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**Service Director – Legal, Governance and
Commissioning**

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Wednesday 24 June 2026

Notice of Meeting

Dear Member

Licensing and Safety Committee

The **Licensing and Safety Committee** will meet in the **Council Chamber - Town Hall, Huddersfield** at **10.00 am** on **Thursday 2 July 2026**.

This meeting will be live webcast. To access the webcast please go to the Council's website at the time of the meeting and follow the instructions on the page.

The items which will be discussed are described in the agenda and there are reports attached which give more details.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Lawton".

Samantha Lawton

Service Director – Legal, Governance and Commissioning

Kirklees Council advocates openness and transparency as part of its democratic processes. Anyone wishing to record (film or audio) the public parts of the meeting should inform the Chair/Clerk of their intentions prior to the meeting.

The Licensing and Safety Committee members are:-

Member

Councillor Michael Howard (Chair)
Councillor Khuram Amjad
Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Damian Brook
Councillor Stephan Dransfield
Councillor Simon Duffy
Councillor Pip Harvey
Councillor Akhtar Kasia
Councillor Susan Lee-Richards
Councillor James O'Leary
Councillor David Ridgway
Councillor Michael Simmons
Councillor Mark Smith
Councillor Alex Vickers

When a Member of the Licensing and Safety Committee member cannot attend the meeting, a member of the Substitutes Panel (below) may attend in their place in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 35(7).

Substitutes Panel

Conservative

T Bamford
M Bolt
J Taylor

Green

A Cooper
T Cooper
M Jawaid
M Price
I Safdar

Holme Valley Ind.

C Greaves
J Roebuck

Kirklees Independents

A Anwar
T Bramwell
K Patel

Liberal Democrat

A Pinnock
A Robinson

Reform UK

S Brophy
L Fallas
G France
J Hardie
P James
S Maxfield
C Smith

Agenda

Reports or Explanatory Notes Attached

Pages

1: Membership of the Committee

To receive apologies for absence from those Members who are unable to attend the meeting and details of substitutions and for whom they are attending.

2: Minutes of Previous Meeting

1 - 4

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Panel held the 15th September 2025.

3: Declaration of Interests

5 - 6

Members will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda in which they have any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests, which may prevent them from participating in any discussion of the items or participating in any vote upon the items.

4: Admission of the Public

Most agenda items take place in public. This only changes where there is a need to consider exempt information, as contained at Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. You will be informed at this point which items are to be recommended for exclusion and to be resolved by the Board.

5: Deputations/Petitions

The Committee will receive any petitions and/or deputations from members of the public. A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also submit a petition at the meeting relating to a matter on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10, Members of the Public must submit a deputation in writing, at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting and shall subsequently be notified if the deputation shall be heard. A maximum of four deputations shall be heard at any one meeting.

6: Public Question Time

To receive any public questions.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11, the period for the asking and answering of public questions shall not exceed 15 minutes.

Any questions must be submitted in writing at least three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

7: Annual Licensing Services Update Report

7 - 24

The purpose of the report is to inform members of the activities undertaken to discharge the Council's licensing functions from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 and report on any up-and-coming changes to regulations.

Contact: Fiona Goldsmith, Public Protection Group Leader for Licensing, Tel: 01484 221000.

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday 15th September 2025

Present: Councillor Eric Firth (Chair)
Councillor Zarina Amin
Councillor Ali Arshad
Councillor Timothy Bamford
Councillor Donna Bellamy
Councillor Paola Antonia Davies
Councillor Charles Greaves
Councillor Andrew Marchington
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Alex Vickers
Councillor Munir Ahmed

In attendance: Fiona Goldsmith, Public Protection Group Leader for Licensing
Russell Williams, Operational Manager for Public Protection
Martin Wood, Head of Public Protection
Tahir Hanif, Senior Legal Officer

Apologies: Councillor Aafaq Butt

10 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2025 be approved as a correct record.

11 Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Aafaq Butt.

12 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

13 Admission of the Public

All agenda items were considered in public session.

14 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

15 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

16 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees Report

(Under the provision of Council Procedure Rule 37, the Committee received representations from Katherine Walter and Suhail Rashid.)

Fiona Goldsmith, Public Protection Group Leader for Licensing, presented a report on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fees. Members were asked to consider objections and representations submitted during the statutory consultation period by members of the trade and their representatives, and then to determine and approve the fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, with or without modification. The Committee was advised that they would also need to set a date when the fees would come into force; that must be no later than the 23rd September, which was 2 months from the end of the consultation.

The Committee was advised that, in accordance with Sections 53 and 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council was permitted to set fees for the licensing of Hackney Carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles, and operators, provided those fees were reasonable and did not exceed the cost of administering the licensing scheme. A fee calculation and statutory consultation was undertaken with the trade in 2023, during which concerns were raised regarding historic surpluses and deficits. As a result, fees were held at existing levels pending a full financial review, which had now been completed by the Council's Finance Service, covering the period since 2015 when the last fee review took place. The review identified a deficit of £98,000 as of 31 March 2024 (page 11 of the report).

