

Minutes of: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 16th April 2026

Present: Councillor T Rafiq (in the Chair)
Councillors A Booth, R Brown, D Green, J Grimshaw, J Hook,
B Ibrahim, D Quinn and I Rizvi

Also in attendance: M Bridge- Licensing Unit Manager
M Cunliffe – Democratic Services
C Farrimond – Legal Advisor
L Scully– Legal Observer
B Thomson- Assistant Director Public Protection & Resilience

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

LSP.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor M Walsh.
There was no substitute representative for Councillor M Walsh.

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 19th March 2026 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 2nd – 29th March 2026.

LICENSING HEARINGS SUB-COMMITTEES

On the 12th March 2026, a Licensing Hearings Sub-Committee considered a review application in respect of the Overdraft, 28/30 Blackburn Street, Radcliffe, M26 1NQ. It was therefore unanimously resolved to take no further action in order to promote the licensing objectives.

The Sub-Committee was therefore satisfied that with the change in management there were no grounds of concern to administer any modifications or amendments to the current premises licence with all current conditions remaining in place.

On the 16th March 2026, a Licensing Hearings Sub-Committee considered a variation application in respect of the Hideout Gastro Bar, 2 Sherbourne Street, Prestwich, M25 3BB. The sub-committee carefully considered all the representations and evidence provided. It was therefore agreed that the Sub-Committee unanimously grant the variation in the terms requested subject to an additional condition 13A on the operating schedule to state that no speakers or sound system should be fixed or placed adjacent to the party wall to the neighbouring property.

On the 20th March 2026, a Licensing Hearings Sub-Committee considered a grant application for a premises licence in respect of Touch of Spice, 32 Church Street West, Radcliffe, M26 2SQ. All of the evidence was considered with care, and it was established that having understood the application and equally noting and understanding the representations, the Sub-Committee found there were no causes for concern so far as the promotion of the licensing objectives were concerned.

The application was similar to the previous licence held at the premises until recently and there had been no formal complaints made in the past about noise nuisance. To address any concerns for the representor, an adjustment was made to shorten the opening times and the hours for late night refreshment from those requested in the application. It was noted that not all the representations were directly related to the premises.

Also on the 20th March 2026, a Licensing Hearings Sub-Committee considered a grant application for a premises licence in respect of the Daily Connects, 480a Bury Old Road, Prestwich, M25 1NL. The sub-committee carefully considered all the representations and evidence provided and it was established that having understood the application and equally noting and understanding the representations, the Sub-Committee found there were causes for concern so far as the promotion of the licensing objectives were concerned.

It was therefore agreed unanimously that the Sub-Committee refuse the application.

A Member asked about the Private Hire and Hackney support fund and the Licensing Unit Manager provided an update on this matter. It was still not confirmed when the Private Hire application for funding would open.

Delegated decision:

It was agreed that the report be noted.

LSP.6 URGENT BUSINESS

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 19/2026

The Executive Director (Corporate Core) submitted a report relating to client number 19/2026, 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 him being before the Committee.

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

Members of the Committee 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 3 months.**

The Committee concluded a period of suspension was necessary and proportionate. The Committee were also satisfied that immediate suspension was required in the interests of public safety in accordance with Section 61(2B) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

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

Licence Holder 17/2026

The Executive Director (Corporate Core) submitted a report relating to client 17/2026, who was not in attendance at the meeting.

The Licensing Unit Manager reported that the Licence Holder and their legal representative had requested that the case be deferred until a future meeting due to a personal reason.

The Licensing Unit Manager reminded Members that the case had already been deferred at the February 2026 meeting at the request of the Licence Holder and their legal representative.

Members were in agreement that there was enough information contained within the report to proceed in the absence of the Licence Holder and their legal representative.

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

Members of the Committee 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 all the evidence available.

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 take no action against the Licensee.**

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

COUNCILLOR T RAFIQ
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 8.55pm)

The Chair placed on record his thanks to Officers and Members of the Committee for the work undertaken during the municipal year 2025-2026.