

Minutes of: **LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 10th September 2026

Present: Councillor B Ibrahim (in the Chair)
Councillors A Chaudhry, S Haroon, J Hook, G Martin, A Quinn,
D Quinn, I Rizvi, J Rydeheard, K Simpson and M Walsh

Also in attendance: M Bridge- Licensing Unit Manager
A Bucior- Head of Public Protection
M Cunliffe – Democratic Services
Shelagh Lyth – 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 B Thomson- Assistant Director Public Protection & Resilience and Councillors D Green, M Hayes and D Hill.

Councillors S Haroon, A Chaudhry and G Martin acted as substitute representatives for Councillors Green, Hayes and Hill.

LSP.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

LSP.3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

Delegated decision:

That the Minutes of the last meetings held on the 9th July and 21st July 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 July and the 28th August 2026 in respect of clients and vehicles. A table in the report detailed this information.

LICENSING HEARINGS SUB- COMMITTEES

A number of Licensing Hearing Sub-Committees had taken place over the past few months and these were listed within the report providing information on each

application and the decisions taken.

IMMEDIATE SUSPENSIONS

Following consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee, the licensing Service had immediately suspended six drivers due to them no longer being registered on the DBS update Service.

PRIVATE HIRE SUPPORT FUND

Members were advised that Bury Council was supporting the Greater Manchester Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) Support Fund, a regional initiative aimed at improving air quality by assisting eligible private hire vehicle proprietors to replace older, non-compliant vehicles with cleaner alternatives.

The £2 million fund would provide grants of up to £2,500 to eligible private hire vehicle licence holders to replace non-compliant vehicles. The scheme is being administered by the Growth Company on behalf of the ten Greater Manchester local authorities.

The fund was targeted at proprietors of diesel-powered private hire vehicles first registered before the 1st September 2015 that do not meet the required emissions standards. Eligible applicants will be able to apply for financial assistance towards the purchase of a compliant replacement vehicle, including zero-emission capable vehicles and vehicles meeting the required Euro emissions standards. Wheelchair accessible vehicles replaced through the scheme must be replaced with another wheelchair accessible vehicle.

Ahead of the fund opening in September 2026, Bury Council had issued communications to all licensed private hire vehicle proprietors to ensure that those who may be eligible are aware of the support available. Licence holders have been directed to an online eligibility checker and encouraged to begin considering suitable replacement vehicles where appropriate.

Once the fund opens, eligible applicants will be required to submit an application through a dedicated portal and provide the necessary supporting documentation. Successful applicants will receive a Fund Award Notification and will have four months to purchase and licence a compliant replacement vehicle before grant payment is released. The grant will be paid following submission of evidence that the replacement vehicle has been licensed with the local authority.

TRADE LIAISON MEETING

On the 7th September 2026, the Licensing Service held a trade liaison meeting with the Hackney and Private Trade. The Licensing Unit Manager added a verbal update to the meeting:-

- Representatives attended from Bury Council, GMP and trade associations in attendance.
- GMP reported 22 taxi-related incidents across the previous three months, including 5 assaults, vehicle damage, racial abuse, bilking, theft of taxi plates and disturbances. GMP advised there was no identifiable increase linked to the World Cup.
- Concerns were raised regarding stolen taxi plates. Members reiterated the importance of reporting thefts to the police and obtaining a crime reference number prior to replacement plates being issued.
- Driver safety was discussed extensively, particularly assaults against licensed drivers. Trade representatives requested reconsideration of CCTV requirements in licensed

vehicles, recognising that national minimum standards are expected to include CCTV provisions.

- Members supported refreshing and relaunching the "Respect the Driver" campaign, including consideration of vehicle signage warning passengers that violence, abuse and fare evasion may lead to prosecution.
- Concerns were raised regarding the use of e-bikes and e-scooters, including dangerous riding, pavement use and links to criminal activity. GMP advised enforcement remains intelligence-led and wider regulation would require national legislative change.

An update was provided on Clean Air funding:-

- 100% of eligible Bury Hackney Carriage proprietors have accepted available vehicle upgrade funding.
- A new Greater Manchester grant scheme will provide eligible private hire proprietors with a £2,500 non-repayable grant per vehicle.
- There are currently 21 non-compliant private hire vehicles identified within Bury.

- Trade representatives expressed concern regarding the 4 January 2027 emissions compliance deadline for private hire vehicles and requested consideration of an extension to allow sufficient time for vehicle replacement and grant applications.
- Officers advised that Bury's Convictions Policy is under review as part of Greater Manchester-wide work to align with Institute of Licensing Fitness and Propriety guidance and improve consistency across authorities.
- Members discussed reviewing the Council's Written-Off Vehicle Policy, particularly whether Category N and potentially Category S vehicles could be considered for licensing where independent assessments demonstrate safety and roadworthiness. Written comments from the trade have been requested to inform a future committee report.
- Ongoing concerns were raised about misuse of taxi ranks by private vehicles, particularly at Kay Gardens. Future meetings will include enforcement statistics and updates on action taken.
- National licensing developments were discussed, including:-

- National minimum licensing standards.
- Potential CCTV requirements.
- Wheelchair accessible vehicle quotas and registers.
- Driver accessibility training requirements.
- Future testing and compliance standards.

Members were advised that national standards are expected to form a minimum baseline, with councils retaining the ability to adopt stricter local requirements.

- The next Trade Liaison Group meeting would be arranged before the January 2027 emissions compliance deadline if possible.

The Licensing Unit Manager also reported on the following key Messages for the committee:-

- Strong uptake of Clean Air funding schemes continues to support fleet compliance.
- Driver safety, assaults on drivers and future CCTV requirements remain significant areas of concern for the trade.
- Policy reviews relating to convictions and written-off vehicles are progressing and may result in future committee reports.
- National developments in taxi and private hire regulation continue to be monitored and are likely to influence future local policy decisions.

A Member asked about the funding opening and the Licensing Unit Manager confirmed that an email had already been issued with further communications being sent in relation to making an application.

Upon questioning about the clean air scheme and written off vehicles, the Licensing Unit Manager reported that future reports would be presented to the Committee to address these topics.

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 04/2026

The Executive Director (Corporate Core) submitted a report relating to licence holder 04/2026, who was in attendance at the meeting with their representative. The Chair made introductions and along with 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 and presented by the Licensing Unit Manager, 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.

Members of the Committee asked a number of questions in relation to the case.

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

Delegated decision:

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

Taking into account the Council's Conviction Policy and Guidelines and in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, and the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 177 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, the Committee resolved **to grant the renewal application for a three-year period**, however, this was

subject to an **immediate suspension for a period of two months** on the grounds of public safety and safeguarding of the public.

It was noted by the Committee that the decision to allow the renewal application was outside the normal policy but in this instance the Committee felt there were mitigating circumstances presented by the licence holder and their representative in this case.

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

COUNCILLOR B IBRAHIM
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7.15pm and ended at 9.15pm)

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