

Report to Licensing Committee

LICENSING UPDATE

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

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24 February 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 Committee – 24 February 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 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 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	Unsuspected - 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

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 1556 new applications received for dual driver licences since April 2025.

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

Licence Type	Feb '26	Oct '25	Feb '25	Oct '24	May '23
Dual Drivers	4654	4418	3433	3088	1305
School Contract Drivers	73	73	79	86	95
Private Hire Vehicles	2712	2177	1880	1756	1030
Private Hire Operators	115	115	93	90	38
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	85	85	85	85	85

3.3 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.

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. (pass / fail - % is pass rate):

Licence Type	Jan '26	Dec '25	Nov '25	Oct '25
Hackney Carriage	3 / 2 60%	15 / 15 50%	23 / 16 59%	3 / 8 27%
Private Hire	157 / 127 55%	149 / 130 53%	174 / 175 50%	236 / 227 51%



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 October 2025 to 31 January 2026:

Reason for Failure	Sum of Number of Fails
Headlamp aim	162
Obligatory rear lamps	146
Tyre condition	120
Service brake condition	120
Condition of vehicle	118
Obligatory front lamps	117
Suspension	116
Obligatory Headlamps	79
Doors	66
Body interior	66
Plates securely affixed	64
Body external	56
Direction indicators	49
Rear seats	39
Windscreen	36
Boot interior	36
Tyre type	32
Road wheels	29
Windscreen washers	29
Registration plates	29
Emissions	28
Parking brake efficiency	28
Windscreen wipers	27
Exhaust emission	26
Bumpers	26
Steering mechanism	18
Parking brake condition	18
Shock absorbers	18
Transmission shafts	17
Condition of belts	17
Window & mechanisms	16
Steering control	16
Stop lamps	15
Condition of exhaust	12
Wheel bearings	11
ABS warning system	11
Door locks & handles	9
Mirrors internal / external	8
Front seat mountings	6
Structure	6

Taximeter & bracket assembly	5
Operation	4
Battery	4
Service brake efficiency	3
General wiring	3
Boot lock & lid	3
Upholstery	3
Service brake balance	2
Effectiveness of silencer	2
Rear reflectors	2
Fuel cap	2
Stub axle assemblies	1
Power steering	1
Security of mountings	1

3.7 Following the Licensing Committee meeting held on 21 October 2025, the Licensing Service continue to work closely with the taxi testing depot at Moorhey Street.

3.8A complaints system was introduced mid-2025, allowing vehicle owners with testing relating queries or complaints to lodge these directly with the test station. Between 23 October and 11 February, a total of 10 complaints have been lodged relating to testing matters. The details of the complaints can be found below:

Date	Details
23/10/25	Tested then retested twice, each inspection by different tester, light leveller fault not initially picked up but was then picked up as a fault on third inspection
14/11/25	Vehicle owner arrived 5 mins late and was refused testing
17/11/25	Failed on items that were working at time of test (headlight washer and windscreen wiper), Receptionist and Manager at MHS confirmed working but told to still come back at 2:45pm for re-test. Presented for re-test but wasn't inspected just issued with a pass sheet.
1/12/25	Being told to go back for re-test after 1:30pm, went at 2:45pm and then refused as tester had changed his uniform and they were closing (usual retest time is after 2:45)
1/12/25	2 x complaints from OPHDA - discoloured bulb failed but then passed on re-test without bulb being changed, and failing for dirty vehicle
2/12/25	Vehicle arrived 3 minutes late and was refused
3/12/25	Arrived 10 mins early for test, appt was at 8:45am, various interactions with people, test station unsure what the test was for, vehicle test didn't begin until around 9:30am causing him to miss personal appt.
8/12/25	Vehicle failed for tints that previously passed on 4 other occasions

15/12/25	Concerns over professionalism of MOT test staff - interfered with vehicle setting unnecessarily causing remedial work to be carried out
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3.9 Since April 2025 there have been 39 hearings before the Drivers Panel. The breakdown of outcomes is detailed below.

Granted	Refused	Suspensions	Revocations	Immediate revocations	Written warning
9	13	4	0	8	5

3.10 In addition, there have been 17 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