

Meeting of: LICENSING COMMITTEE

Time: 6.30pm **Date** 22nd April 2025

Venue: Council Chamber, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB



Supported by: Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager, 01706 252422,
carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk

The meeting will also be live streamed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrLsMDOP7AYxik5pNP0gTIA/streams>

ITEM		Lead Member/Contact Officer
A.	BUSINESS MATTERS	
A1.	Apologies for Absence	
A2.	To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 5 th March 2024.	
A3.	To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Driver Sub-Committees as follows: a) 18 th April 2024 b) 18 th September 2024 c) 27 th November 2024 d) 19 th February 2025	
A4.	Declarations of Interest <i>Members are advised to contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting to seek advice on interest issues if necessary. Members are requested to indicate at this stage, any items on the agenda in which they intend to declare an interest. Members are reminded that, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and the Council's Code of Conduct, they must declare the nature of any personal interest and, if the interest is prejudicial, withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the item.</i>	Clare Birtwistle, Legal Services Manager, 01706 252438, clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk
A5.	Urgent Items of Business To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.	

The agenda and reports are also available for inspection at the Council's One Stop Shop, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB Other formats are available on request. Tel 01706 217777

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B.	OPERATIONAL MATTERS	
B1.	Licensing Update	<p>Susan Chadwick Public Protection Manager 01706 238648 susanchadwick@rossendalebc.gov.uk</p>



Rob Huntington
Chief Executive

Date Published: 1st April 2025

MINUTES OF: LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 5th March 2024

**Present: Councillor Marriott (Chair)
Councillors Adshead, Cheetham, Driver, Gill, Looker and Neal**

**In Attendance: Susan Chadwick, Public Protection Manager
Yasmin Ahmed, Principal Legal Officer
Sattar Hussain, Legal Officer**

Also Present: Carolyn Sharples, Committee and Member Services Manager

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Johnson and Rigby.

2. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on the 4th July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

3. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the following Driver Sub-Committee meetings be approved as a correct record:

- 6th July 2023
- 7th September 2023
- 30th November 2023
- 22nd February 2024

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

6. LICENSING UPDATE

The Public Protection Manager introduced the Licensing Update report and highlighted the four successful licensing hearings. The department continued to monitor all regulatory matters.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Taxis were able to ply for hire on taxi ranks, but not park there. They were legally allowed to park anywhere else the same as any other vehicle.
- Where time limited parking was concerned, this also applied to taxis the same as other vehicles.

- All 240 Rossendale licenced drivers had a DBS check as part of the procedure for getting a hackney carriage licence. In relation to drivers coming in from other areas to bring children to schools in Rossendale, the school contract could be done by various firms and vehicles. This was monitored by Lancashire County Council (LCC) who would do the relevant checks and they had a framework which drivers must operate within. Rossendale Council regularly participated and assisted in the spot checks with LCC.

Resolved:

That members note the contents of the update report.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed 6.40pm.

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date

MINUTES OF: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (DRIVERS)

Date of Meeting: 18th April 2024

Present: Councillors Marriott (Chair), Gill and Neal

**In Attendance: Yasmin Ahmed, Principal Legal Officer
Sattar Hussain, Legal Officer
Susan Chadwick, Public Protection Manager
Michael Dermody, Public Protection Officer
3 Licence Holders
1 Licence Holder's Representative**

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business.

4. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 since they involved the disclosure of exempt information under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

The Chair agreed to amend the order of the items.

5. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR KS (ITEM C3)

The Chair welcomed the Licence Holder to the Sub-Committee.

The Public Protection Manager outlined to all persons present the relevant information, which applied to all confidential applications.

The Public Protection Manager presented the report and detailed the circumstances that had brought the Licence Holder before the Sub-Committee.

The Licence Holder presented their case to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee members asked questions for clarification purposes only.

The Licence Holder, Public Protection Manager and Public Protection Officer left the room to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a decision.

The Licence Holder, Public Protection Manager and Public Protection Officer re-entered the room to enable the Sub-Committee to advise their decision.

Resolved:

That the licence be revoked under Section 61(1) of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976. The Committee considered that the Licence Holder was no longer a fit and proper person to hold a hackney carriage driver's licence.

