

AGENDA FOR
LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE



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To: All Members of Licensing and Safety Committee

Councillors : T Rafiq (Chair), A Booth, R Brown, D Green, J Grimshaw, J Hook, B Ibrahim, D Quinn, I Rizvi and M Walsh

Dear Member/Colleague

Licensing and Safety Committee

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee which will be held as follows:-

Date:	Thursday, 19 th March 2026
Place:	Council Chamber, Bury Town Hall
Time:	7.00 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	A drop in briefing for Members will take place from 6.30pm in the Council Chamber.

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Licensing and Safety Panel are asked to consider whether they have an interest in any of the matters on the agenda, and if so, to formally declare that interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING *(Pages 5 - 10)*

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th February 2026 are attached. Members of the Licensing and Safety Committee are asked to consider whether these are a correct record of the meeting, and if so, to formally approve them.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions are invited from members of the public present at the meeting on any matters for which this Committee is responsible. Questions from members of the public may only be asked if notice has been given no later than midday two days before the day of the meeting.

A questioner who is present at the meeting and who has submitted a written question may, at the discretion of the Chair, ask one supplementary question. A supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. A question must relate to an item included on the agenda, referenced in the Minutes or an area to which the committee has responsibility.

Approximately 30 minutes will be set aside for Public Question Time if required.

5 OPERATIONAL REPORT *(Pages 11 - 14)*

A report from the Executive Director (Corporate Core) is attached.

6 REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL OFFICER DELEGATION TO IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND OR REVOKE PUBLIC / PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCES IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC SAFETY *(Pages 15 - 18)*

A report from the Executive Director (Corporate Core) is attached.

7 URGENT BUSINESS

Any other business, which by reason of special circumstances, the Chair agrees may be considered as a matter of urgency.

8 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider passing the appropriate resolution under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business since it involves the likely disclosure of the exempt information stated.

9 **SUSPENSION / REVOCATION OF PUBLIC / PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCES** *(Pages 19 - 42)*

A report from the Executive Director (Corporate Core) is attached.

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Minutes of:	LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	19 th February 2026
Present:	Councillor T Rafiq (in the Chair) Councillors A Booth, J Grimshaw, J Hook, B Ibrahim, D Quinn, I Rizvi and M Walsh
Also in attendance:	M Bridge- Licensing Unit Manager M Cunliffe – Democratic Services R Everitt - Elections & Land Charges Manager D Ryan- Unit Manager - Private Rented Sector Enforcement L Scully– Legal Observer B Thomson- Assistant Director Public Protection & Resilience J Willis– Legal Advisor
Public Attendance:	No members of the public were present at the meeting.

LSP.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors R Brown, D Green and L McBriar.

There was no substitute representative for Councillors R Brown, D Green and 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 11th December 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 (Corporate Core) 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 1st December 2025 and the 1st February 2026.

LICENSING HEARINGS SUB- COMMITTEES

On the 18th December 2025, the Licensing Hearings Sub Committee considered an application to vary the Designated Premises Supervisor for the Towler Inn, 460 Walmsley Road, Bury.

Members heard the evidence for Greater Manchester Police and decided to refuse the application and remove the DPS.

Also on the 18th December 2025, the Licensing Hearings Sub Committee considered an application for the grant of a premises licence for Thani Whitefield, 190-194 Bury New Road, Whitefield. Members heard the evidence and decided to grant the application subject to conditions.

On the 19th December 2025, the Licensing Hearings Sub Committee considered an application vary the premises licence for Rawas Indian Street Food, 453 Bury New Road, Prestwich. Members heard the evidence and decided to grant the variation in the terms requested and agreed during the hearing, noting the opening hours would remain the same.

IMMEDIATE SUSPENSIONS

The Licensing Service were continuing, following consultation with the Chair, to immediately suspend drivers who do not have a valid subscription with the DBS update Service. Since the last Licensing and Safety Committee on the 11th December 2025, a further 55 drivers had been suspended.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Licensing Enforcement Officers worked alongside Greater Manchester Police for three evenings over the Christmas Period including “Mad Friday” visiting licensed premises, giving advice and ensuring compliance with conditions. A number of issues were identified and dealt with.

Officers from Trading Standards and Licensing alongside Wagtail (Dora the tobacco dog) worked together on a day of action. Dora and her handler are from wagtail who work in partnership with Trading Standards. The partnership worked in action across the borough, visiting off licences, mini markets, and newsagents. The visits took place across the borough, from Prestwich though to Ramsbottom. Dora was on hand to find all the concealed hiding places, with seven premises visited, a total of 1300 packets of illegal cigarettes, 200 pouches of illegal hand rolling tobacco, 127 illegal vapes along with 38 counterfeit and unsafe toys were seized which had a street value of around £25,000. Councillor Morris and James Frith MP attended the day of action with the officers.

