

***LICENSING COMMITTEE
Regulatory Committee
Agenda***

Date Tuesday 16 June 2026

Time 10.30 am

Venue JR Clynes Building, Cultural Quarter, 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 officer for this agenda is Constitutional Services email 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, 11 June 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:
To be confirmed

Item No

- 1 Election of Chair

 The Panel is asked to elect a Chair for the duration of the meeting.
- 2 Apologies For Absence
- 3 Urgent Business

 Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair
- 4 Declarations of Interest

 To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.
- 5 Public Question Time

 To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 6 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 3 - 6)

 The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th February 2026 are attached for approval.
- 7 Licensing Annual Report (Pages 7 - 14)

 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the activities undertaken to discharge the Council's Licensing function during the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.
- 8 Licensing Composition of Panels Report (Pages 15 - 20)

 The purpose of this report is to ask Members to appoint the Licensing Panel and Licensing Driver Panel for the 2026-2027 municipal year.



LICENSING COMMITTEE
24/02/2026 at 9.30 am

Present: Councillor S. Hussain (in the Chair)
Councillors Adams, Bishop, Byrne, Chowhan, A Hussain,
Nasheen, Shuttleworth and Wahid

Also in Attendance:

Councillor Taylor – Statutory Deputy Leader and Cabinet
Member for Neighbourhoods

Nasir Dad – Director of Environment

Nicola Lord – Principal Licensing Officer

Alan Evans – Group Solicitor (Environment Services)

Peter Thompson (Constitutional Services)

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors
Cosgrove, Hamblett, Hindle and 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**

Public questions were submitted by Mr. Shazad Khadim,
Chairman of the Oldham Private Hire Drivers Association
(OPHDA), on behalf of local Association members

Question:

1. What is the formal complaint procedure for drivers wishing to raise concerns about the Licensing Team or an MOT station?
2. Can the Committee confirm whether the Moorhey Street MOT station operates independently and is not funded or subsidised by the Licensing Department?
3. Will the Committee consider involving the Association in live consultations to improve engagement with the trade?
4. Can an update be provided on the process for driver deactivation by operators such as Uber, and confirm whether this is being managed through official licensing procedures rather than unilateral operator decisions?

Response:

The Chair read out the following responses to the questions:

1. For complaints relating to testing matters i.e. the vehicle test, testers or process at the test station itself, complaints can be sent to Moorhey Street at taxitest@oldham.gov.uk. For complaints relating to the Licensing Team, application issues, payment issues or any other matter that doesn't relate to the test/test station, these can be sent to the Licensing Team

at licensing@oldham.gov.uk. All complaints will be logged, investigated and responded to.

2. The Licensing Service appoint the test station at Moorhey Street to carry out testing of vehicles that are, or proposed to be, licensed for private or public hire. The Licensing Service is a non-profit service and all costs associated must be recovered through fees. Fees are reviewed and set annually and the costs associated with Moorhey Street are included in that review. Whilst both Services are part of Oldham Council, they are two distinct service areas that work closely together to provide the best possible service to vehicle owners choosing to licence with Oldham.
3. It is unclear the type of consultations the Association is referring to, there are no current consultations live that have been launched by the Licensing Service or Licensing Committee. Licensing engagement with the trade is undertaken via both private hire and hackney carriage trade forum meetings held quarterly.
4. Where a licensed driver is suspended for any reason, the operator is notified to ensure no unlicensed work can be carried out. When the suspension is lifted, notification is again sent to the operator so they can reinstate them on their system and allow them to resume work. How quickly individual operators pick these notifications up and action them is a matter for that operator and outside the control of the Licensing Service.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee, held on 21st October 2025 be approved, as a correct record.

6 **LICENSING UPDATE REPORT**

The Licensing Committee received a report of the Director of Environment which updated Members on the activities of the Licensing Team since the last meeting, in October 2025.

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

The Licensing team continued to advise, issue, and ensure compliance with a range of premises licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003 and it was noted that there had been seven hearings since April 2025.

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

In terms of Taxi and Private Hire Licensing, there had been 1,556 new applications received for dual driver licences since April 2025.

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.

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.

Following the last meeting of the Licensing Committee, held on 21st October 2025, the Licensing Service was continuing to work closely with the taxi testing depot at Moorhey Street.

