL

- Notes
1. Declarations of Interest- If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Alex Bougatef or Constitutional Services at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
 2. Contact for this agenda is Constitutional Services - constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk
 3. Public Questions - Any Member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the contact officer by 12 noon on Thursday, 19 February 2026.
 4. Filming - The Council, members of the public and the press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

Please note that anyone using recording equipment both audio and visual will not be permitted to leave the equipment in the room where a private meeting is held.

Membership of the LICENSING COMMITTEE

Councillors Adams, Bishop, Byrne, Chowhan, Cosgrove, Hamblett, Harrison, Hindle, A Hussain, J. Hussain (Vice-Chair), S. Hussain (Chair), Nasheen, Navesey, Shuttleworth and Wahid

Item No

- 1 Apologies For Absence
- 2 Urgent Business
Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair
- 3 Declarations of Interest
To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.
- 4 Public Question Time
To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 5 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 3 - 6)
The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2025 are attached for approval.
- 6 Licensing Update Report (Pages 7 - 12)
The reason for this report is to request that Members note the activities of the Licensing Team since the last meeting.
- 7 Licensing Driver Panel Report (Pages 13 - 16)
The reason for this report is to request that Members approve the request for additional dates for driver panels to be added to the calendar of meetings.

Present: Councillor S. Hussain (Chair)
Councillors Adams, Bishop, Byrne, Hindle, A Hussain,
J. Hussain (Vice-Chair), Nasheen, Shuttleworth and Wahid

Also in Attendance:

Alex Bougatef	Group Solicitor
Nasir Dad	Director of Environment
Jack Grennan	Constitutional Services
Nicola Lord	Licensing Officer
Heather Moore	Assistant Director of Governance
Sumayya Rawat	Solicitor
Elaine Taylor	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cosgrove and Councillor Harrison.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2025 be approved as a correct record.

6 **LICENSING UPDATE REPORT**

It was noted that there had been two licensing hearings since April 2025, and officers continue to advise and respond to complaints about licensed premises and undertake inspections to ensure compliance with conditions.

Dual driver license figures were noted and it was highlighted that in the table 3.2, figures were provided to fill in the missing information. It was noted that there had been a more than 100% increase in the licensed vehicle fleet since June 2023, which was creating capacity issues at the Council's testing station. It was noted that the test station was closed between May and the start of August 2025.

Members requested a breakdown of the reasons as to why vehicles had failed the tests, and were assured that this data could be provided.

Members asked about retests not taking place on the same day, noting that this was costing drivers money. It was noted that this

was in relation to capacity at the test station and that the licensing team were working with the trade to assist with this. Members queried whether there was a correlation between having no retest fee and the delays and it was advised that there was not. It was also noted that data could be provided to the committee and it was assured that the team were working with the trade around capacity issues.

Members queried why the test station had been closed between May and August 2025. It was noted that allegations of malpractice had been made at the test centre and it was closed for the duration of the investigation. It was further noted that outcomes had been reached and the matter was considered closed, with steps delivered to prevent the issue again.

Members asked if things were getting better and it was noted that new procedures were improving the situation and were being managed in house to avoid any repeat issues.

Members queried whether the data covered the additional MOT guidelines and it was advised that it did.

Members asked about whether toilet facilities at the testing station were sufficient and it was noted that this would be picked up through feedback.

Members noted that previously at the test centre, the CCTV was not always operational and that time stamps had been incorrect in some cases. It was queried who monitors this. It was noted that the service were not aware of any of the allegations raised but that there were clear mechanisms to raise issues. It was highlighted that cameras did not have a recording function, they were just to view the centre in real time. Members noted concerns at this, and highlighted that if complaints were made, there were no ways to check the CCTV evidence. It was noted that this was a staffing issue and that there was a wider challenge of GDPR around recording workers in the workplace. It was noted that a wider consultation would have to take place on this.

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LICENSING REPORT - TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

It was noted that the policy was a single source of information for users, and that Oldham had had a policy for a number of years which was reviewed every once in a while. It was noted that there were a number of amendments being proposed for the committee to consider.

Members agreed to the change to the policy in relation to the requirement that tinted windows needing to be fitted by the manufacturer

Members agreed to the change to the policy which would mandate the requirement to subscription updates.

