

Classification	Item No.
Open / Closed	

Meeting:	Licensing and Safety Committee
Meeting date:	5 November 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 The table below shows the number of issues that the Licensing Service have dealt with since the last Committee meeting in October until the 26 October 2026 in respect of Clients and Vehicles.

Enforcement Action	Number of Actions	Summary of Cases	Action Taken
Immediate Revocation	2	Serious allegations	Licences immediately revoked pending further investigation
Revocation	1	Damaged vehicle	Vehicle licence revoked
Immediate Suspension	1	DBS-related matter	Driver licence immediately suspended
Suspension	3	Damaged vehicles and missed interim inspection	Vehicle licences suspended until compliance achieved
Suspension Lifted	1	Vehicle subsequently complied with requirements	Suspension removed and licence reinstated
Referred to GMP	1	Alleged breach of licence conditions	Matter referred to Greater Manchester Police
Referred to Panel	1	Stalking allegation	Matter referred to Licensing Panel for determination
Interview Required	2	Poor driving and stalking complaints	Formal interviews to be undertaken
Written Advice Issued	1	Unlicensed activity allegation	Warning/advisory letter sent
Advice Given	1	Driver conduct complaint	Advice provided to licence holder
Information Requested	2	Driver conduct complaints requiring further evidence	Additional information requested from complainants/Uber
Information Checks Completed	2	Enquiries from other licensing authorities	Information supplied to requesting authorities
Licence Surrendered / Cancelled	2	Licences voluntarily surrendered or cancelled	Licences terminated

Plates Voluntarily Handed In	1	Vehicle proprietor surrendered plates	Vehicle licence ceased
Voluntarily Handed In	1	Licence holder voluntarily surrendered licence	Matter concluded
No Further Action / Noted	7	Complaints, convictions, overcharging and miscellaneous matters assessed	Recorded and closed with no further enforcement action
All in Order	1	Investigation into poor driving allegation	No breach identified following enquiries

2.2 The table below shows the number of issues that the Licensing Service have dealt with since the last Committee meeting in October until the 26 October in respect of premises.

Enforcement Action	Number of Actions	Summary of Actions	Action Taken
Unlicensed Activity	3	Allegations of unlicensed activity at various premises including clubs and retail premises	Cease and desist email issued (1), email sent (1), matter noted (1)
Non-Payment of Annual Fee	4	Premises failed to pay the required licence fees	Suspension notices issued to licence holders pending payment
Breach of Licence Conditions	1	Breach of premises licence conditions identified	Written warning issued
Illicit Cigarettes	1	Illicit tobacco products identified during enforcement activity	Written warning issued
Compliance Checks (Blue Notices)	3	Inspections undertaken to verify statutory notice requirements	Blue notices confirmed as displayed and compliant
Noise Nuisance Complaint	1	Complaint received regarding noise from licensed premises	Matter recorded and noted [261026 Premises Excel]
Multi-Agency Visit	1	Joint agency inspection undertaken at licensed premises	Advice provided to premises operator

3.0 IMMEDIATE SUSPENSIONS

- 3.1 Following consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee, the licensing Service have immediately suspended one driver due to them no longer being registered on the DBS update Service.

4.0 PARTNERSHIP WORKING AND OUTCOMES

- 4.1 Members are requested to note the outcome of a multi-agency enforcement operation undertaken on 13 October 2026 involving Bury Council's Licensing Service, Trading Standards, Greater Manchester Police, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and Immigration Enforcement. The coordinated operation targeted six premises across Tottington, Ainsworth, Radcliffe, Whitefield and Bury, with the support of a specialist tobacco detection dog. As a result of the inspections, three premises were identified as selling or storing unlawful goods. Enforcement officers seized 124 packets of illicit cigarettes, 18 pouches of hand-rolling tobacco (approximately 0.9kg) and 54 toys suspected of being counterfeit or failing to meet product safety requirements, with an estimated combined street value of approximately £3,000. The operation highlighted the effectiveness of joint working arrangements in identifying and disrupting criminal activity, protecting consumers from potentially unsafe products, supporting legitimate businesses and safeguarding public confidence in local regulatory services. Investigations remain ongoing and further enforcement action may be taken where appropriate. Members are invited to note the positive outcomes achieved through this partnership approach and the continued commitment of all agencies to tackling illicit trade and wider regulatory non-compliance within the borough.

5.0 ANIMALS (PENALTY NOTICES) ACT 2022

- 5.1 Members are advised that the Animals (Penalty Notices) Act 2022, together with the Animals (Penalty Notices) Regulations 2023, came into force on 1 January 2024 and provides local authorities with a new enforcement tool in the form of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for specified animal health and welfare offences. The legislation offers a proportionate alternative to prosecution for lower-level offences, enabling more timely and efficient enforcement action. Offences currently covered include failures relating to the microchipping of dogs and cats, failure to keep microchip records updated, and certain offences under animal welfare legislation. The maximum penalty is the lower of £5,000 or the maximum fine available on conviction for the relevant offence, with a statutory reduction of 50% available where payment is made within 14 days. Payment of the penalty notice discharges liability for prosecution in respect of that offence. The Council is currently reviewing its enforcement procedures and officer authorisations to determine the extent to which these powers will be utilised locally.

6.0 IMMEDIATE REVOCATION

- 6.1 Following consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee, the licensing Service have immediately revoked a private hire driver following intelligence being received from Greater Manchester Police relating to his conduct.

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>
<i>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.</i>	

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:

Mr M Bridge
Licensing Unit Manager
3 Knowsley Place
Duke Street
Bury
BL9 0EJ Tel: 0161 253 5208 Email: m.bridge@bury.gov.uk

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

Term	Meaning
None	