The Committee was informed that on 26 June 2025, a draft schedule of proposed fees and charges for the financial years 2025/26, 2026/27, and 2027/28 was issued for consultation with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade. Although the legal requirement to consult applied only to vehicle and operator fees, the Council also included driver fees in the consultation. The decision to consult over a three-year period was made partly to reduce costs. The proposed fee structure included a 3% increase for the current year, followed by a 2% increase in each of the subsequent two years, subject to adjustment in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) if it falls below 2%.

Ms Goldsmith informed the Committee that a notice was published in the Huddersfield Examiner and displayed at Flint Street offices to inform members of the public and the trade of the consultation, which closed on 24th July 2025. In response to the consultation, 160 representations were received, including four standard template submissions and six individual responses.

Members were advised that any new or amended fees must take effect no later than 23rd September 2025 and that the Committee must advise of the date.

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms Goldsmith advised that the fee review had considered figures from 2015 when the last fee review had taken place, and that this approach had been approved by external counsel. The fee review of 2015 had not been challenged at that time.

Katherine Walter, a representative of the trade, advised the Committee that the trade was not opposed to an increase in fees if this was necessary, however there

Licensing and Safety Committee - 15 September 2025

were concerns over the transparency of how funds from the taxi trade were spent in relation to the costs of the licensing activities, and the accuracy of figures in table 2.6 of the report.

Ms Goldsmith clarified that the row indicating corporate charges had been omitted from the report, hence why the total figures did not add together. It was agreed that the correct table with the complete figures be circulated to all parties.

Questions were asked regarding the percentages of overall licensing costs and if they were proportionate to the work carried out in the licensing department for the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade, along with the cost of employing members of staff. The Committee noted that the corporate charge percentage related to the number of applications received and the salary costs included National Insurance and pension contributions.

Suhail Rashid, Hackney Carriage driver and trade representative for Kirklees, raised concerns regarding the way that licensing fees had been handled, especially regarding financial records relating to license fees prior to 2015, which had not been provided despite repeated requests. Mr Rashid suggested that without access to historical financial records, current and future fee levels demonstrated a lack of transparency and requested that the fees remain frozen until records were released. Concerns were also raised over the historic surplus that had been made by the licensing department from trade fees and advised that in 2015 badge prices had increased from £56 to £90, while the licensing department were making a profit.

Ms Goldsmith informed the Committee that information requests on surpluses and fees in the finance structure would be dealt with by the finance team. Requests within the representations submitted to the fee review from the trade had been forwarded to the Freedom of Information team.

The Committee were advised that a Freedom of Information request for information prior to 2015 had been submitted and the finance team had responded that information was no longer held.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the fee structure as set out Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
- 2) That the date set for fees to take effect be 22nd September 2025

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL				
COUNCIL/CABINET/COMMITTEE MEETINGS ETC				
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS				
Licensing and Safety Committee				
Name of Councillor				
Item in which you have an interest	Type of interest (eg a disclosable pecuniary interest or an "Other Interest")	Does the nature of the interest require you to withdraw from the meeting while the item in which you have an interest is under consideration? [Y/N]	Brief description of your interest	

Signed: Dated:

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your disclosable pecuniary interests under the new national rules. Any reference to spouse or civil partner includes any person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or as if they were your civil partner.

Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner, undertakes.

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses.

Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority -

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- which has not been fully discharged.

Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.

Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) - the landlord is your council or authority; and the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.

Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -

- (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
- (b) either -

the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or

if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.



REPORT TITLE: Annual Licensing Services Update Report

Meeting:	Licensing and Safety Committee
Date:	Thursday 2 nd July 2026
Cabinet Member	Not currently applicable
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No No
Purpose of Report The purpose of the report is to inform members of the activities undertaken to discharge the Council's licensing functions from 1 st April 2025 to 31 st March 2026 and report on any up-and-coming changes to regulations.	
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members are asked to note the report Reasons for Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report is for information only 	
Resource Implications: There are no resource implications relating to this report.	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	David Shepherd – 17 th June 2026
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Kevin Mulvaney – 22 nd June 2026
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	Samantha Lawton – 10 th June 2026

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes, any personal data has been removed for the purpose of this report.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report is to provide members of the Licensing and Safety Committee with an update on the activities undertaken by the Council's Licensing Service, between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026.

1.2 The report also provides members with an update on any up-and-coming changes to the regulations which govern activities undertaken by the team.

1.3 The Licensing Team discharges most of the licensing functions on behalf of the Council. The main areas are:

- Hackney Carriage and Private Hire
- Sale of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late-night refreshment
- Gambling
- Sex Establishments
- Scrap Metal
- Street Trading and other street activities
- Other ancillary general licences

Other areas of licensing, such as animal health licensing, caravan sites and houses in multiple occupation (HMO) are administered by Environmental Health and Housing respectively.