Members agreed to the change of the policy which would keep a license suspended until a new DBS is produced.



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Members discussed the change of policy around mid-year tests being carried out by DVSA approved MOT test stations. Members welcomed the decision, noting capacity for 2000 tests opening up. Members queried whether monitoring would still take place, and it was advised that there is constant review so any concerns would be flagged.

Councillor Wahid proposed and Councillor Bishop seconded the below amendment to the report:

'New 2.6.1 All licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles (new and renewal vehicles) shall be permitted to undertake both their annual and mid-year vehicle tests at any DVSA-approved MOT testing station. The Council's Moorhey Street Testing Station may continue to operate for voluntary compliance checks, re-tests, and post-accident inspections.

New 2.6.3 For mid-year tests, the MOT certificate must be dated no more than 5 working days before the test is due and must be sent to the Licensing Service by the deadline shown on the vehicle's paper license.

New: Officers shall monitor compliance with vehicle standards through the normal licensing regime, ensuring that vehicles tested externally continue to meet all safety, emissions, and presentation requirements applicable under the Council's licensing policy.'

Legal advice from the Borough Solicitor was provided, noting the financial procedure rules. It was highlighted that if the amendment was carried it would have to go to Cabinet as a report due to the budgetary implications.

Licensing officers addressed the committee, noting the financial implications of the amendment which would lead to a significant increase to vehicle license fees. It was noted that there were valid points around MOTs for mid-year testing, which would free up capacity, reducing wait times for retests. It was highlighted that this would be a step back from the Greater Manchester position by allowing out of house testing.

Members noted concerns around the amendment, particularly around politicising the situation. It was noted that it was understood why the trade wanted this but two different issues around corruption was concerning. It was noted by officers that a thorough investigation had taken place and members could be assured that where complaints were raised, they would be investigated and the trade were assured that if they had concerns, they should report them.

Members noted a want to consider the amendment properly, and that the financial and legal implications needed to be

considered. It was noted by the Chair that there was a procedure to follow.

Councillor Wahid used his right of reply to note the seriousness of the allegations, highlighting that the council could not ignore so many complaints of irregular practice. It was noted that he did try to present the amendment in advance of the meeting but was told that it wasn't the process.

On a vote taken on the amendment, the amendment was lost.

On a vote taken on the change to the policy, the change was carried.

Members agreed to a change to the policy that noted that the wording regarding providing MOT certificates is required to be removed from the policy to reflect the decision not to issue MOT certificates at Moorhey Street testing station.

Members agreed to a change to the policy that updated the policy to require applicants to hold a full UK Driving License for at least 12 months.

Members agreed to a change to the policy to impose a width requirement for passengers seats, as set out in the report. Grandfather rights for all to remain on until vehicles reach the maximum age policy or cut off for emissions standards were also agreed.

RESOLVED: That all the changes to policy be agreed.

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HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING REPORT

It was noted that the report was to inform members of the outcome of a survey to measure demand for hackney carriages within the Borough.

Members requested that complaints data be brought to the committee.

It was agreed that the committee note the report, retaining the current limit of 85 hackney carriage vehicles in the borough.

The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.05 am

Report to Licensing Committee

LICENSING UPDATE

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Taylor – Cabinet Member for Housing & Licensing

Officer Contact: Nasir Dad

Report Author: Nicola Lord

24 February 2026

Reason for Decision

The reason for this report is to request that Members note the activities of the Licensing Team since the last meeting.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.



Licensing Committee – 24 February 2026

Licensing Update

1. Background

1.1 The Council, acting in its role as Licensing Authority carries out a range of statutory functions including taxi and private hire licensing, alcohol, entertainment and late-night refreshment, gambling, and street trading.

1.2 This report sets out the activities of the licensing team since April 2025 together with outlining the challenges and demands on the service.

2. Alcohol, Entertainment & Late-night Refreshment

2.1 The team continues to advise, issue, and ensure compliance with a range of premises licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003.

