

***LICENSING COMMITTEE
Regulatory Committee
Agenda***

Date Tuesday 20 October 2026

Time 9.30 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, 15 October 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 Arstan, Bishop, Brownridge, Chowhan, J. Hussain, Sa Hussain, Sh Hussain, Klonowski (Vice-Chair), Moores, Shuttleworth, Taleb, Tarbuck and Taylor (Chair)

Item No

1 Apologies For Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.

3 Urgent Business

Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair

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 16th June 2026 are attached for approval.

6 Committee Report - Licensing Update 20/10/2026 (Pages 7 - 10)

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

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 licences, 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

1. The membership of the Licensing Driver Panel be as follows: Cllrs Brownridge, Shuttleworth, Wilkinson, Tarbuck, Arstan, Chowhan and Taleb with the chair of the Panel to be appointed at the start of each meeting until further notice and all other Members of the Licensing Committee to serve as substitutes as required.
2. The membership of the Licensing Panels be as submitted in the supplementary report.
3. The 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

Report to Licensing Committee

LICENSING UPDATE

Report of Executive Member for Housing & Licensing

Officer Contact: Nicola Lord

20 October 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 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 2026 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 two hearings since April 2026 as detailed below:

Premises	Application	Outcome
Dessert Point, 793 Ashton Road	Grant of a premises licence WITHOUT alcohol	Granted with amended timings
Northern Roots, Kings Road	Grant of a premises licence WITH alcohol	Granted the application as applied for

- 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 725 new applications received for dual driver licences since April 2026.
- 3.2 The total number of current licences are detailed below with comparison figures from previous periods.

Licence Type	Oct '26	Feb '26	Oct '25	Feb '25	Oct '24	May '23
Dual Drivers	5,138	4,654	4,418	3,433	3,088	1,305
School Contract Drivers	16	73	73	79	86	95
Private Hire Vehicles	3,073	2,712	2,177	1,880	1,756	1,030
Private Hire Operators	157	115	115	93	90	38



Hackney Carriage Vehicles	85	85	85	85	85	85
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3.3 The Service continues to receive high levels of dual driver applications. A recently approved restructure is currently being implemented to increase the resource and resilience within the Service.

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.

Licence Type	April - Oct 2026	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023
Hackney Carriage	14 pass 10 fail 58% pass rate	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	971 pass 983 fail 50% pass rate	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

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 April 2026 to 5 October 2026.

Reason for Failure	Sum of Number of Fails
Obligatory rear lamps	257
Headlamp aim	252
Suspension	214
Tyre condition	206
Service brake condition	154
Doors	111
Plates affixed securely	103
Obligatory headlamps	97
Condition of vehicle	89
Obligatory front lamps	71



3.7 Since April 2026 there have been 36 hearings before the Drivers Panel. The breakdown of outcomes is detailed below.

Granted	Refused	Suspensions	Revocations	Immediate revocations	Written warning	No further action
7	8	7	0	9	4	1

3.8 In addition, there have been 10 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