1.4 Although the licensing team administer licensing applications, grant licences and undertake enforcement activity, partnership working with other agencies such as the Police, Trading Standards and Environmental is key to ensuring public protection is upheld.

2. Information required to take a decision

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing

2.1 The overriding aim of the licensing service, when carrying out its functions relating to the licensing of hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators, is the safety of the travelling public and others who use (or can be affected by) hackney carriage and private hire services.

Current Licence Numbers

2.2 The number of current hackney carriage and private hire licences in force as of 04th June 2026, are set out in the table below: -

Type	No.
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	212
Private Hire Vehicles	2724
Dual Drivers Licence	3853
Private Hire Operators	226
Total	7,015

2.3 In comparison, the table below shows the number of hackney carriage and private licences that were in force as on 2nd May 2025: -

Type	No.
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	201
Private Hire Vehicles	2326
Dual Drivers Licence	3351
Private Hire Operators	208
Total	6,086

2.4 The service is seeing a steady increase in the numbers of hackney carriage and private hire licence applications being submitted annually following a drop which occurred in 2019 to 2021 during the pandemic. The totals as shown in the tables in 2.2 and 2.3 above represent a 15% increase in the number of licences.

2.5 The following table sets out the number of hackney carriage and private hire applications received by the service between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026, with a comparison from the previous two years.

Licence Type	Application Type	2025/2026	2024/2025	2023 / 2024
Hackney Carriage Vehicle	New/Renewal	250	247	259
Dual Drivers Licence	New	789	481	426
	Renewal	1,058	1,010	1,110
Private Hire Operator	New	77	70	62
	Renewal	95	95	83
Private Hire Vehicle	New	917	892	768
	Renewal	2,100	1,717	1,673
	Transfer	141	153	130
Total		5,427	4,665	4,511

It should be noted that different licence types have different durations, so not all licence types require annual renewals. For example, a driver licence usually lasts 3 years and an operator licence can be either annual renewal or renewal every 5 years.

Vehicle Testing

2.6 Annually, and at every licence renewal, every vehicle is required to pass a compliance test. This test requires vehicles to be above the requirements of a standard annual MOT test.

2.7 The tables below show the numbers of vehicle compliance tests carried out at the Council's two designated testing stations, between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026.

George Street Testing Station												
	April 25	May 25	June 25	July 25	Aug 25	Sept 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26
No of Tests	97	114	128	107	118	113	116	133	124	114	137	136
Passed	66	69	79	64	82	69	67	96	85	82	89	87
Failed	34	45	49	43	36	44	49	37	39	32	48	49
% Passed	68%	61%	62%	60%	69%	61%	58%	72%	69%	72%	65%	64%
% Failed	32%	39%	38%	40%	26%	39%	42%	28%	31%	28%	35%	36%

Vine Street Testing Station												
	April 25	May 25	June 25	July 25	Aug 25	Sept 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26
No of Tests	74	80	108	120	74	85	98	40	55	58	90	107
Passed	58	60	89	105	61	72	73	27	46	44	7	86
Failed	16	20	19	15	13	13	25	13	9	14	20	21
% Passed	78%	75%	82%	87%	82%	85%	74%	67%	84%	76%	78%	80%
% Failed	22%	25%	18%	13%	18%	15%	26%	33%	16%	24%	22%	20%

Vine Street and George Street Combined												
	April 25	May 25	June 25	July 25	Aug 25	Sept 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26
No of Tests	171	194	236	227	192	198	214	173	179	172	227	243
Passed	124	129	168	169	143	141	140	123	131	126	159	173
Failed	47	65	68	58	49	57	74	50	48	46	68	70
% Passed	73%	66%	71%	74%	74%	71%	65%	71%	73%	73%	70%	71%
% Failed	27%	34%	29%	26%	26%	29%	35%	29%	27%	27%	30%	29%

2.8 Further details regarding the reasons for the failure of the tests and numbers of vehicles that have failed in each category are shown in the table below: -

