

Minutes of: **LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 11th September 2025

Present: Councillor T Rafiq (in the Chair)
Councillors A Booth, D Green, J Grimshaw, M Hayes, B Ibrahim,
D Quinn, J Rydeheard, G Staples-Jones and M Walsh

Also in attendance: M Bridge- Licensing Unit Manager
M Cunliffe – Democratic Services
D Rice– Legal Advisor
B Thomson- Assistant Director of Operations Strategy

Public Attendance: No members of the public were present at the meeting.

LSP.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors J Hook, L McBriar and I Rizvi.
Councillors M Hayes and G Staples-Jones acted as substitute representatives for Councillors J Hook and I Rizvi.
There was no substitute representative for Councillor L McBriar.

LSP.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

LSP.3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Delegated decision:

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on the 29th July 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

LSP.4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions had been pre submitted to the meeting and no members of the public were in attendance at the meeting.

LSP.5 OPERATIONAL REPORT

The Executive Director (Operations) submitted a report advising Members on operational issues within the Licensing Service.

The report set out updates in respect of the following issues:

The Licensing Service had dealt with a number of compliance and enforcement matters between the 21st July and the 17th August 2025.

LICENSING HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEE

On the 8th July 2025, the Licensing Hearings Sub-Committee determined an objection notice in relation to an application for a Temporary Event notice between the hours of 20.30 to 03.00 on the 17th July until 20th July 2025 that had been received from Greater Manchester Police in respect of 65 Windsor Road, Prestwich. Members heard the evidence presented both by the

notice giver and Greater Manchester Police and decided to issue a counter notice pursuant to Section 105(2)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003. The Licensing Authority considered this necessary for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives which prevented the event from taking place.

On the 14th July 2025, an application for a club premises certificate for Bolton Wyresdale Amateur Football Club, 65 Radcliffe Moor Road, Bolton, BL2 6RF. The application attracted 13 representations from interested parties. Members heard from the applicant and the representors and they decided to grant the application applied for.

On the 21st August 2025, an application was heard for a premises licence for AY Lounge and Bar, 153 The Rock, Bury. The application attracted 1 representation from an interested party. Members heard from the applicant and the representors and decided to grant the application as applied for.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Officers from Bury Trading Standards, with the assistance of officers from the Council's Licensing Team, recently participated in two days of action on the 5th and 6th August 2025.

This was part of the Safer Summer initiative involved coordinated efforts from Trading Standards, Licensing, Greater Manchester Police (GMP), and Immigration. The operations involved intelligence led visits across Bury and Prestwich, focusing on convenience stores, vape shops, and barbers.

During these operations, the following items were seized:

- 447 illegal vapes
- 34,260 illicit sticks of tobacco (1713 packets)
- 8.4 kg of illicit hand-rolling tobacco (168 packets)
- 196 toys/keyrings

The total street value of the seized items from the operation combined is estimated at £37,500. Notably, investigators discovered concealed in ceiling tiles and other nooks and crannies, illicit tobacco in one shop.

DBS CONSENT

Members were reminded a report that was considered on the 5th June 2025 in relation to the immediate suspension of licensed drivers who had not responded to the request to obtain their consent from the Licensing Service to undertake a check to ascertain if they are registered on the DBS update Service.

It was agreed that the Licensing and Safety Committee delegate to the Head of Public Protection, Licensing Unit Manager, and the Deputy Licensing Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee to immediately suspend Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers who have not given their consent to the Licensing Service for a check to be carried out to ascertain if they are on the DBS update service, to immediately suspend if they have not applied for an enhanced DBS check and registered on the DBS update service or the Licensing Service have not been supplied with the Enhanced DBS information before the expiry date of their current DBS Certificate. In addition to electronic communications a paper letter would also be posted out via Royal Mail. The Licensing Service sent a letter out to those individuals that had not responded asking for their consent. This did generate responses from some of the drivers but not all. An Operational Decision was drafted and signed by the Licensing Unit Manager and the Chair

of the Licensing and Safety Committee for 14 Drivers to be immediately suspended. Appointments were made for them to attend the Town Hall for the paperwork to be given to them, this generated further responses and currently we have 4 individuals who will be being immediately suspended.

GREATER MANCHESTER TAXI REVIEW

The Licensing Unit Manager has been working with 9 GM Licensing Authorities, Transport for Greater Manchester and Arup/Aecom following the extensive engagement that has taken place with all stakeholders including Non-GM Licensing Authorities. Updates will be given in due course.

INQUIRY BY THE TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE WILL INVESTIGATE HOW STANDARDS FOR TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

The Licensing Unit Manager has been working with all 9 GM Licensing Authorities and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to prepare a response by the deadline. The licensing service is aware of a hackney carriage trade representative had submitted a response.

The Licensing Unit Manager informed the meeting that part of paragraph 7.3 of the report was missing from the agenda pack and read out the rest of the sentence at the meeting.

CLEAN TAXI FUND

The Licensing Unit Manager has been working with 9 GM Licensing Authorities and Transport for Greater Manchester in relation to the proposed Clean Taxi Fund. Updates will be provided as they are published by TfGM.

PARKLIFE

Following a request by the Members of the Licensing and Safety Committee for a debrief of the work that was undertaken by officers from the Public Protection Service in respect of Parklife (13th -15th June 2025). The key enforcement actions were detailed in the report attached to the agenda pack.

OASIS

Again, following a request by the Members of the Licensing and Safety Committee for a debrief of the work that was undertaken by officers from the Public Protection Service in respect of Oasis. Officers worked the five dates of the concerts and the key enforcement actions were detailed in the report attached to the agenda pack.

The Chair placed on record his thanks to the Licensing Department for their work with agencies across Greater Manchester.

A Member asked what would happen to the shop that had items seized including illicit tobacco concealed in the premises. The Licensing Unit Manager reported that a potential closure order could be administered.

Delegated decision:

It was agreed that the report be noted.

No urgent business was reported at the meeting.

LSP.7 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Delegated decision:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business since it involved the likely disclosure of information relating to individuals who hold Licences granted by the Authority or Applicants for Licences provided by the Authority.

LSP.8 SUSPENSION / REVOCATION OF PUBLIC / PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCES

Licence Holder 11/2025

The Executive Director (Corporate Core) submitted a report relating to Licence Holder 11/2025, who was in attendance at the meeting. The Chair made introductions and alongside the legal advisor outlined the procedure to be followed and clarified that all those present had read the report. The report, which was accepted by the Licence Holder was presented by the Licensing Unit Manager and set out the reasons for the Licence Holder being before the Committee.

The Licensing Unit Manager reported and presented background information to the Committee on this case which was included in the report contained within the private agenda pack.

A number of Members asked questions in relation to the case.

The driver was before members for consideration to be given as to his suitability to be a private hire driver in Bury.

Delegated decision:

The Committee carefully considered the report and oral representations by the Licence Holder.

Taking into account the Council's Conviction Policy and Guidelines and in accordance with the powers granted under Section 61(1)(b) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Committee resolved **to immediately revoke the licence.**

The Committee concluded that the Licence Holder was not a fit and proper person.

The **revocation** was to take **immediate effect**, as permitted under Section 61(2B) of the Act, which allows for immediate suspension.

COUNCILLOR T RAFIQ
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 8.00pm)