

**Meeting of: LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Time:** 6.30pm **Date** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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



**Supported by:** Carolyn Sharples, Executive and Democratic Services Manager, 01706 252422,  
[carolynsharples@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto: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
<b>A.</b>	<b>BUSINESS MATTERS</b>	
<b>A1.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>A2.</b>	To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025.	
<b>A3.</b>	To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Driver Sub-Committees as follows: a) 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025 b) 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 c) 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 d) 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2025 e) 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	
<b>A4.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> <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, <a href="mailto:clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk">clarebirtwistle@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>
<b>A5.</b>	<b>Urgent Items of Business</b> To note any items which the Chair has agreed to add to the Agenda on the grounds of urgency.	
<b>B.</b>	<b>OPERATIONAL MATTERS</b>	
<b>B1.</b>	Licensing Update	Susan Chadwick Public Protection Manager 01706 238648 <a href="mailto:susan Chadwick@rossendalebc.gov.uk">susan Chadwick@rossendalebc.gov.uk</a>



**Rob Huntington**  
**Chief Executive**

**Date Published:** 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

**MINUTES OF: LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025**

**Present: Councillor Gill (Chair)  
Councillors Driver, Eaton, Looker, Neal**

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

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**BUSINESS MATTERS**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Hodgkiss and Holland.

**2. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be approved as a correct record.

**3. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

**Resolved:**

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

- 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024
- 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**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 core work of the team. The department continued to monitor all regulatory matters.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Spot checks on vehicles would be carried out operationally as and when necessary.
- The Public Protection Manager currently had open dialogue with Wolverhampton Council. The 20 mile radius is an intended use policy as it only applies to hackney carriages.
- Underage sale operations are conducted. There had been two in the last six months.
- In relation to underage sale of alcohol, the seller can be issued with a fixed penalty notice. A Responsible Authority may call for a review. It all depends on the circumstances and merits of the matter.

**Resolved:**

That members note the contents of the update report.

**The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed 6.41pm.**

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date .....

**MINUTES OF: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (DRIVERS)**

**Date of Meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025**

**Present: Councillors Gill (Chair), Driver and Bauld**

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

## **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.

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**5. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR MU (ITEM C1)**

The Licence Holder was not in attendance.

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 Public Protection Manager left the room to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a decision.

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

**Resolved:**

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

**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 11:00am**

**Chair:**

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**Date:**

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**MINUTES OF: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (DRIVERS)**

**Date of Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**Present: Councillors Driver (Chair), Looker and Hodgkiss**

**In Attendance: Sattar Hussain, Legal Officer  
Susan Chadwick, Public Protection Manager  
1 Licence Holder**

## **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.

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### **THE ORDER OF THE ITEMS CHANGED AS FOLLOWS:-**

- 5. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE RENEWAL OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS LICENCE HELD BY FP (ITEM C2)**

The Chair welcomed the Licence Holder and 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 application to renew the Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence be granted. The Sub-Committee did consider the applicant to be a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence.

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.

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

The Licence Holder was not in attendance.

The Public Protection Manager outlined to all persons present the relevant information, which applied to all confidential applications, including the Licence Holder's written representations.

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

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

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

**Resolved:**

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

The Licence Holder would be informed of the reason for the Council's decision in writing and the right to appeal to the Magistrates' Court which should be exercised within 21 days of receiving the 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 11:15am**

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (DRIVERS)**

**Date of Meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Present: Councillors Gill (Chair), Driver and Neal**

**In Attendance: Camran Nejad, Legal Officer  
Yasmin Ahmed, Principal Legal Officer  
Nigel Yates, Public Protection Officer  
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.

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**5. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR ZA (ITEM C2)**

The Licence Holder did not attend the Sub-Committee hearing.

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

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

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

The Public Protection Officer left the room to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a decision.

The Public Protection Officer re-entered the room to enable the Sub-Committee to advise of their decision.

**Resolved:**

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

The Licence Holder would be 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.

## **6. REPORT TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR SI (ITEM C1)**

The Chair welcomed the Applicant to the Sub-Committee.

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

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

The Applicant and the 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.

**The meeting concluded at 11:45am**

**Chair:**

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**Date:**

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**MINUTES OF: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (DRIVERS)**

**Date of Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025**

**Present: Councillors Gill (Chair), Looker and Neal**

**In Attendance: Yasmin Ahmed, Principal Legal Officer  
Nigel Yates, Public Protection Officer  
1 Applicant  
1 Applicant'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.

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**5. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR MK (ITEM C1)**

The Chair informed that this item had been postponed to a future meeting owing to ill health.

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

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

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

The Public Protection Officer 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 Officer left the room to enable the Sub-Committee to come to a decision.

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

**Resolved:**

That the applications be granted. The Sub-Committee did consider the applicant to be a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence and 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 10:45am.**

**Chair:**

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**Date:**

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**MINUTES OF: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (DRIVERS)**

**Date of Meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Present: Councillors Gill (Chair), Driver and Neal**

**In Attendance: Yasmin Ahmed, Principal Legal Officer  
Susan Chadwick, Public Protection Manager  
1 Licence Holder**

## **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.

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**5. REPORT TO CONSIDER THE REVIEW OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE FOR MK (ITEM C1)**

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:**

To take informal action by way of a written warning.

