
Report to Licensing Committee

Licensing Annual Report

Report of Executive Member for Housing & Licensing

Officer Contact: Nicola Lord

16 June 2026

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 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Recommendations

That Members:

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



Licensing Committee – 16 June 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 undertaken to discharge the Council's licensing function during the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

2. Team Objectives

- 2.1 The Licensing Service contributes to two key strategic objectives.
- 2.2 The first objective is to work collaboratively with businesses to ensure they are appropriately licensed and compliant with relevant legislation. This includes:
 - Proactively licensing premises and individuals involved in the supply of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late-night refreshment.
 - Participating in Pubwatch schemes, partnership initiatives and joint intelligence-led inspections to ensure that licence conditions are upheld.
 - Promoting the four licensing objectives and the three gambling objectives.
- 2.3 The second objective is to ensure safe passenger journeys through the regulation of licensed vehicles and drivers. This includes:
 - Carrying out inspections of licensed vehicles.
 - Assessing new applicants to ensure they are fit and proper persons.
 - Safeguarding passengers by responding to complaints and investigating alleged offences and breaches of licence conditions.

3. Licensing Act 2003 - Alcohol, Entertainment & Late-night Refreshment

- 3.1 The Licensing Act 2003 is governed by four licensing objectives, these are:
 - Prevention of crime and disorder
 - Prevention of public nuisance
 - Public safety
 - Protection of children from harm
- 3.2 The team works to advise, issue, and ensure compliance with a range of premises licences issued under the Licensing Act 2003.



3.3 The table below illustrates the number of premises licensed in each area from 2022 to date.

Licence Type	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Premises Licence with Alcohol	561	550	542	508	534
Premises Licence without Alcohol	126	125	121	118	126
Club Premises Certificates	48	49	49	49	50
Total	735	724	712	675	710
Personal Licences	3515	3423	3331	3214	3852

3.4 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	Unsuspended - 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
Shak’s Z Mini Market	Grant of a Premises Licence with Alcohol	Granted
Jo Convenience Store	Grant of a Premises Licence with Alcohol	Granted with amended timings

3.5 Officers continue to advise and respond to complaints about licensed premises and undertake inspections to ensure compliance with conditions.



4. Gambling Act 2005

4.1 Applications under this legislation continue to be few and far between, although officers continue to work 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	4
Betting Shops	19
Club Gaming Permit	1
Club Machine Permit	13
Alcohol licensed premises machine permits	23
Gaming machine notifications in pubs	153
Small Society Lotteries	69

5. Licensed Drivers & Vehicles

5.1 Officers continue to work with the private hire and hackney carriage trades to ensure effective communication and consultation takes place. Trade forum meetings are held with representatives each quarter. Elected members also attend these meetings.

5.2 Below are details of the applications brought before the licensing driver panel over the previous 12 months.

5.3 The licensing driver panel usually meets monthly to hear applications for new and renewal applications, or reviews of existing licences where there are offences or conduct issues recorded.

5.4 Due to the increase of new driver applications, the Licensing Committee agreed to increase the frequency of these meetings to twice per month. However, the second date will only be used with advance notice given to members to ensure availability, and where significant caseload requires it.

5.5 Since May 2025, a total of 82 determinations by the licensing driver panel have been made. These are shown in the table below:



Month	Granted	Suspend	Refused	Revoked	No further action	Warning
May	1	1	1	3		
June	2	1	1	1	1	
July	3	1		2	1	
September	1	2	1	2		
October		1	5	2		
November	3		1	3		
December	1	1	4			1
January	3	1	1	3		3
February	4	1	5			1
March	2	1	2	1		
April	3		2	2		1
Total	23	10	23	19	2	6

5.6 In addition, there have been 16 emergency delegated decisions taken where driver licences have been revoked with immediate effect by authorised officers.