HACKNEY SUPPORT FUND

The Licensing Service had been advised by TfGM and the Growth Company that 100% of eligible vehicle proprietors of non-compliant Hackney Carriages have submitted applications to receive the Hackney Support Fund to enable them to upgrade to a compliant vehicle. This equated to 24 vehicle proprietors.

PROPOSED PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE SUPPORT FUND

A press release has been issued by Transport for Greater Manchester Greater Manchester in relation to steps for supporting taxi drivers with a new £4.45m vehicle fund. Greater Manchester was proposing a new Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) Support Fund to help locally licensed private hire drivers upgrade to cleaner, lower-emission vehicles.

Under the scheme, eligible drivers would be able to access either a £5,000 interest-free loan or a £1,000 non-repayable grant to support the transition to compliant vehicles, complementing the existing £8m fund for hackney cab owners.

The initiative forms part of Greater Manchester's investment-led approach to improving air quality and follows extensive engagement with the taxi trade, where drivers highlighted the need for additional financial support. If approved, the fund was expected to open for applications later this year

A Member questioned when the vehicle funding would be available and it was reported that this information was not yet in the public domain.

At the request of the Chair, the Licensing Unit Manager provided an overview of the enhanced DBS checks.

Delegated decision:

It was agreed that the report be noted.

LSP.6 HMO LICENSING POLICY AND UPDATED STANDARDS AND AMENITY DOCUMENTS

The Unit Manager PRS Enforcement Team submitted a report to seek approval from the Licensing and Safety Committee to adopt the proposed HMO Licensing Policy and the updated Standards and Amenities Guidance for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) across the borough. The introduction of a formal licensing policy was necessary due to the increasing volume of HMO licence applications and the Council's commitment to strengthening regulatory oversight of HMOs.

The updated guidance provided clearer, more detailed technical standards to support licence applicants, ensuring that HMOs meet statutory requirements relating to space, amenity provision, safety, and management. It also reflected recent legislative changes, including enhanced penalty powers under the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and revisions introduced through the Renters Rights Act 2025.

The policy set out how the Council administers and enforces HMO licensing, ensuring consistency, transparency and robust decision-making. Adoption of the documents would support improved regulation of HMOs, assist developers and landlords in meeting mandatory conditions, and enable the Council to maintain safe, compliant accommodation for residents. Following approval, delegated authority was requested to allow the Assistant Director for Public Protection and Resilience to make further amendments arising from consultation and any future legislative changes.

Attached to the agenda packs at appendix 1 was the HMO Licensing Policy, Appendix 2 detailed the HMO landlord guidance and appendix 3 listed the HMO licensing conditions.

A number of hyperlinks contained within the policy were not yet finalised and would be updated in due course.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to the policy which were answered by Officers present at the meeting.

Delegated decision:

That the Licensing and Safety Committee approved the HMO Licensing Policy and the updated Standards and Amenities Guidance. Delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director for Public Protection and Resilience to make any necessary amendments arising from the consultation, as well as any future amendments required to reflect new or amended legislation.

LSP.7 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was reported at the meeting.

LSP.8 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.9 SUSPENSION / REVOCATION OF PUBLIC / PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCES

Licence Holder 16/2025

The Executive Director (Corporate Core) submitted a report relating to client number 16/2025, 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 them being before the Committee.

The Licensing Unit Manager reported and presented background information to the Committee on this case.

The Council's legal advisor and 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 suspend the licence for a period of 12 months.**

In the interests of public safety and to maintain confidence in the regulatory framework, it was necessary and proportionate to impose an **immediate suspension** for a 12-month period on the grounds of public safety.

The driver was informed of their right to appeal this decision to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days of receiving written notification.

Licence Holder 17/2025

The Executive Director (Corporate Core) submitted a report relating to client 17/2025. The Licensing Unit Manager reported that the client and their legal representative had requested that the case to be deferred until a future meeting whilst body worn video evidence was obtained.

Delegated decision:

The Licencing Committee agreed that Licence Holder 17/2025 would be deferred for consideration at an upcoming meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee.

COUNCILLOR T RAFIQ
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 8.15pm)

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Classification	Item No.
Open / Closed	

Meeting:	Licensing and Safety Committee
Meeting date:	19 March 2026
Title of report:	Operational Report
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Core)
Decision Type:	N/A Report for information only
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

Executive Summary:

A report to advise members on operational issues within the Licensing service.

Recommendation(s)

That the report be noted.

Key considerations

Not applicable

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The report advises Members on operational issues within the Licensing service.

