

Licensing Committee

Licensing Annual Report

Report of Executive Member for Housing & Licensing

Officer contact: Nicola Lord – Principal Licensing Officer

12th June 2025

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 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Recommendations

That Members:

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

1 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 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 2024 to 31st March 2025.

2 Team Objectives

- 2.1 There are two strategic objectives that relate to Licensing

- 2.2 To work with businesses to ensure they are licensed and compliant. This covers:

- 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 are not being breached.
- Promotion of the four licensing objectives and three gambling objectives.

- 2.3 The second relates to ensuring safe passenger journeys, in safe licensed vehicles with safe licensed drivers. This covers:

- Undertaking inspections of licensed vehicles.
- Vetting new applicants for licences to ensure they are fit and proper
- Ensuring that passengers are safe in vehicles by responding to complaints and investigating offences and breaches of conditions

3 Licensing Act 2003

3.1 The Licensing Act 2003 is governed by four licensing objectives: -

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Public Safety
- Protection of children from harm

3.2 Numbers of licensed premises under the Act are in the table below with a comparison to previous years.

TYPE	Year ending 31.03.25	Year ending 31.03.24	Year ending 31.03.23	Year ending 31.3.22	Year ending 31.3.21
Premises Licences for alcohol	550	542	508	534	528
Premises Licences non-alcohol	125	121	118	126	123
Club Premises Certificates	49	49	49	50	53
Premises Total	724	712	675	710	704
Personal Licences	3423	3331	3214	3142	3060
Licensing Act Total	4147	4043	3889	3852	3764

3.3 There have been three applications considered by the Licensing Premises Panel in the last twelve months.

Kobe Ruger	New Premises Licence with Alcohol	Application approved
Greene's Bistro & Parlour	Variation to Premises Licence with Alcohol	Application Refused

The Grill	Temporary Event Notice Application	Application Granted
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4.0 **Gambling Act 2005**

4.1 Applications under this legislation continue to be few and far between although Officers continue to work closely 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	3
Betting Shops	20
Club Gaming Permit	1
Club Machine Permit	13
Alcohol licensed premises machine permits	22
Gaming machine notifications in pubs	155
Small Society Lotteries	74

6 **LICENSED DRIVERS AND VEHICLES**

Licences and Hearings

6.1 Officers continue to work with the private hire and hackney trade to ensure effective communication and consultation takes place. Elected members also attend these forums.

6.2 Below are details of the applicants and drivers brought before the Drivers Licensing Panel over the last twelve months.

6.3 The Licensing Drivers Panel usually sits monthly to hear applications for new taxi licences, renewal applications or reviews of existing licences where there are offences or conduct issues recorded.

6.4 Since May 2024 a total of **59** determinations by the Panel which are broken down as follows:

Month	Granted	Suspended	Refused	Revoked
Jun 2024	1	2	9	
Jul 2024	1		4	3
Sep 2024	2		1	2
Oct 2024	1	1	3	
Nov 2024	1		4	

Dec 2024			6	
Jan 2025	1		1	4
Feb 2025	1		5	
Mar 2025	2		2	2
Total	10	3	35	11

- 6.5 In addition there have been nine emergency delegated decisions taken where driver licences have been revoked with immediate effect by the Trading Standards & Licensing Manager.

Appeals lodged from those decisions are as follows:

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

- 6.5 Details of the number of licences in force are detailed below: -

LICENCE TYPE	May 2025	May 2024	May 2023	May 2022	May 2021	May 2020
Private Hire Vehicle Licence	2052	1483	1030	1002	953	1046
Private Hire Operators Licence	96	75	38	31	31	29
Dual drivers' licence	3794	2466	1305	1299	1311	1366
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	85	85	85	85	85	85
Total	6027	4109	2458	2417	2380	2526

7 Vehicle testing data

- 7.1 Data showing details of pass/fail rates of licensed vehicle mechanical compliance tests is extracted below.

Hackney Carriage		Private Hire	
Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail
2021 (Apr '21 – Mar '22)			
108 (54%)	93 (46%)	1092 (52%)	1021 (48%)
2023 (Apr '22 to Mar '23)			
115 (65%)	62 (35%)	911 (56%)	706 (44%)
2023 (Apr '23 to Mar '24)			
117 (66%)	61 (35%)	1716 (64%)	958 (36%)
2024 (Apr '24 to Mar '25)			
103 (63%)	60 (37%)	2101 (59%)	1439 (41%)

7.2 The main reasons for failure can be seen in the table below:

Failure Type	Number of Failures
Body/boot interior	253
Condition of vehicle	179
Direction of indicators	119
Headlamp aim	369
Obligatory lamps	422
Plates securely affixed	253
Service brake condition	309
Suspension	309
Tyre condition	361

8 Other licences

- 8.1 As well as the main functions outlined previously in this report the Licensing Team also administers and enforces a wide range of other licences, registrations and permits current numbers of which are outlined below.

Licence type	Number in Force
Marriage Premises	9
Sex shops	1
Second hand dealers	25
Scrap metal sites	30
Scrap metal collectors	3
Street trading consents/licences	45
Pavement licences	7
Animal Activity Licences	20

9 Future challenges and changes

- 9.1 There continue to be regular changes to legislation and guidance affecting licensing together with consultations; the summaries of which are detailed below:
- Current study being undertaken on Taxi Licensing in Greater Manchester to inform a plan to make GM the first choice for drivers, vehicle owners and operators. All licence holders have been invited to take part by completing the survey online. In-person sessions are also being held for those who cannot complete online. In-depth Officer interviews are also taking place with Cabinet Member Councillor Elaine Taylor, Chair of the Licensing Committee Councillor Sajed Hussain, Assistant Director of Public Protection Neil Crabtree and the Principal Licensing Officer Nicola Lord.

10 Current Projects

- 10.1 Projects underway or due to start in the coming months include:
- Unmet Demand Survey – the Licensing Service have instructed CTS Traffic & Transportation to conduct an Unmet Demand Survey on hackney carriage vehicles. As the number of licences issued for HCV in Oldham are limited to 85, a survey must be carried out every 3-5 years to determine any unmet demand. The results should be received by the end of June, with the findings and any recommendations being brought to the Licensing Committee meeting in October 2025.
 - Review of Licensing IT capabilities to improve the service and experience of applicants and encouraging self-serve functions where possible.

11 **Legal Services Comments**

11.1 None- Information report

12 **Co-operative Agenda**

12.1 The licensing process is in place not only to protect the public but also to support and where necessary regulate businesses within the Borough.

13 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

13.1 None

14 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

14.1 None

15 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

15.1 No

16 **Key Decision**

16.1 No

17 **Key Decision Reference**

17.1 N/A

18 **Background Papers - None**

19 **Appendices - None**