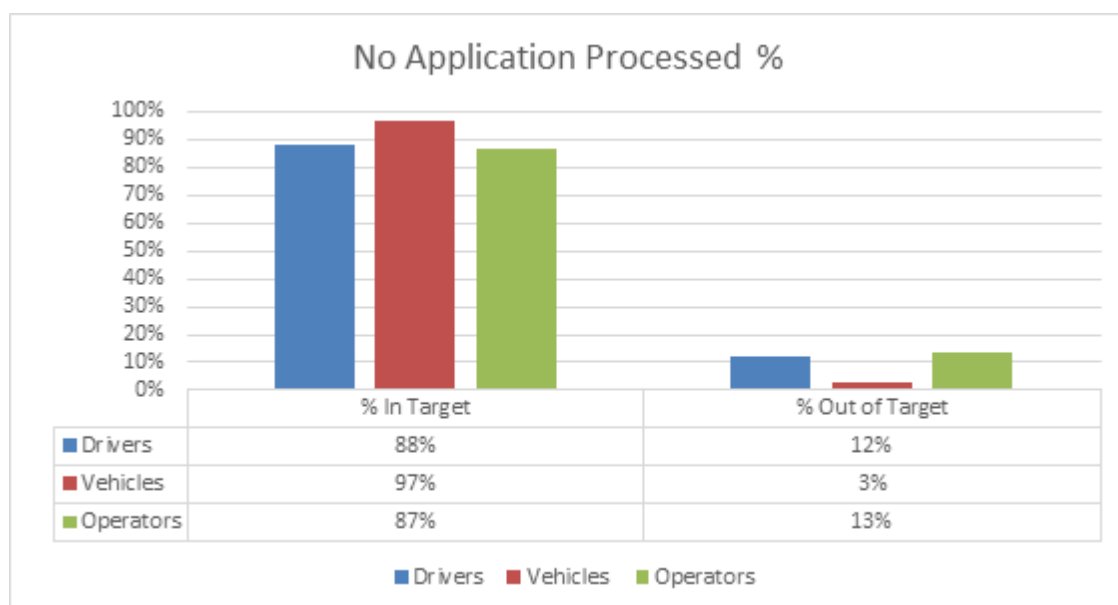
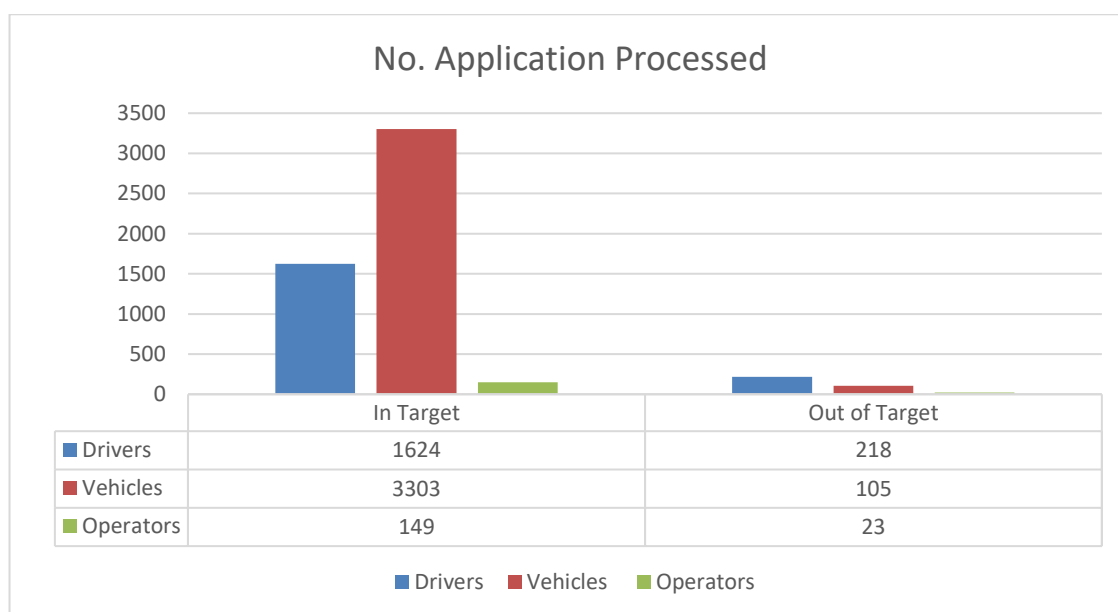
(Please note some vehicles may have failed on more than one item which will account for the numbers being higher than the failure rates as shown in the previous tables)

Reason for Failure	Vine Street and George Street	Percentage of total failures (700)	Percentage (Total number of tests 2,426)
Lighting	411	59%	17%
Steering/Suspension	191	27%	8%
Brakes	129	18%	5%
Wheels/Tyres	166	24%	7%
Emissions Diesel	75	11%	3%
Emissions Catalyst	2	0.3%	0.08%
Meter Tests	1	0.1%	0.04%
Body Work	7	1%	0.3%
Fire Extinguisher	37	5%	2%
Interior	8	1%	0.3%
Other	159	23%	7%

Service Standards

2.9 In August 2021, the licensing service introduced its service standards for the processing of taxi applications, the following tables show how the service has performed against the standards between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026.