The Licence Holder was informed of their right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court which must be exercised within 21 days of service of the decision letter upon them.

The Licence Holder would be informed of the reason for the Council's decision in writing.

Reason for Decision

The matter had been considered in accordance with the Council's approved procedure, the Council's Guidelines on Convictions, the conditions attached to the Policy for the Licensing of: Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles, the conditions attached to the Enforcement Policy - Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Drivers, Operators and Vehicles and the Sub-Committee took into account all the relevant information put before them.

6. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR BK (ITEM C1)

The Chair welcomed the Licence Holder and their representative to the Sub-Committee.

The Public Protection Manager outlined to all persons present the relevant information, which applied to all confidential applications.

The Public Protection Manager presented the report and detailed the circumstances that had brought the Licence Holder before the Sub-Committee.

The Licence Holder presented their case to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee members asked questions for clarification purposes only.

The Licence Holder, their representative, Public Protection Manager and Public Protection Officer left the room to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a decision.

The Licence Holder, their representative, Public Protection Manager and Public Protection Officer re-entered the room to enable the Sub-Committee to advise their decision.

Resolved:

That the hackney carriage driver's licence would be revoked under Section 61(1) of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976. The Sub-Committee took into account the representations made and information available and considered that the Licence Holder was no longer a fit and proper person to hold a hackney carriage driver's licence.

The Licence Holder was informed of their right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court which must be exercised within 21 days of service of the decision letter upon them.

The Licence Holder would be informed of the reason for the Council's decision in writing.

Reason for Decision

The matter had been considered in accordance with the Council's approved procedure, the Council's Guidelines on Convictions, the conditions attached to the Policy for the Licensing

of: Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles, the conditions attached to the Enforcement Policy - Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Drivers, Operators and Vehicles and the Sub-Committee took into account all the relevant information put before them.

7. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE REVIEW OF A PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR'S LICENCE FOR MS (ITEM C2)

The Chair welcomed the Licence Holder and their representative to the Sub-Committee.

The Public Protection Manager outlined to all persons present the relevant information, which applied to all confidential applications.

The Public Protection Manager presented the report and detailed the circumstances that had brought the Licence Holder before the Sub-Committee.

The Licence Holder presented their case to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee members asked questions for clarification purposes only.

The Licence Holder, their representative, Public Protection Manager and Public Protection Officer left the room to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a decision.

The Licence Holder, their representative, Public Protection Manager and Public Protection Officer re-entered the room to enable the Sub-Committee to advise their decision.

Resolved:

That the licence would be revoked under Section 61(1) of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976. The Sub-Committee took into account the representations made and information available and considered that the Licence Holder was no longer a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Operators Licence.

The Licence Holder was informed of their right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court which must be exercised within 21 days of service of the decision letter upon them.

The Licence Holder would be informed of the reason for the Council's decision in writing.

Reason for Decision

The matter had been considered in accordance with the Council's approved procedure, the Council's Guidelines on Convictions, the conditions attached to the Policy for the Licensing of: Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles, the conditions attached to the Enforcement Policy - Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Drivers, Operators and Vehicles and the Sub-Committee took into account all the relevant information put before them.

The meeting concluded at 11:45am

Chair:

Date:

MINUTES OF: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (DRIVERS)

Date of Meeting: 18th September 2024

Present: Councillors Gill (Chair), Driver and Royds

**In Attendance: Sattar Hussain, Legal Officer (in part)
Yasmin Ahmed, Principal Legal Officer (in part)
Susan Chadwick, Public Protection Manager
2 Applicants
1 Licence Holder
2 Licence Holder's Representatives**

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Sub-committee Members.

As the Legal Officer was aware of Item C4 (minute 8), the Principal Legal Officer would represent Legal Services for this item.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business.

4. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 since they involved the disclosure of exempt information under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

5. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR MA (ITEM C1)

The Chair welcomed the Applicant and their representative to the Sub-Committee.

The Public Protection Manager outlined to all persons present the relevant information, which applied to all confidential applications.

The Public Protection Manager presented the report and detailed the circumstances that had brought the Applicant before the Sub-Committee.