2.2 There have been seven hearings since April 2025 as detailed below:

Premises	Application	Outcome
Go Local Express, Vulcan Street, Oldham	Grant of a Premises Licence	Granted – with amended timings
Greene’s Bistro & Parlour, Wade Row, Uppermill	Vary a Premises Licence	Granted – with amended timings
Albion Farm Shop / The Turkey Shed	Grant of a Premises Licence	Granted – with amended timings
Church Inn, Failsworth	Summary Review of Premises Licence	Suspended – pending full review hearing
	Full Review of Premises Licence	Unsuspended - Current CCTV conditions removed and replaced alongside other additional conditions.
Woodhouses Cricket Club, Failsworth	Review of Premises Licence	No further action
Shaw Cricket Club	Grant of a Premises Licence	Granted – with amended timings, an additional condition around special events, and an updated plan removing Mark Lane

2.3 Officers continue to advise and respond to complaints about licensed premises and undertake inspections to ensure compliance with conditions.



3. Taxi & Private Hire

3.1 There have been 1556 new applications received for dual driver licences since April 2025.

3.2 The total number of current licences are detailed below with comparison figures from previous periods.

Licence Type	Feb '26	Oct '25	Feb '25	Oct '24	May '23
Dual Drivers	4654	4418	3433	3088	1305
School Contract Drivers	73	73	79	86	95
Private Hire Vehicles	2712	2177	1880	1756	1030
Private Hire Operators	115	115	93	90	38
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	85	85	85	85	85

3.3 The Service continues to receive high levels of dual driver applications. The Service is currently reviewing resources available to meet the continued demands due to the increase in applications and licence holders. The Licensing Service reception remains open five days per week, offering face to face assistance to applicants across all licensing functions.

3.4 The rise in licensed drivers continues to lead to a rise in private hire vehicle applications. The Committee approved the requirement for mid-year tests to be carried out by any DVSA approved testing station, with first or annual tests being carried out at the Councils in-house testing depot, Moorhey Street.

3.5 The data on vehicle testing at Moorhey Street can be seen below. (pass / fail - % is pass rate):

Licence Type	Jan '26	Dec '25	Nov '25	Oct '25
Hackney Carriage	3 / 2 60%	15 / 15 50%	23 / 16 59%	3 / 8 27%
Private Hire	157 / 127 55%	149 / 130 53%	174 / 175 50%	236 / 227 51%



3.6 The breakdown of the reasons for failures, and the total number of fails in each category can be found in the table below. This covers 1 October 2025 to 31 January 2026:

Reason for Failure	Sum of Number of Fails
Headlamp aim	162
Obligatory rear lamps	146
Tyre condition	120
Service brake condition	120
Condition of vehicle	118
Obligatory front lamps	117
Suspension	116
Obligatory Headlamps	79
Doors	66
Body interior	66
Plates securely affixed	64
Body external	56
Direction indicators	49
Rear seats	39
Windscreen	36
Boot interior	36
Tyre type	32
Road wheels	29
Windscreen washers	29
Registration plates	29
Emissions	28
Parking brake efficiency	28
Windscreen wipers	27
Exhaust emission	26
Bumpers	26
Steering mechanism	18
Parking brake condition	18
Shock absorbers	18
Transmission shafts	17
Condition of belts	17
Window & mechanisms	16
Steering control	16
Stop lamps	15
Condition of exhaust	12
Wheel bearings	11
ABS warning system	11
Door locks & handles	9
Mirrors internal / external	8
Front seat mountings	6
Structure	6

Taximeter & bracket assembly	5
Operation	4
Battery	4
Service brake efficiency	3
General wiring	3
Boot lock & lid	3
Upholstery	3
Service brake balance	2
Effectiveness of silencer	2
Rear reflectors	2
Fuel cap	2
Stub axle assemblies	1
Power steering	1
Security of mountings	1

3.7 Following the Licensing Committee meeting held on 21 October 2025, the Licensing Service continue to work closely with the taxi testing depot at Moorhey Street.

