

<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
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<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