2.0 COMPLIANCE/ENFORCEMENT

2.1 2 – 8 February

Client

Enforcement 3

Complaint 1

Premises

Enforcement 2

Intel 1

Vehicles

Enforcement 7

2.2 **9 – 15 February**

Client

Enforcement 34

Premises

Enforcement 7

Multi Agency 1

Vehicles

Enforcement 3

2.3 **16-22 February**

Client

Complaint 2

Enforcement 2

Premises

Enforcement 7

Multi Agency 18

Vehicles

Enforcement 2

2.4 **23 February – 1 March**

Client

Complaint 6

Enforcement 7

Premises

Enforcement 4

Multi Agency 3

Vehicles

Enforcement 10

3.0 LICENSING HEARINGS SUB- COMMITTEES

3.1 On the 3 March 2026, a Licensing Hearings Sub-Committee considered a personal licence due to the licence holder being convicted of a relevant offence under Schedule 4 of the Licensing Act 2003. Members considered the report and decided to revoke the personal licence.

4.0 IMMEDIATE SUSPENSIONS

4.1 The Licensing Service are continuing, following consultation with the Chair, to immediately suspend drivers who do not have a valid subscription with the DBS Update Service. Since the last Licensing and Safety Committee on 19 March 2026 a further 7 drivers have been suspended.

Community impact / links with Community Strategy

Not applicable

Equality Impact and considerations:

24. *Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:*

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

25. *The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.*

Equality Analysis	<i>Please provide a written explanation of the outcome(s) of either conducting an initial or full EA.</i>
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The Licensing Service have considered the Equality Act 2010 and due to each application being dealt with on its own merits there is no positive or negative on any of the protected characteristics.

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
None	.

Consultation:

Not applicable

Legal Implications:

Not applicable

Financial Implications:

Not Applicable

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Licensing Unit Manager
3 Knowsley Place
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Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
None	



Classification	Item No.
Open / Closed	

Meeting:	Licensing and Safety Committee
Meeting date:	Licensing and Safety Committee 19 th March 2026 Full Council 20 th May 2026
Title of report:	Request for an additional Officer Delegation to immediately Suspend or revoke Public / Private Hire Driver Licences in the interests of Public Safety
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Core)
Decision Type:	Council
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

Executive Summary

This report requests that the Committee approve a further delegation to the Deputy Licensing Officer to immediately suspend or revoke a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licences following consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee in the interests of Public Safety. The Head of Public Protection and the Licensing Unit Manager have already been authorised to take this action.

Options & Recommended Options

1. To delegate to the Deputy Licensing Officer to immediately suspend or revoke a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licences following consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee in the interests of Public Safety.
2. To reject the delegation outlined above

Key considerations

This is a Council Function that is delegated to the Licensing and Safety Panel by the Council's Constitution.

This paper is in the public domain.

Community impact / Contribution to the Bury 2030 Strategy

Not applicable

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The public sector equality duty requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

The Licensing Service have considered the Equality Act 2010 and due to each application being dealt with on its own merits there is no positive or negative on any of the protected characteristics.

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Not Applicable	.

Consultation:

Not applicable

Legal Implications:

Under the legislation the Council is required to determine representations. The report is in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

The costs of the licensing function are funded through the fees and charges levied by the Council. There may be additional costs if appeals are lodged with the Magistrates and Crown Courts.

Members are advised that Licences are regarded as possessions within the terms of the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act everyone is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of one's possessions and so actions interfering with those possessions must be lawful, reasonable and proportionate. It is lawful to impose reasonable conditions as a way of protecting the safety of the travelling public, so long as it is not out of proportion. It is a balancing act between the public interest and the individual's rights.

Financial Implications:

There are no specific issues from the report other than potential costs/risks associated with legal appeals.

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Background papers:

Licensing and Safety Committee Report and Minutes 8 June 2025

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
None	

1.0 Background

1.1 Section 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that the Council may suspend or revoke or refuse to renew the licence of a driver of a private/public hire vehicle on any of the following grounds:

1.2 a) that he has since the grant of the licence: -

- (i) been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, indecency or violence; or
- (ii) been convicted of an offence under or has failed to comply with the provisions of the Act of 1847 or this Act; or
- b) any other reasonable cause.

1.3 The Act also confers a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court and provides that an individual can continue to drive a hackney carriage/private hire vehicle during the period when an appeal can be lodged and if an appeal is lodged until the appeal is dismissed or withdrawn or fails for want of prosecution. Section 52 of the Road Safety Act, provides Licensing Authorities with a power to suspend or revoke a Hackney or Private Hire driver licences with immediate effect where they are of the opinion that the interests of public safety require such a course of action.

1.4 Members will be aware that the Council's Constitution states under the Licensing and Safety Committee terms of reference: -

To authorise the revocation or suspension of any Licence which falls within the purview of the Licensing and Safety Committee except in circumstances involving risk to the public safety in which case authority be delegated to the Head of Service (Public Protection) and/ or the Unit Manager (Licensing) after consultation with the Chair of the Committee to revoke or suspend a Licence with immediate effect subject to a report to the next Committee meeting.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 The Licensing Service seek an additional delegation from the Licensing and Safety Committee to also include the Deputy Licensing Officer in the Council's constitution.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 Members are requested to consider the report.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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