

LICENSING COMMITTEE
16/06/2026 at 10.30 am



Present: Councillor Chowhan (Chair)
Councillors Arstan, Bishop, Brownridge, J. Hussain, Sa Hussain,
Sh Hussain, Klonowski, Moores, Shuttleworth, Taleb, Tarbuck,
Taylor and Wilkinson

Also in Attendance:

Laila Chowdhury	Constitutional Services
Alan Evans	Group Solicitor - Environment
Jack Grennan	Constitutional Services
Nicola Lord	Principal Licensing Officer
Kaidy McCann	Constitutional Services
Sumayya Rawat	Solicitor
Gabe Rhodes	Constitutional Services

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Chowhan be elected Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

3 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business received.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Two public questions had been submitted by Abdul Rehman Khayal:

1. Yorkshire street rank alterations needed since 2012 because this completely against health and safety standards
When this will done specific the time table ?

The following response was provided:

“There is currently no appropriately identified solution to the issues raised by the trade relating to the rank located on Yorkshire Street. A proposal to review the rank has been put before the Highways Team and they are currently reviewing the viability of creating a gap in the island which will allow vehicles to exit if they are midway onto the rank. An update on this will be provided to the hackney trade representative at the earliest opportunity.”

2. Oldham licensing since 2024 they increased private hires plates by 95% plus crossing boards vehicles well over 500 which saturated the market which had negative impact on our taxi services. Oldham licensing must stop issuing the private hires plates until further notice.

The following response was provided:

“There are no provisions within the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Act that governs private hire, or any other legislation, that allows local authorities to restrict the number of private hire vehicles it licences. The Government are currently looking at taxi reform to address out of area working and updates on this will follow as it progresses.”

6 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2026 be approved as a correct record.

7 **LICENSING ANNUAL REPORT**

Consideration was given to the Licensing Annual report which informed Members of the activities undertaken to discharge the Council's Licensing function during the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Members were informed that There were two strategic objectives that related to Licensing:

To work with businesses to ensure they were licensed and compliant. This covered:

- Proactively licensing premises and individuals engaged in alcohol supply, entertainment and late-night refreshment.
- Participation in Pubwatch schemes, partnership projects and joint intelligence led inspections to ensure licence conditions were upheld.
- Promotion of the four licensing objectives and three gambling objectives.

The second related to ensuring safe passenger journeys, in safe licensed vehicles with safe licensed drivers. This covered:

- Carrying out inspections of licensed vehicles.
- Assessing new applicants for licences to ensure they were fit and proper.
- Safeguarding passengers by responding to complaints and investigating alleged offences and breaches of licence conditions.

The Licensing Act 2003 was governed by four licensing objectives:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Public Safety
- Protection of Children from Harm

Members were informed about the number of licensed premises under the Act, the number of applications considered by the Licensing Premises Panel and the number of complaints related to licensed premises. Members were also informed about the number of permissions under the Gambling Act 2005.

Members were informed that officers continued to work with the private hire and hackney trade to ensure effective communication and consultation took place. The Committee were provided with an update on the details of applicants and drivers brought before the Licensing Drivers Panel over the last twelve months. A rise in the number of new driver applications was highlighted and as a result, the Licensing Committee agreed to increase the frequency of these meetings to twice per month.

Members were provided with the breakdown of licences in force and the vehicle testing data. The Licensing Team also administered and enforced a wide range of other license, registrations and permits and the numbers of each were given.

Members were informed of future challenges and changes with regular changes to legislation and guidance affecting licensing together with consultations. There remained significant national uncertainty around the future of taxi and private hire licensing with the Department for Transport (DfT) continuing to analyse feedback on licensing reform and signalling further consultation on national standards and enforcement. Close work had been done with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to assist in the delivery of the Hackney Support Fund, an £8m fund allocated to the upgrade of hackney carriages in Greater Manchester to emission compliant vehicles. Work was also being done with TFGM developing the Private Hire Funding announced by the GM Mayor which would be due to open for applications towards the end of 2026.

Members were also informed of current projects which were underway or due to start in the coming months which included:

- Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. This was reviewed every 5 years.
- Final procurement and implementation of a new Licensing software solution. This would improve operational efficiency, speed up processing functional and service user experiences.
- Potential procurement of a new supplier for taxi consumables. This would include the 'direct fulfilment' of licences for vehicles and drivers. This project was still in the early stages. Further updates and specific details will be shared in the coming months.

RESOLVED that:

1. The report be noted.
2. The implications of the report be considered in future licensing decisions.

LICENSING COMPOSITION OF PANELS REPORT

Members considered a report which set out the membership of the Licensing Driver Panel and Licensing Panels, with future 2026/27 meeting dates.

RESOLVED that, the membership and meeting dates of the Licensing Driver Panel and Licensing Panels be noted.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and ended at 11.17 am