	April 25 - March 26				
	No. Processed	In Target	% In Target	Out of Target	% Out of Target
Drivers	1842	1624	88%	218	12%
Vehicles	3408	3303	97%	105	3%
Operators	172	149	87%	23	13%



Delegated Decisions

2.10 Decisions relating to taxi and private hire driver licensing is delegated to officers within the service.

2.11 The number of decisions made between 1st April 2025, and 31st March 2026 can be seen in the below table: -

<u>New/Existing Driver</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Reasons for Decision</u>
New Driver Applicant – Grant with Warning	10 (1.25% of total granted)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IN10 (no insurance motoring conviction) – consideration of explanation and length of time since conviction. 2. Conviction for Battery – Consideration of circumstances and length of time since conviction. 3. Arrested for actual bodily harm, police took no further action. 4. Conviction for use of threatening / abusive words / behaviour / disorderly behaviour. Licence granted with a warning following consideration of circumstances. 5. Previously revoked by another authority for totting up minor motoring convictions. Now outside scope of policy. 6. Offences previously resulting in revocation of licence, offences now out of policy so licence granted with a warning. 7. Conviction for criminal damage. Consideration of evidence resulted in licence being granted with a warning. 8. Convictions outside policy. Licence granted with a warning. 9. Convictions outside policy. Licence granted with a warning. 10. Allegation with no evidence to support so licence granted with warning.
New Driver Applicant – Refusals	16 (2% of total applications)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convictions for intent to supply drugs and Assault both in policy. 2. CU80 motoring conviction (use of mobile phone or other device). 3. Caution for Criminal Damage. In policy. 4. Multiple convictions showing pattern of behaviour. Conviction for affray in policy.

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Sexual Assault Conviction. 6. IN10 motoring conviction (no insurance). 7. Convictions for fraud. 8. Multiple major motoring convictions. 9. Conviction for Robbery and motoring convictions. 10. Breach of non-molestation order. 11. CU80 motoring conviction (use of mobile phone or other device). 12. CU80 motoring conviction (use of mobile phone or other device). 13. IN10 motoring conviction (no insurance). 14. IN10 motoring conviction (no insurance). 15. CU80 motoring conviction (use of mobile phone or other device) and other minor motoring convictions. 16. CU80 motoring conviction and other minor motoring convictions.
Existing Driver – Revocations	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(0.4% of total licensed drivers)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IN10 (no insurance motoring conviction) and dishonesty. 2. CU80 motoring conviction (use of mobile phone or other device) and failure to declare. 3. Conviction and prison sentence for perverting the course of justice and failure to report to licensing service. 4. IN10 (no insurance motoring conviction) and dishonesty. 5. IN10 (no insurance motoring conviction) and dishonesty. 6. CU80 motoring conviction (use of mobile phone or other device) and dishonesty. Conviction in policy. 7. Prosecuted by Licensing Service for no insurance. 8. CU80 motoring conviction (use of mobile phone or other device) and failure to declare. 9. Prosecuted for refusal to take assistance dog, in policy for revocation. 10. CU80 motoring conviction (use of mobile phone or other device). 11. CD10 motoring conviction (driving without due care and attention) resulting in vehicle striking a bike rider. 12. IN10 motoring conviction (no insurance)

		<p>13. Conviction for stalking.</p> <p>14. Use of mobile phone whilst transporting children to school, video evidence to support allegation.</p> <p>15. CU80 motoring conviction (use of mobile phone or other device).</p> <p>16. Inappropriate Actions and Dishonesty.</p>
Existing Driver – Immediate Suspension	<p>12</p> <p>(0.3% of total licensed drivers)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrested for drug driving – considered immediate risk to public. 2. Arrested for drug driving – considered immediate risk to public. 3. Arrested for possession with intent to supply drugs – considered immediate risk to public. 4. Arrested for conspiring to rape female – considered immediate risk to public. 5. DBS status change. Considered immediate risk to public. 6. Road traffic collision resulting in serious injury. Considered immediate risk to public. 7. Driving without due care and attention resulting in vehicle striking pedestrian. Considered immediate risk to public. 8. Arrested for drug driving. Considered immediate risk to public. 9. Driver not medically fit to be a licensed driver. 10. Driver arrested for possession with intent to supply drugs. Considered an immediate risk to public. 11. Allegation of stalking customer. Considered an immediate risk to public. 12. Arrested and charged with ABH and intentional strangulation. Considered an immediate risk to public.
Existing Driver – Immediate Revocation	<p>5</p> <p>(0.1% of total licensed drivers)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DVLA driving licence disqualification. 2. Imprisoned for drugs offences. 3. DVLA driving licence disqualification. 4. DVLA driving licence disqualification.

