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## Report to Licensing Committee

# LICENSING DRIVER PANEL REPORT

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

**Officer Contact:** Nasir Dad

**Report Author:** Nicola Lord

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**24 February 2026**

### Reason for Decision

The reason for this report is to request that Members approve the request for additional dates for driver panels to be added to the calendar of meetings.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the additional dates.



## Licensing Committee – 24 February 2026

### Licensing Driver Panel Report

#### 1. Background

1.1 The licensing of the taxi and private hire industry is a very important regulatory function of the Council, primarily as it concerns public confidence in who the Council, in its capacity as a licensing authority, issues licences to. Decisions on whether a person is 'fit and proper' includes the safety of passengers travelling in vehicles in matters surrounding the vehicle, its driver, and for private hire bookings, the operator.

1.2 With the safety of the public being our paramount concern it is important that applications where the fitness and suitability of an applicant is uncertain, those applications are dealt with by the Licensing Driver Panel or by officers under delegated powers where appropriate.

1.3 The Licensing Driver Panel currently meet once per month, excluding May and August due to elections and Council recess. However, due to the increase in new driver applications being received by the Council, the number of applicants needing to be referred to the Licensing Driver Panel has also increased.

1.4 At the time of writing this report, there are 38 applicants waiting to attend a Licensing Driver Panel. Due to the current number of scheduled meetings, and the need for existing licensed drivers to appear before the panel from time to time, applicants can be waiting up to 12 months before they are invited to attend a meeting.

1.5 It is proposed that additional dates to carry out Licensing Driver Panel meetings are added to the Council's calendar of meetings for the next municipal year, so that they can be utilised as needed.

1.6 This will reduce the wait time for applicants and ensure their cases are heard within a timely manner.

#### 2. Proposed additional meeting dates

2.1 The Licensing Service are proposing the following dates which will be in addition to those already typically scheduled in the calendar of meetings.

Tuesday 30 June 2026  
Tuesday 21 July 2026  
Tuesday 22 September 2026  
Tuesday 27 October 2026  
Tuesday 17 November 2026  
Tuesday 22 December 2026  
Tuesday 26 January 2027  
Tuesday 23 March 2027  
Tuesday 20 April 2027



2.2 These additional dates will provide flexibility to the Licensing Service to accommodate additional driver panel meetings when the demand requires it.

2.3 Where there are no significant delays in the application process the additional dates will not be used and Members will be informed with notice that the hearing will be dispensed with.

### **3. Options / Alternatives**

3.1 Not applicable

### **4. Consultation**

4.1 Not applicable

### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 Not applicable

### **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 Not applicable

### **7. Appendices**

7.1 None