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 12.00**

**Chair:**

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**Date:**

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<b>Report Title:</b>	Licensing Update		
<b>Report to:</b>	Licensing Committee	<b>Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
<b>Report of:</b>	Public Protection Manager	<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Environment & Corporate Services
<b>Cabinet Lead Member:</b>	Adrian Lythgoe	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	ALL
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Susan Chadwick	<b>Telephone:</b>	01706 238648
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:susanchadwick@rossendale.bc.gov.uk">susanchadwick@rossendale.bc.gov.uk</a>		

<b>Valley Plan Priorities</b>	<b>Thriving Local Economy:</b> This involves securing new inward investment, creating a sustainable economy, matching local skills with future job opportunities, and supporting town centres as unique destinations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>High Quality Environment:</b> This includes having a "clean and green" local environment, reducing the borough's carbon footprint, improving waste and recycling rates, and delivering new homes with a good mix of housing tenures.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Healthy &amp; Proud Communities:</b> This priority focuses on improving the health and physical/mental wellbeing of residents, reducing health inequalities, ensuring access to better leisure facilities and health services, and fostering a sense of pride in the community.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Effective &amp; Efficient Council:</b> The aim is to provide good quality and responsive services, embrace new technology, be a financially sustainable council with a commercial outlook, and ensure sound governance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Rossendale maintains a proportionate hackney carriage fleet relative to the Borough's population.
- 1.2 Regular monitoring and enforcement of licensed premises continues.
- 1.3 The Licensing Authority continue to uphold the 4 key objectives under the Gambling Act 2005.
- 1.4 The Licensing Unit administers and enforces 12 distinct licensing regimes, requiring officers to maintain extensive knowledge across multiple regulatory areas.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 It is recommended that members note the contents of this update report.

## 3. BACKGROUND AND REASON FOR THE DECISION

### 3.1 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing

Rosendale continues to operate a hackney fleet which is proportionate to the population of the Borough. There are 148 licensed vehicles and 217 licensed drivers. Hackney carriage drivers represent 60% and hackney carriage vehicles 62% respectively.

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

Recently, the government began exploring options for reforming taxi and private hire legislation to address the challenges caused by out-of-area working. In January 2026 Government commenced a consultation on the transfer of the hackney carriage and private hire licensing regime to Local Transport Authorities (LTAs).

The consultation is on the principle that taxi and PHV licensing should be the responsibility of LTAs, which means strategic authorities where they exist currently or in the future.

The government say, “strategic authorities, which are formed of a number of councils working together, cover sensible geographies comprised of areas that people recognise and work in. A strategic authority will provide coordination on issues which cross local authority boundaries within its area, including transport, as the LTA. The ultimate ambition of English devolution is for universal coverage of strategic authorities. Once this ambition is realised, it would mean that, unless this consultation proposal goes ahead, no LTAs would be responsible for taxi and PHV licensing apart from TfL. As also set out in the English devolution white paper, government has committed to an ambitious programme of local government reorganisation (LGR). The ambition is to move to a single tier of local government in all parts of the country. This would create simpler structures, strengthen disjointed services and help councils pursue efficiencies. A statutory invitation has been issued to all councils in 2-tier areas and small neighbouring unitary authorities to develop proposals for unitary local government, which will bring together lower and upper tier local government services in new unitary authorities. This means that services, including licensing, currently delivered by district councils would be delivered by new unitary councils.”

“Therefore, even if this proposal does not proceed, the licensing authority in most areas will change. This is because, where implemented, LGR would move the licensing authority from district councils and any small neighbouring unitary councils within proposals to the successor unitary councils, resulting in fewer licensing authorities than at present.”

At the time of writing, the consultation remains open and feedback is being provided by way of the Institute of Licensing.

### **3.2 Premises Licensing**

There are around 319 premises licences in the Borough which includes those operating under Club Premises Certificate (21).

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

Over the last 12 months, there has been 1 licensing hearings. This was a determination hearing for a review of a premises licence which resulted in the licence being revoked due to issues which undermined one or more of the licensing objectives.

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.

### **3.3 Other**

The Statement of Licensing and the Statement of Principles in relation to the Gambling Act 2005 will need to be refreshed and these will be done by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026. Once the new policies are ready, they will be sent for consultation. There will be a 12-week consultation period where the new policies will be sent to interested parties and statutory consultees for

comments. Further review can then take place and submitted for approval by the relevant committees.

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.

The Licensing Unit continues to operate effectively, managing a steady level of applications and hearings while maintaining compliance activity and partnership working. Officers are monitoring emerging legislative changes to ensure the Council remains prepared and compliant.

#### **4. RISK**

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

#### **5. SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTS (FINANCE)**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **6. MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS (LEGAL)**

6.1 There are no specific legal matters arising from this report.

#### **7. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no direct impact assessment implications arising from this report.

#### **8. POLICY/STRATEGY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 This report relates to the Council's statutory licensing functions under the relevant legislation and supports the Council's corporate objective of protecting public safety and ensuring lawful, well-regulated business activity within the Borough.

#### **9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no direct local government reorganisation implications arising from this report.

#### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None