

MINUTES OF: LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 10th March 2026

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

**In Attendance: Susan Chadwick, Public Protection Manager
Carolyn Sharples, Executive and Democratic Services Manager**

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Eaton, Hancock, Hodgkiss and Ritson.

2. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on the 22nd April 2025 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:

- 23rd April 2025
- 24th June 2025
- 17th September 2025
- 3rd December 2025
- 10th February 2026

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. She also informed of a government consultation on proposals to transfer taxi licensing matters to the Local Transport Authority. Members were encouraged to share their views on the proposals to formulate a consultation response.

In response to questions from members it was confirmed that:

- Members reservations and serious concerns with the government proposals were noted, particularly the following:
 - Knowledge of local issues and past history of cases would be lost.
 - The Council was undergoing Local Government Reorganisation so duties would already be undergoing transformation.

- It would mean handing over decisions to an authority who had no knowledge of their administration in the local area.
- There were concerns about representation to the Local Transport Authority and interventions and how this would work.
- Concerns were raised relating to school children being transported over authority boundaries and ensuring appropriate checks were made.
- The Local Transport Authority was not aware of local issues.
- The safety of local people was most important.
- It would be raised with the Town and Parish Councils.
- The proposals also included private taxi hire decisions.
- The proposals only related to transferring decision on taxi matters. Other work provided by the Public Protection Unit such as premises licenses would remain.
- There would be loss of local knowledge and democratic accountability.
- The Local Transport Authority were more strategic, whereas the district authorities were more operational, such as dealing with the suitability of vehicles, and drivers being fit and proper to hold a taxi licence.
- The consultation would close on 1st April.

Members were encouraged to send their concerns via email to the Public Protection Manager in response to the consultation before the closing date.

Resolved:

That members note the contents of the update report.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed 6.53pm.

Signed.....

(Chair)

Date