		5. DVLA driving licence disqualification.
Existing Driver – Written Warning	11 (0.3% of total licensed drivers)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions. Requirement to pass driving test and receive written warning. 2. Accumulation of complaints. Final written warning and verbal warning from group leader. 3. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions. Requirement to pass driving test and receive written warning. 4. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions and complaints about behaviour. Requirement to pass driving test and receive final written warning. 5. Driver had confrontation with passenger who recorded inappropriate behaviour. Final written warning issued. 6. Altercation with another licensed driver. Final written warning issued. 7. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions. Requirement to pass driving test and receive final written warning. 8. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions. Requirement to pass driving test and receive final written warning. 9. Caution for affray. Circumstances considered. Issued final written warning. 10. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions. Requirement to pass driving test and receive final written warning. 11. Inappropriate behaviour towards passenger. Requirement to undertake driver training and receive final written warning.
Total	70	<i>Note that circa. 1.4% of all licensed drivers face some form of enforcement action.</i>

Note. All considerations of new applicants are accompanied by checks into applicants' backgrounds, i, e, DVLA driving licence check, Enhanced DBS, Check of NR3S National Database of all refused, suspended and revoked drivers and so on. Complaints and intelligence are also received about existing drivers. Licensing officers carry out

investigations and report factual information for the decision maker to come to a decision on the status of a licence application or an existing licence.

Licensing Act 2003 and General Licensing

2.12 The total number of Licensing Act and General Licences in force as of 04th June 2026 are set out in the table below: -

Type	No.
Premises Licences	1361
Club Premises Certificate	165
Gambling Licences	704
Sexual Entertainment Venue/Sex Shop	2
Scrap Metal Dealer / Collector	33
Pavement Licence	18
Other General licences/permits	97
Total	2,380

2.13 The following table sets out the number of Licensing Act applications processed by the service between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026, with a comparison for the two years prior.

Application Type	2025/2026	2024/2025	2023/2024
New	53	42	58
Full Variation	18	13	13
Minor Variation	20	32	13
Transfer	80	79	76
Temporary Event Notices	694	508	536
Personal Licences	194	218	204
Total	1,059	892	900

2.14 The following applications were considered by the Licensing Panel between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026.

Application Type	Premises	Outcome
Licensing Act 2003 Full Variation – Premises Licence	Empire House, Slaithwaite, Huddersfield	Granted as applied for
Licensing Act 2003 Review – Premises Licence	Hao Lai Karaoke Bar, 33-35 Kirkgate, Huddersfield	Licence Revoked

Licensing Act 2003 Review – Premises Licence	Ravensthorpe Off-licence – 618 Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe, Dewsbury	Licence Revoked
Licensing Act 2003 Review – Premises Licence	Gomersal Lodge Hotel (Marquee) 189 Spen Lane, Gomersal, Cleckheaton	Hearing Adjourned to later date
Licensing Act 2003 Full Variation – Premises Licence	Fenay Bridge Stores, 17 Penistone Road Huddersfield	Granted with Conditions
Licensing Act 2003 New Grant – Premises Licence	Shawcross Store, 128 Smallwood Road, Dewsbury	Granted with Conditions
Licensing Act 2003 Review – Premises Licence	Gomersal Lodge Hotel (Marquee) 189 Spen Lane, Gomersal, Cleckheaton	Licence Revoked
Licensing Act 2003 New Grant – Premises Licence	The Level, 47-49 Station Road Batley WF17 5SU	Granted as applied for
Licensing Act 2003 Full Variation – Premises Licence	The Office, Fold Head Mills, Mirfield	Granted as applied for
Licensing Act 2003 Full Variation – Club Premises Certificate	Drub Lane Working Men’s Club, Cleckheaton	Granted as applied for
Licensing Act 2003 New Grant - Personal Licence	{Details not public}	Application Refused
Licensing Act 2003 New Grant – Premises Licence	Velora Desserts 717 Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury	Application Refused

Total Number of Applications Received

2.15 The licensing service deals with a wide range of applications:

- Licensing Act 2003
- Gambling Act 2005
- Hackney Carriage and Private Hire
- Street Trading
- Street Activities
- Charitable Collections
- Sex Establishments and Sexual Entertainment Venues
- Hypnotists
- Scrap Metal Site and Collectors
- Pavement Licences
- Literature Distribution

2.16 In the period of 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026 the service received a total of **7,046** applications. In comparison in the period of 1st April 2024 and 31st March 2025 the service received a total of **6,268** applications. This is an increase of **778** applications from the previous year.

Enforcement Activity

2.17 Licensing Officers undertake proactive enforcement activity both during and outside normal office working hours. Types of enforcement activities that are carried out are:

- Licensed vehicle and operator base checks.
- Licensing Act 2003, premises licence compliance checks.
- Gambling Act 2005, licence compliance checks.
- Scrap metal site inspections.
- Sexual Entertainment Venue compliance inspections.
- And other general licensing inspections and checks.