A complaints system had been introduced mid-2025, allowing vehicle owners with testing relating queries or complaints to lodge these directly with the test station. Between 23rd October 2025 and 11th February 2026, a total of 10 complaints were lodged relating to testing matters.

Since April 2025 there have been 39 hearings before the Licensing Drivers Panel. As a result, nine drivers were granted licences, 13 were refused, four were suspended, eight had their licence revoked with immediate effect and five written warnings were issued.

Resolved:
that the report be noted.

7

LICENSING DRIVER PANEL REPORT

The Licensing Committee received a report from the Director of Environment which asked that Members approve the request, detailed therein, for additional dates for driver panels to be added to the calendar of meetings, to deal with a backlog of applications.

The Committee was informed that presently, 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 could be waiting for up to 12 months before they were invited to attend a meeting.

It was proposed that additional dates to carry out Licensing Driver Panel meetings be added to the Council's calendar of meetings for the next municipal year, 2026/27, so that they can be utilised as needed.

This would help to reduce the wait time for applicants and ensure their cases were heard in a timely manner.

Resolved:

That the proposed additional dates for meetings of the Licensing Driver Panel, in 2026/27, as detailed in the submitted report, be approved.



Oldham
Council

The meeting started at 9.30am and ended at 10.40am

Report to Licensing Committee

Licensing Annual Report

Report of Executive Member for Housing & Licensing

Officer Contact: Nicola Lord

16 June 2026

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the activities undertaken to discharge the Council's Licensing function during the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Recommendations

That Members:

- 1) Note the report; and
- 2) Consider the implications of the report in future licensing decisions

Licensing Committee – 16 June 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 undertaken to discharge the Council's licensing function during the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

2. Team Objectives

- 2.1 The Licensing Service contributes to two key strategic objectives.
- 2.2 The first objective is to work collaboratively with businesses to ensure they are appropriately licensed and compliant with relevant legislation. This includes:
 - Proactively licensing premises and individuals involved in the supply of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late-night refreshment.
 - Participating in Pubwatch schemes, partnership initiatives and joint intelligence-led inspections to ensure that licence conditions are upheld.
 - Promoting the four licensing objectives and the three gambling objectives.
- 2.3 The second objective is to ensure safe passenger journeys through the regulation of licensed vehicles and drivers. This includes:
 - Carrying out inspections of licensed vehicles.
 - Assessing new applicants to ensure they are fit and proper persons.
 - Safeguarding passengers by responding to complaints and investigating alleged offences and breaches of licence conditions.

3. Licensing Act 2003 - Alcohol, Entertainment & Late-night Refreshment

- 3.1 The Licensing Act 2003 is governed by four licensing objectives, these are:
 - Prevention of crime and disorder
 - Prevention of public nuisance
 - Public safety
 - Protection of children from harm
- 3.2 The team works to advise, issue, and ensure compliance with a range of premises licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003.



3.3 The table below illustrates the number of premises licensed in each area from 2022 to date.

Licence Type	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Premises Licence with Alcohol	561	550	542	508	534
Premises Licence without Alcohol	126	125	121	118	126
Club Premises Certificates	48	49	49	49	50
Total	735	724	712	675	710
Personal Licences	3515	3423	3331	3214	3852

3.4 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
Shak’s Z Mini Market	Grant of a Premises Licence with Alcohol	Granted
Jo Convenience Store	Grant of a Premises Licence with Alcohol	Granted with amended timings

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



4. Gambling Act 2005

4.1 Applications under this legislation continue to be few and far between, although officers continue to work with the Gambling Commission to ensure compliance with licence conditions.

4.2 Current permissions in force under this Act are:

Bingo	1
Adult Gaming Centre	4
Betting Shops	19
Club Gaming Permit	1
Club Machine Permit	13
Alcohol licensed premises machine permits	23
Gaming machine notifications in pubs	153
Small Society Lotteries	69

5. Licensed Drivers & Vehicles

5.1 Officers continue to work with the private hire and hackney carriage trades to ensure effective communication and consultation takes place. Trade forum meetings are held with representatives each quarter. Elected members also attend these meetings.