The Applicant presented their case to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee members asked questions for clarification purposes only.

The Applicant, their representative and Public Protection Manager left the room to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a decision.

The Applicant, their representative and Public Protection Manager re-entered the room to enable the Sub-Committee to advise of their decision.

Resolved:

That the application be refused. The Sub-Committee did not consider the applicant to be a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Driver's Licence.

The Applicant was informed of their right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court which must be exercised within 21 days of service of the decision letter upon them.

The Applicant would be informed of the reason for the Council's decision in writing.

Reason for Decision

The matter had been considered in accordance with the Council's approved procedure, the Council's Guidelines on Convictions, the conditions attached to the Policy for the Licensing of: Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles, the conditions attached to the Enforcement Policy - Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Drivers, Operators and Vehicles, and the Sub-Committee took into account all the relevant information put before them.

6. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR RA (ITEM C2)

The Applicant was not in attendance.

The Applicant's representative contacted the Council and requested an adjournment.

Resolved:

That the application is deferred until a further hearing can be arranged.

The Applicant would be informed of the reason for the Council's decision in writing.

Reason for Decision

The matter had been considered in accordance with the Council's approved procedure, the Council's Guidelines on Convictions, the conditions attached to the Policy for the Licensing of: Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles, the conditions attached to the Enforcement Policy - Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Drivers, Operators and Vehicles, and the Sub-Committee took into account all the relevant information put before them.

7. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR SA (ITEM C3)

The Chair welcomed the Applicant and their representative to the Sub-Committee.

The Public Protection Manager provided an update on the matter.

It was decided that decision is deferred until a further hearing can be arranged.

Resolved:

That the application is deferred until a further hearing can be arranged.

The Applicant would be informed of the reason for the Council's decision in writing.

Reason for Decision

The matter had been considered in accordance with the Council's approved procedure, the Council's Guidelines on Convictions, the conditions attached to the Policy for the Licensing of: Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles, the conditions attached to the Enforcement Policy - Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Drivers, Operators and Vehicles, and the Sub-Committee took into account all the relevant information put before them.

N.B. The Legal Officer left the meeting and the Principal Legal Officer entered the meeting for the following item.

8. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE REFERRAL FOR THE REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR KS (ITEM C4)

The Chair welcomed the Licence Holder to the Sub-Committee.

The Public Protection Manager outlined to all persons present the relevant information, which applied to all confidential applications.

The Public Protection Manager presented the report and detailed the circumstances that had brought the Licence Holder before the Sub-Committee.

The Licence Holder presented their case to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee members asked questions for clarification purposes only.

The Licence Holder and Public Protection Manager left the room to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a decision.

The Licence Holder and Public Protection Manager re-entered the room to enable the Sub-Committee to advise of their decision.

Resolved:

That the Licence Holder is required to undertake and pass the DVSA Test or a Council-approved equivalent and provide evidence of this to the Licensing and Enforcement Unit within a period of three months (unless the Licensee provides evidence that an appointment cannot be obtained). If the Licence Holder fails to provide such evidence within three months then the Licence Holder will be called back before the Licensing Sub-Committee.

The Licence Holder was informed of their right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court which must be exercised within 21 days of service of the decision letter upon them.

The Licence Holder would be informed of the reason for the Council's decision in writing.

Reason for Decision

The matters had been considered in accordance with the Council's approved procedure, the Council's Guidelines on Convictions, the conditions attached to the Policy for the Licensing of: Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles, the conditions attached to the Enforcement Policy - Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Drivers, Operators and Vehicles and the Sub-Committee took into account all the relevant information put before them.

The meeting concluded at 12:00pm.

Chair: _____

Date: _____

MINUTES OF: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (DRIVERS)

Date of Meeting: 27th November 2024

Present: Councillors Gill (Chair), Eaton and Royds

**In Attendance: Sattar Hussain, Legal Officer
Susan Chadwick, Public Protection Manager
2 Applicants
Applicants' Representatives**

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business.

4. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 since they involved the disclosure of exempt information under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

5. REPORT TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR RAA (ITEM C1)

The Chair welcomed the Applicant and their representative to the Sub-Committee.