3.8A complaints system was introduced mid-2025, allowing vehicle owners with testing relating queries or complaints to lodge these directly with the test station. Between 23 October and 11 February, a total of 10 complaints have been lodged relating to testing matters. The details of the complaints can be found below:

Date	Details
23/10/25	Tested then retested twice, each inspection by different tester, light leveller fault not initially picked up but was then picked up as a fault on third inspection
14/11/25	Vehicle owner arrived 5 mins late and was refused testing
17/11/25	Failed on items that were working at time of test (headlight washer and windscreen wiper), Receptionist and Manager at MHS confirmed working but told to still come back at 2:45pm for re-test. Presented for re-test but wasn't inspected just issued with a pass sheet.
1/12/25	Being told to go back for re-test after 1:30pm, went at 2:45pm and then refused as tester had changed his uniform and they were closing (usual retest time is after 2:45)
1/12/25	2 x complaints from OPHDA - discoloured bulb failed but then passed on re-test without bulb being changed, and failing for dirty vehicle
2/12/25	Vehicle arrived 3 minutes late and was refused
3/12/25	Arrived 10 mins early for test, appt was at 8:45am, various interactions with people, test station unsure what the test was for, vehicle test didn't begin until around 9:30am causing him to miss personal appt.
8/12/25	Vehicle failed for tints that previously passed on 4 other occasions

15/12/25	Concerns over professionalism of MOT test staff - interfered with vehicle setting unnecessarily causing remedial work to be carried out
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3.9 Since April 2025 there have been 39 hearings before the Drivers Panel. The breakdown of outcomes is detailed below.

Granted	Refused	Suspensions	Revocations	Immediate revocations	Written warning
9	13	4	0	8	5

3.10 In addition, there have been 17 delegated decisions made by Officers for urgent matters.

4. Options / Alternatives

4.1 Not applicable

5. Consultation

5.1 Not applicable

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Not applicable

7. Legal Implications

7.1 Not applicable

8. Appendices

8.1 None

Report to Licensing Committee

LICENSING DRIVER PANEL REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Taylor – Cabinet Member for Housing & Licensing

Officer Contact: Nasir Dad

Report Author: Nicola Lord

24 February 2026

Reason for Decision

The reason for this report is to request that Members approve the request for additional dates for driver panels to be added to the calendar of meetings.

Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the additional dates.



Licensing Committee – 24 February 2026

Licensing Driver Panel Report

1. Background

- 1.1 The licensing of the taxi and private hire industry is a very important regulatory function of the Council, primarily as it concerns public confidence in who the Council, in its capacity as a licensing authority, issues licences to. Decisions on whether a person is 'fit and proper' includes the safety of passengers travelling in vehicles in matters surrounding the vehicle, its driver, and for private hire bookings, the operator.
- 1.2 With the safety of the public being our paramount concern it is important that applications where the fitness and suitability of an applicant is uncertain, those applications are dealt with by the Licensing Driver Panel or by officers under delegated powers where appropriate.
- 1.3 The Licensing Driver Panel currently meet once per month, excluding May and August due to elections and Council recess. However, due to the increase in new driver applications being received by the Council, the number of applicants needing to be referred to the Licensing Driver Panel has also increased.
- 1.4 At the time of writing this report, there are 38 applicants waiting to attend a Licensing Driver Panel. Due to the current number of scheduled meetings, and the need for existing licensed drivers to appear before the panel from time to time, applicants can be waiting up to 12 months before they are invited to attend a meeting.
- 1.5 It is proposed that additional dates to carry out Licensing Driver Panel meetings are added to the Council's calendar of meetings for the next municipal year, so that they can be utilised as needed.
- 1.6 This will reduce the wait time for applicants and ensure their cases are heard within a timely manner.

2. Proposed additional meeting dates

- 2.1 The Licensing Service are proposing the following dates which will be in addition to those already typically scheduled in the calendar of meetings.

Tuesday 30 June 2026
Tuesday 21 July 2026
Tuesday 22 September 2026
Tuesday 27 October 2026
Tuesday 17 November 2026
Tuesday 22 December 2026
Tuesday 26 January 2027
Tuesday 23 March 2027
Tuesday 20 April 2027



2.2 These additional dates will provide flexibility to the Licensing Service to accommodate additional driver panel meetings when the demand requires it.

2.3 Where there are no significant delays in the application process the additional dates will not be used and Members will be informed with notice that the hearing will be dispensed with.

3. Options / Alternatives

3.1 Not applicable

4. Consultation

4.1 Not applicable

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Not applicable

6. Legal Implications

6.1 Not applicable

7. Appendices

7.1 None

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