2.18 Between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026 Officers carried out 38 proactive enforcement visits / inspections. The Following table provides a brief overview of the activities undertaken within the period:

Date	Partners Worked With	Type of Activity
08.05.2025	Joint operation with West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
14.05.2025	Joint visits with West Yorkshire Police	Investigation of complaints
15.05.2025	Joint Operation with Safer Kirklees, West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
16.05.2025	West Yorkshire Police	Vehicle Checks
23.05.2025	Leeds City Council	Vehicle Checks
30.05.2025		Out of hours work – Taxi and premises visits
09.06.2025 – 13.06.2025	National licensing week	Proactive Enforcement Activities across all areas of licensing
14.06.2025		Accu Stadium for Event
19.06.2025	Home Office – Immigration	Licensing Act visits with home office
24.07.2025	West Yorkshire Police and Safer Kirklees	Vehicle Checks
25.07.2025	Various other Licensing Authorities	Sheffield Tramlines Festival
30.07.2025		Vehicle Checks
07.08.2025		Nighttime Enforcement across Kirklees
19.08.2025	West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
29.08.2025		Licensing Act visits across Kirklees
08.09.2025		Licensing Act visits across Kirklees
12.09.2025	West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
19.09.2025		Nighttime Enforcement across Kirklees
02.10.2025	West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
03.10.2025		Taxi and premises visits
21.10.2025	West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
24.10.2025		Licensing Act visits and delivery of revocation letter

08.11.2025	West Yorkshire Police and Other Local Authorities	Vehicle Checks
14.11.2025		Licensing Act Visits and vehicle checks
19.11.2025		Operator base checks
28.11.2025		Licensing Act visits
03.12.2025		Operator base checks
09.12.2025		Operator base checks
10.12.2025		Gambling premises checks
11.12.2025		Licensing Act premises visits and hackney carriage rank checks.
18.12.2025	Safer Kirklees	Hackney carriage rank checks and Licensing Act premises.
09.01.2025		Operator base checks and Licensing Act checks
23.01.2026		Operator base checks, vehicle checks and Licensing Act checks
30.01.2026		Licensing Act checks
06.02.2026		Taxi enforcement and Licensing Act Checks
19.02.2026	West Yorkshire Police	Vehicle Checks
27.02.2026		Operator base checks
05.03.2026	Other Licensing Authorities	Vehicle Checks In York
13.03.2026		Licensing Act checks

West Yorkshire Joint Services – Trading Standards

2.19 The Licensing team and the co-located Police licensing officers work closely with Trading Standards. Visits to premises are conducted when intelligence has been gathered by Trading Standards.

2.20 While not every premises that is inspected is licensed, it is important to note that Trading Standards work in partnership with the Licensing service and the Police and where required enforcement action is taken in the form of reviews of premises licences found to be selling illicit tobacco or illegal vapes.

2.21 22nd April 2025

- Shop 1 – 27 x 20 cigarettes, 10 x 50g hand rolling tobacco (HRT) and 242 vapes were seized.
- Shop 2 – 26 x 20 cigarettes and 115 vapes were seized.
- Shop 3 – 388 x 20 cigarettes, 12 x 50g HRT and 17 vapes were seized.

2.22 29th July 2025

- Shop 1 – 462 x 20 cigarettes, 44 x 50g HRT, 340 x oversized vapes and 188 x single use vapes were seized.

- Shop 2 – 556 x 20 packets of cigarettes, 50 x 50g pouches of HRT, 17 x oversized vapes were seized from vehicle parked to the side of the shop.
- Shop 3 – 50 x 20 cigarettes, 2 x 50g HRT, 7 x oversized vapes and 171 x single use vapes were seized.
- Shop 4 – 50 x 20 cigarettes, 5 x 50g pouches of HRT and 258 vapes were seized.
- Shop 5 – A search of the store was conducted but no illegal cigarettes were found. There was a substantial quantity of vapes in the store, but these were all Hayati replacement pod type which are legal. During a test purchase prior to the visit a customer was seen walking away from the store with a sleeve of illegal cigarettes. It is therefore suspected illegal cigarettes are being brought into the store as sales required, non are being stored inside.
- Shop 6 – no illegal cigarettes or vapes inside the shop, however, 492 x 20 cigarettes, 85 x 50g HRT, 1,312 oversized vapes, 20 x single use vapes, and quantity of cosmetics were seized from vehicle outside the shop – vehicle was seized by the police.

2.23 23rd October 2025

- Shop 1 – 71 x 20 cigarettes, 95 x oversized vapes and 16 x single use vapes were seized.
- Shop 2 – 32 x 20 cigarettes and 7 x oversized vapes were seized.
- Shop 3 – 431 x oversized vapes and 35 x single use vapes were seized.
- Shop 4 – 153 x oversized vapes and 191 single use vapes seized.