The Public Protection Manager outlined to all persons present the relevant information, which applied to all confidential applications.

The Public Protection Manager presented the report and detailed the circumstances that had brought the Applicant before the Sub-Committee.

The Applicant presented their case to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee members asked questions for clarification purposes only.

The Applicant, their representative, Public Protection Manager and Public Protection Officer left the room to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a decision.

The Applicant, their representative, Public Protection Manager and Public Protection Officer re-entered the room to enable the Sub-Committee to advise of their decision.

Resolved:

That the application be refused. The Sub-Committee did not consider the applicant to be a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence.

The Applicant was informed of their right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court which must be exercised within 21 days of service of the decision letter upon them.

The Applicant would be informed of the reason for the Council's decision in writing.

Reason for Decision

The matter had been considered in accordance with the Council's approved procedure, the Council's Guidelines on Convictions, the conditions attached to the Policy for the Licensing of: Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles, the conditions attached to the Enforcement Policy - Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Drivers, Operators and Vehicles, and the Sub-Committee took into account all the relevant information put before them.

6. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR SA (ITEM C2)

The Chair welcomed the Applicant and their representative to the Sub-Committee.

The Public Protection Manager outlined to all persons present the relevant information, which applied to all confidential applications.

The Public Protection Manager presented the report and detailed the circumstances that had brought the Applicant before the Sub-Committee.

The Applicant presented their case to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee members asked questions for clarification purposes only.

The Applicant, their representative, Public Protection Manager and Public Protection Officer left the room to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a decision.

The Applicant, their representative, Public Protection Manager and Public Protection Officer re-entered the room to enable the Sub-Committee to advise of their decision.

Resolved:

That the application be granted. The Sub-Committee did consider the applicant to be a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Driver's Licence.

The Applicant would be informed of the reason for the Council's decision in writing.

Reason for Decision

The matter had been considered in accordance with the Council's approved procedure, the Council's Guidelines on Convictions, the conditions attached to the Policy for the Licensing of: Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles, the conditions attached to the Enforcement Policy - Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Drivers, Operators and Vehicles, and the Sub-Committee took into account all the relevant information put before them.

The meeting concluded at 13:15pm

Chair:

Date:

MINUTES OF: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (DRIVERS)

Date of Meeting: 19th February 2025

Present: Councillors Gill (Chair), Hancock and Royds

**In Attendance: Sattar Hussain, Legal Officer
Susan Chadwick, Public Protection Manager
Claire Halsall, Corporate Support Admin Assistant (Observing)
1 Applicant**

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business.

4. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 since they involved the disclosure of exempt information under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

5. REPORT TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR CR (ITEM C1)

The Chair welcomed the Applicant to the Sub-Committee.

The Public Protection Manager outlined to all persons present the relevant information, which applied to all confidential applications.

The Public Protection Manager presented the report and detailed the circumstances that had brought the Applicant before the Sub-Committee.

The Applicant presented their case to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee members asked questions for clarification purposes only.

The Applicant, Public Protection Manager and Corporate Support Admin Assistant left the room to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a decision.

The Applicant, Public Protection Manager and Corporate Support Admin Assistant re-entered the room to enable the Sub-Committee to advise of their decision.

Resolved:

That the application be refused. The Sub-Committee did not consider the applicant to be a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence.

The Applicant was informed of their right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court which must be exercised within 21 days of service of the decision letter upon them.

The Applicant would be informed of the reason for the Council's decision in writing.

Reason for Decision

The matter had been considered in accordance with the Council's approved procedure, the Council's Guidelines on Convictions, the conditions attached to the Policy for the Licensing of: Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles, the conditions attached to the Enforcement Policy - Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Drivers, Operators and Vehicles, and the Sub-Committee took into account all the relevant information put before them.

The meeting concluded at 10:45am

Chair:

Date:

Subject:	Licensing Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Licensing Committee	Date:	22 nd April 2025
Report of:	Public Protection Manager	Lead Member:	Environment and Corporate Services
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: No
Contact Officer:	Susan Chadwick	Telephone:	01706 238 648
Email:	susanchadwick@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 That members note the contents of this update report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Rossendale maintains a proportionate hackney carriage fleet relative to the Borough's population
- Regular monitoring and enforcement of licensed premises continues
- The Licensing Authority continue to uphold the four key objectives under the Gambling Act 2005
- Animal Licensing unified various pieces of legislation
- The licensing unit administers and enforces 12 distinct licensing regimes, requiring officers to maintain extensive knowledge across multiple regulatory areas.

