

LICENSING COMMITTEE
12/06/2025 at 9.30 am



Present: Councillor S. Hussain (Chair)
Councillors Adams, Bishop, Byrne, Chowhan, Hamblett,
Harrison, Hindle, J. Hussain (Vice-Chair), Nasheen, Navesey,
Shuttleworth and Wahid

Also in Attendance:

Elise Brophy	Senior licensing Officer
Alan Evans	Group Solicitor - Environment
Susan Loftus	Licensing Projects and Hearings
	Officer
Kaidy McCann	Constitutional Services

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cosgrove.

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

There were no public questions received.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th
February 2025 be approved as a correct record.

6 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 2024 to 31
March 2025.

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

1. 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 not being
breached.

- Promotion of the four licensing objectives and three gambling objectives.
2. The second related to ensuring safe passenger journeys, in safe licensed vehicles with safe licensed drivers. This covered:
- Undertaking inspections of licensed vehicles.
 - Vetting new applicants for licences to ensure they were fit and proper.
 - Ensuring that passengers were safe in vehicles by responding to complaints and investigating offences and breaches of 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. A rise in the number of premises licences was highlighted. In response to members questions on the issue of Personal Licences officers reported that these licences were issued for life but could be revoked in limited circumstances.

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. 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. A current study was 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 had been invited to take part by completing the survey online. In-person sessions were also being held for those who could not complete online. In depth interviews were also taking place.

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

1. Unmet Demand Survey – the Licensing Service had instructed CTS Traffic & Transportation to conduct an Unmet Demand Survey on hackney carriage vehicles. As the number of licences issued for HCV in Oldham were 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.
2. Review of Licensing IT capabilities to improve the service and experience of applicants and encouraging self-serve functions where possible

RESOLVED that:

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

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LICENSING TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE POLICY REPORT

Consideration was given to a report which set out the current position with regards to the Clean Air Plan, the related financial support for Oldham's licensed trades and how this effected the current emissions policy.

The Council in its capacity as licensing authority was responsible for the licensing of private hire and hackney carriage drivers and vehicles, and private hire operators. Best practice suggested that licensing authorities adopt a single licensing policy in order to unify all its decisions, procedures and conditions as a single source of information for licensees, applicants and interested parties. Due to the changes and delays to the Clean Air Plan (CAP) or Greater Manchester since work began in 2018, both taxis and private hire vehicles had been continuously affected. To support the case for funding and provide assurance it would deliver the changes required, Greater Manchester offered commitments to government that emissions policies would mandate the transition to cleaner vehicles and prevent non-emission compliant vehicles from being licensed in the future.

Members were informed that the proposals included:

- Extend the emissions compliance date to 31 December 2026 for existing vehicle licence holders with non-compliant vehicles.
- Allow existing vehicle licence holders to continue to renew their vehicle licence with the same non-emissions compliant vehicle until the age limit of that vehicle in accordance with the vehicle age policy.
- Extend the age limit for purpose-built hackney carriages and wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles from 15 years to 17 years.

RESOLVED that:

1. The report be noted.

2. The proposals be approved.

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LICENSING COMPOSITION OF PANELS REPORT

Members considered a report which set out the membership of the Licensing Driver Panel and Licensing Panels, with future 2025/26 meeting dates.

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

The meeting started at 9.30 am and ended at 10.30 am