5.2 Below are details of the applications brought before the licensing driver panel over the previous 12 months.

5.3 The licensing driver panel usually meets monthly to hear applications for new and renewal applications, or reviews of existing licences where there are offences or conduct issues recorded.

5.4 Due to the increase of new driver applications, the Licensing Committee agreed to increase the frequency of these meetings to twice per month. However, the second date will only be used with advance notice given to members to ensure availability, and where significant caseload requires it.

5.5 Since May 2025, a total of 82 determinations by the licensing driver panel have been made. These are shown in the table below:



Month	Granted	Suspend	Refused	Revoked	No further action	Warning
May	1	1	1	3		
June	2	1	1	1	1	
July	3	1		2	1	
September	1	2	1	2		
October		1	5	2		
November	3		1	3		
December	1	1	4			1
January	3	1	1	3		3
February	4	1	5			1
March	2	1	2	1		
April	3		2	2		1
Total	23	10	23	19	2	6

5.6 In addition, there have been 16 emergency delegated decisions taken where driver licences have been revoked with immediate effect by authorised officers.

5.7 Appeals lodged from those decisions are as follows:

Appeals withdrawn	0
Appeals dismissed by the court	0
Appeals allowed	0
Appeals still pending	1

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

Licence Type	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Dual Drivers	4959	3794	2466	1305	1299
Private Hire Vehicles	2898	2052	1483	1030	1002
Private Hire Operators	138	96	75	38	31
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	85	85	85	85	85

5.9 The Service continues to receive high levels of dual driver applications. There have been just over 1,700 new applications received since 1 April 2025 and there are around 500 applicants in the process of becoming licensed.

5.10 The Service has recently undergone a review to increase staffing resource across all areas of work in licensing. Once implemented and additional posts recruited to, this will improve service delivery and improve response times and processing of applications.



5.11 The rise in licensed drivers continues to lead to a rise in private hire vehicle applications. The licensing committee previously 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.

5.12 The data on vehicle testing at Moorhey Street can be seen below:

Licence Type	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023
Hackney Carriage	65 pass 51 fail 57% pass rate	103 pass 60 fail 63% pass rate	117 pass 61 fail 66% pass rate	115 pass 62 fail 65% pass rate
Private Hire	1796 pass 1754 fail 53% pass rate	2101 pass 1439 fail 59% pass rate	1716 pass 958 fail 64% pass rate	911 pass 706 fail 56% pass rate

5.13 The breakdown of the reasons for failures, and the total number of failures in each category can be found in the table below. This covers 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Reason for Failure	Total
Headlamp aim	373
Obligatory rear lamps	356
Suspension	312
Tyre condition	299
Condition of vehicle	262
Obligatory front lamps	243
Service brake condition	234
Plates securely affixed	176
Body interior	174
Obligatory Headlamps	170
Doors	132
Body external	127
Direction indicators	114
Tyre type	81
Registration plates	80
Windscreen washers	77
Parking brake efficiency	74

5.14 The Licensing Service continue to work closely with the taxi testing depot at Moorhey Street to improve service delivery and address any concerns raised.



5.15 Following feedback from members of the Licensing Committee in February 2026, the Service has implemented a clear complaints process for service users. The process is available on the Council’s website. A copy will be made available at the Service reception and the waiting area at Moorhey Street Depot.

6. Other Licences

6.1 In addition to the main functions outlined earlier in the report, the Service also administers and enforces a wide range of other licences, registrations and permits. Current numbers of these are outlined below:

Licence type	Number in Force
Marriage Premises	9
Sex shops	1
Second hand goods dealers	24
Scrap metal sites	27
Scrap metal collectors	2
Street trading consents/licences	49
Pavement licences	8
Animal Activity Licences	23

7. Future Challenges & Changes

7.1 There continue to be regular changes to legislation and guidance affecting the Service together with licensing consultations. Some of these are outlined below:

- There remains 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.
- The ten Greater Manchester authorities continue to work together with the aim of consistent approaches to key issues and policy where possible.
- We have worked closely 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.
- We continue to work closely with TfGM to develop and deliver the Private Hire funding announced by the GM Mayor Andy Burnham which is due to open for applications towards the end of 2026.

- Future emerging changes include the introduction of automated passenger services. Discussions for a coordinated GM approach to these services is due to be undertaken soon.

