

Report to Licensing Committee

LICENSING UPDATE

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

Officer Contact: Nasir Dad

Report Author: Nicola Lord

21 October 2025

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 – 21 October 2025

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 two 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

- 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 around 877 new applications received for dual driver licences since April 2025.
- 3.2 The total number of licences granted are detailed below with comparison figures from previous periods.

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

- 3.3 The Service continues to receive high levels of dual driver applications. The Service expanded in 2024 to recruit additional officers who have provided an invaluable resource to ensure we can maintain service delivery and process applications quickly and efficiently. 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 has led to a steady increase in licensed vehicles. The licensed vehicle fleet has increased by over 100% since June 2023. This created capacity issues at the Council testing station based at Moorhey Street.
- 3.5 The Licensing Service commissioned a third bay to absorb the additional demand, and this means we currently have a total of 3 test bays offering over 100 test slots per week.
- 3.6 The test station was closed for a period between 2 May 2025 and 4 August 2025.
- 3.7 In readiness for the reopening of the test station, in support of the trade, the Leader announced that there would no longer be a fee for vehicles requiring a retest. This has been positively received by the trade.
- 3.8 The data on vehicle testing since the bays reopened can be seen below. Hackney Carriages are all typically tested in November and December of each year; therefore, there are no meaningful test results at this time:

Private Hire	Hackney Carriage
183 (51%)	Pass 1 (50%)
175 (49%)	Fail 1 (50%)

- 3.9 The main failure items for vehicles remain headlamps, suspension, tyres and vehicle condition.
- 3.10 Since April 2025 there have been 31 hearings before the Drivers Panel. The breakdown of outcomes is detailed below.

Granted	Refused	Suspensions	Revocations	Immediate revocations	No further action
8	7	5	0	9	2

- 3.11 In addition, there have been 12 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