5.7 Appeals lodged from those decisions are as follows:

Appeals withdrawn	0
Appeals dismissed by the court	0
Appeals allowed	0
Appeals still pending	1

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

Licence Type	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Dual Drivers	4959	3794	2466	1305	1299
Private Hire Vehicles	2898	2052	1483	1030	1002
Private Hire Operators	138	96	75	38	31
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	85	85	85	85	85

5.9 The Service continues to receive high levels of dual driver applications. There have been just over 1,700 new applications received since 1 April 2025 and there are around 500 applicants in the process of becoming licensed.

5.10 The Service has recently undergone a review to increase staffing resource across all areas of work in licensing. Once implemented and additional posts recruited to, this will improve service delivery and improve response times and processing of applications.



5.11 The rise in licensed drivers continues to lead to a rise in private hire vehicle applications. The licensing committee previously 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.

5.12 The data on vehicle testing at Moorhey Street can be seen below:

Licence Type	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023
Hackney Carriage	65 pass 51 fail 57% pass rate	103 pass 60 fail 63% pass rate	117 pass 61 fail 66% pass rate	115 pass 62 fail 65% pass rate
Private Hire	1796 pass 1754 fail 53% pass rate	2101 pass 1439 fail 59% pass rate	1716 pass 958 fail 64% pass rate	911 pass 706 fail 56% pass rate

5.13 The breakdown of the reasons for failures, and the total number of failures in each category can be found in the table below. This covers 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Reason for Failure	Total
Headlamp aim	373
Obligatory rear lamps	356
Suspension	312
Tyre condition	299
Condition of vehicle	262
Obligatory front lamps	243
Service brake condition	234
Plates securely affixed	176
Body interior	174
Obligatory Headlamps	170
Doors	132
Body external	127
Direction indicators	114
Tyre type	81
Registration plates	80
Windscreen washers	77
Parking brake efficiency	74

5.14 The Licensing Service continue to work closely with the taxi testing depot at Moorhey Street to improve service delivery and address any concerns raised.



5.15 Following feedback from members of the Licensing Committee in February 2026, the Service has implemented a clear complaints process for service users. The process is available on the Council’s website. A copy will be made available at the Service reception and the waiting area at Moorhey Street Depot.

6. Other Licences

6.1 In addition to the main functions outlined earlier in the report, the Service also administers and enforces a wide range of other licences, registrations and permits. Current numbers of these are outlined below:

Licence type	Number in Force
Marriage Premises	9
Sex shops	1
Second hand goods dealers	24
Scrap metal sites	27
Scrap metal collectors	2
Street trading consents/licences	49
Pavement licences	8
Animal Activity Licences	23

7. Future Challenges & Changes

7.1 There continue to be regular changes to legislation and guidance affecting the Service together with licensing consultations. Some of these are outlined below:

- There remains significant national uncertainty around the future of taxi and private hire licensing with the Department for Transport (DfT) continuing to analyse feedback on licensing reform and signalling further consultation on national standards and enforcement.
- The ten Greater Manchester authorities continue to work together with the aim of consistent approaches to key issues and policy where possible.
- We have worked closely with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to assist in the delivery of the Hackney Support Fund, an £8m fund allocated to the upgrade of hackney carriages in Greater Manchester to emission compliant vehicles.
- We continue to work closely with TfGM to develop and deliver the Private Hire funding announced by the GM Mayor Andy Burnham which is due to open for applications towards the end of 2026.

- Future emerging changes include the introduction of automated passenger services. Discussions for a coordinated GM approach to these services is due to be undertaken soon.

8. Current Projects

8.1 Projects underway or due to start in the coming months include:

- Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. This is reviewed every 5 years.
- Final procurement and implementation of a new Licensing software solution. This will improve operational efficiency, speed up processing functional and service user experiences.
- Potential procurement of a new supplier for taxi consumables. This will include the 'direct fulfilment' of licences for vehicles and drivers. This project is still in the early stages. Further updates and specific details will be shared in the coming months.

9. Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

9.1 None

10. Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

10.1 None

11. Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

11.1 No

12. Key Decision

12.1 No

13. Key Decision Reference

13.1 N/A

14. Background Papers

14.1 None

15. Appendices

15.1 None