8. Current Projects

8.1 Projects underway or due to start in the coming months include:

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

9. Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

9.1 None

10. Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

10.1 None

11. Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

11.1 No

12. Key Decision

12.1 No

13. Key Decision Reference

13.1 N/A

14. Background Papers

14.1 None

15. Appendices

15.1 None



Licensing Committee

Licensing Composition of Panels

Report of Executive Member for Housing & Licensing

Officer contact: Nicola Lord – Principal Licensing Officer

16 June 2026

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to ask Members to appoint the Licensing Panel and Licensing Driver Panel for the 2026-2027 municipal year.

Recommendations

That Members:

- 1) Note the report
- 2) Appoint the Licensing Panel and Licensing Driver Panel for the 2026-2027 municipal year and confirm Members to sit on each Panel; and
- 3) Confirm the delegation of Licensing Act and other licensing functions to the Licensing Committee, the Licensing Panel, the Licensing Driver Panel and the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) as detailed in Part 3 of the Council Constitution.

Licensing Composition of Panels

1 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Members to appoint the Licensing Panel and Licensing Driver Panel for the 2026-2027 municipal year.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 The Council is required by the Licensing Act 2003 to establish a licensing committee consisting of between 10 and 15 members of the Council and all matters relating to the discharge of the Council's Licensing Act functions are referred to the Licensing Committee, which must discharge those functions on behalf of the Council. However, as it would be impractical for the Licensing Committee to discharge all Licensing Act functions itself, section 10 of the Act enables the Licensing Committee to arrange for the discharge of any functions exercisable by it by sub committees established by it or by Council officers.
- 2.2 Part 3 of the Council Constitution details the allocation of Licensing Act and other licensing functions to the Licensing Committee, the Licensing Panel, the Licensing Driver Panel and the Deputy Chief Executive (Place). Members are asked to confirm the allocation of responsibilities as detailed in Part 3 of the Constitution.

3 Composition of Panels

- 3.1 The composition of panels can be found at Appendix 12.1 to this report. This composition outlines the dates for future Licensing Driver and Licensing Panels to take place in the period June 2026 to May 2027.
- 3.2 Members are required to confirm the Councillors sitting on each panel.

4 Legal Services Comments

- 4.1 None- Information report

5 Co-operative Agenda

- 5.1 None

6 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

- 6.1 None

7 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

- 7.1 None

8 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

- 8.1 No
- 9 **Key Decision**
- 9.1 No
- 10 **Key Decision Reference**
- 10.1 N/A
- 11 **Background Papers**
- 11.1 None
- 12 **Appendices**
- 12.1 Composition of panels

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Composition of Panels 2026/27

(a) Licensing Driver Panel

7 Members to serve on this Panel, with all other Members of the Licensing Committee to serve as substitutes, as required:

No.	Party	Councillor (7)
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
Dates of Meetings		
Tuesday 30 June 2026		
Tuesday 7 July 2026		
Tuesday 1 September 2026		
Tuesday 29 September 2026		
Tuesday 3 November 2026		
Tuesday 1 December 2026		
Tuesday 12 January 2027		
Tuesday 9 February 2027		
Tuesday 2 March 2027		
Tuesday 6 April 2027		
Dates of additional meetings (to be used with advance notice for availability)		
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 February 2027		
Tuesday 23 March 2027		
Tuesday 20 April 2027		

(b) Licensing Panels

5 Panels consisting of 3 Members, with all other Members of the Licensing Committee to serve as substitutes, as required:

PANEL 1

No.	Councillor
1.	
2.	
3.	
Dates of Meeting	
Tuesday 23 June 2026	
Tuesday 8 December 2026	

PANEL 2

No.	Councillor
1.	
2.	
3.	
Dates of Meetings	
Tuesday 14 July 2026	
Tuesday 19 January 2027	

PANEL 3

No.	Councillor
1.	
2.	
3.	
Dates of Meetings	
Tuesday 8 September 2026	
Tuesday 16 February 2027	

PANEL 4

No.	Councillor
1.	
2.	
3.	
Dates of Meeting	
Tuesday 6 October 2026	
Tuesday 16 March 2027	

PANEL 5

No.	Councillor
1.	
2.	
3.	
Dates of Meeting	
Tuesday 10 November 2026	
Tuesday 13 April 2027	