3. DETAILS

Taxi's and Private Hire

Rossendale continues to operate a hackney fleet which is proportionate to the population of the Borough. There are 197 licensed vehicles and 251 licensed drivers. Hackney carriage drivers and hackney carriage vehicles represent 64% respectively.

Vehicles are inspected regularly both during their formal tests every 6 months and on an ad hoc basis by licensing officers on the streets. As a result of the proportionate fleet size, officers can ensure that vehicles and drivers who work locally are subject to regular compliance inspections.

Drivers and vehicles are regularly referred to the sub-committee for application decisions and reviews of licences where appropriate.

Premises Licensing

There are around 334 premises licences in the Borough which includes those operating under Club Premises Certificates (22).

Work continues to ensure that all licensed premises are operating within the terms of their licences.

Over the last 12 months, there have been 3 licensing hearings. These amounted to 2 grants and 1 revocation of licence. An appeal against the revocation has been lodged and this is yet to be heard.

Licensing officers will continue to act without favour or prejudice in considering such applications, but must remain within the framework of the law when dealing with potentially contentious issues.

Officers work closely with the SIA in ensuring that door staff are compliant with the licence requirements placed upon them.

The Government is gearing up to introduce digital ID's for age verification. It aims to modernise the age verification process reducing reliance on physical documents like passports and driving licences.

Lidl has announced plans to open it's first pub in Northern Ireland. The initiative represents a novel approach for the supermarket chain, aiming to integrate pub services within its retail environment. Greggs have ventured into the hospitality sector in similar fashion and IKEA has tested pop-up restaurants. Increasingly, brands are trying to create more immersive experiences, tapping into new revenue streams and keeping customers engaged for longer.

The Government have also confirmed that the temporary off-sales easement introduced by the Business and Planning Act 202 will come to an end on 31st March 2025.

Gambling

The Gambling Act 2005 states that Licensing Authorities must have regard to the licensing objectives as set out in the Act.

The Licensing Objectives are:

- ✓ preventing gambling being a source of crime or disorder;
- ✓ being associated with crime and disorder or being used to support crime;
- ✓ ensuring gambling is carried out in a fair and open way; and
- ✓ protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

There are 4 betting shops in the Borough. The largest part of Gambling for this Authority remains small society lottery registrations which amount to 61.

Animal Licensing

The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 came into effect on 1st October 2018. The regulations unified and updated a number of current licensing acts. Unfortunately, extra funding was not provided to local council's to deal with the increase in work required to administer the new regime and this remains a challenge to deal with.

Inspectors must be qualified to Level 3 certificate in Inspecting licensable activities involving animals in order to conduct inspections at such premises. There is a shortage of qualified people and inspections for the simplest of activities can take 1.5 hours excluding a review of

all necessary paperwork, policies and procedures. This course involves a mandatory practical session which is typically held at Heathrow Airport.

A public register of all licences and applications under consideration is maintained on the Council's website.

Other Licensing

The unit is responsible for administering and enforcing a total of 12 licensing regimes. While all regimes contribute to the unit's overall workload, 3 key regimes form the core of its operation and are examined in greater detail within this report. The remaining regimes, although equally important, constitute a smaller and more intermittent portion of the unit's responsibilities.

Licensing Officers play a crucial role in ensuring that businesses comply with law, protect public safety and promote responsible trading. To do this effectively, they must possess extensive knowledge across multiple areas. They also need to stay up to date with frequent changes in legislation, case laws and best practices to ensure that their decisions are legally sound and align with evolving regulatory frameworks. Continuous professional development is essential for licensing officers.

4. RISK

There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

5. FINANCE

All financial implications are noted in the report.

6. LEGAL

All legal matters are covered within the body of the report.

7. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

All policy or equality implications are noted in the report.

8. REASON FOR DECISION

Members should note the contents of the report.

No background papers