2.24 26th November 2025

- Shop 1 – 1,919 x 20 cigarettes and 296 x 50g HRT were seized and nearby flat – 350 x 20 cigarettes and 120 x 50g HRT were seized.
- Shop 2 – No illegal products found
- Shop 3 – 478 x 20 cigarettes, 95 x 50g HRT, 203 Oversized vapes, 18 single use vapes and 4 counterfeit Labubu Dolls were seized.
- Shop 4 – 25 x 20 cigarettes, 3 x 50g HRT and 15 single use vapes were seized.
Shop 5 – No illegal products found.
- Shop 6 – 308 x 20 cigarettes, 70 x 50g HRT, 59 x shisha tobacco were seized.

2.25 02nd February 2026

- Shop 1 – No illegal products found in the premises, however, 1,365 x 20 packets of cigarettes and 81 x 50g pouches HRT and 85 illegal vapes seized from a property linked to the shop.

- Residential premises – 64,424 x 20 packets of cigarettes and 1,280 x 50g pouches of HRT were seized.
- Residential premises – Cash and mobile phone seized.

2.26 03rd March 2026

- Shop 1 – 46 x 20 packets of cigarettes, 11 x 50g HRT, 292 oversized vapes and 77 packets of shisha tobacco were seized.
- Shop 2 – 97 x 20 packets of cigarettes, 36 oversized vapes, 79 x packets of shisha tobacco and 135 counterfeit Labubua Dolls were seized.
- Shop 3 – 276 x 20 packets of cigarettes, 26 x 50g HRT and 8 x Counterfeit bags/wallets were seized.
- Shop 4 – estimated 25,000 x 20 packets of cigarettes and 2,000 x 50g HRT.

Up-and-Coming Changes for Note

Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026

2.27 On 29th April 2026, the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 (the “Act”) received Royal Assent.

2.28 In the Act it:

- Makes it illegal to sell any tobacco products, herbal smoking products or cigarette papers to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009, this ban will take effect from 1st January 2027.
- Prohibits the sale of vaping and nicotine products to under-18s, giving the Government powers to regulate flavours, packaging, branding and in-shop displays. Advertising and sponsorship of vapes and nicotine products are also restricted.
- Allows the Government to extend smoke-free and vape-free protections to outdoor areas.
- Requires manufacturers and importers to register tobacco, vaping and nicotine products before placing them on the UK market.
- Most notably it sets out a provision which may be made by secondary regulations to introduce a mandatory licensing scheme for the grant of personal licences and premises licences.

2.29 The Act does not specify when the requirement for the licensing scheme will take effect and Schedule 1 of the Act states that the regulations must specify a description of a local authority (a “licensing authority”) which is to grant licences. Therefore, we are currently waiting for the secondary regulations to establish who the local licensing authority will be and what the requirements for this regime will be.

English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026

2.30 On 29th April 2026, The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 (the “Act”) received Royal Assent. In the Act it: -

- Allows for the provision to make secondary regulations, to prescribe standards in relation to hackney carriage and private hire licensing.
- Allows for a Licensing Authority to publish a document (“a gambling impact assessment”) containing a statement that the licensing authority consider that the grant of any licence is not likely to be reasonably consistent with one or more of the licensing objectives because of the cumulative impact of this in an area. In relation to premises licence applications received under the Gambling Act 2005.

Draft Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Bill

2.31 The Bill will build on powers in the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act.

2.32 The Government has confirmed that the forthcoming Bill has been approved for pre-legislative scrutiny, and it is seen as being an important step in modernising taxi and private hire vehicle licensing in England.

2.33 The Bill aims to:

- Modernise taxi and private hire law to reflect how people travel today, including the widespread use of booking apps.
- Strengthen public safety, including delivering on commitments made in response to Baroness Casey’s National Audit on Group-based Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
- Give regulators stronger enforcement powers, enabling swift action against unsafe or non-compliant drivers and operators.
- Mandate a national database of all licensed drivers, vehicles and operators to improve transparency and information-sharing.
- Improve accessibility by strengthening protections for disabled passengers and removing barriers to travel.
- Provide a consistent customer experience across local authority boundaries.
- Support a thriving, professional sector with clearer rules and fair competition.

3 Implications for the Council

3.1 Council Plan

Kirklees Council’s vision is to be a district which combines a strong, sustainable economy with a great quality of life – leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity and low inequality where people enjoy better health throughout their lives. The licensing service plays a key role in both the nighttime economy within Kirklees and day to day activities within the borough.

3.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

3.3 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

There are no climate change or air quality implications.

3.5 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

Not Applicable

4 **Consultation**

4.1 This report is for information only, no consultation has been undertaken.

5 **Engagement**

5.1 This report is for information only, no consultation has been undertaken.

6 **Options**

6.1 Options considered

Members are asked to note the report.

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

This is an information only report.

7 **Next steps and timelines**

7.1 Not applicable – Information only report.

8 **Contact officer**

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9 **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

[Agenda for Licensing and Safety Committee on Thursday 3rd July 2025, 10.00 am | Kirklees Council](#)

10 **Appendices**

Not Applicable

11 Service Director responsible

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