

**REPORT TITLE:** Annual Licensing Services Update Report

<b>Meeting:</b>	Licensing and Safety Committee
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2026
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Not currently applicable
<b>Key Decision Eligible for Call In</b>	No No
<b>Purpose of Report</b> The purpose of the report is to inform members of the activities undertaken to discharge the Council's licensing functions from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 and report on any up-and-coming changes to regulations.	
<b>Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members are asked to note the report</li> </ul> <b>Reasons for Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The report is for information only</li> </ul>	
<b>Resource Implications:</b> There are no resource implications relating to this report.	
<b>Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> &amp; name</b>	David Shepherd – 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	Kevin Mulvaney – 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?</b>	Samantha Lawton – 10 <sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 04<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,015</b>

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

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

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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,427</b>	<b>4,665</b>	<b>4,511</b>

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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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
<b>No of Tests</b>	97	114	128	107	118	113	116	133	124	114	137	136
<b>Passed</b>	66	69	79	64	82	69	67	96	85	82	89	87
<b>Failed</b>	34	45	49	43	36	44	49	37	39	32	48	49
<b>% Passed</b>	68%	61%	62%	60%	69%	61%	58%	72%	69%	72%	65%	64%
<b>% Failed</b>	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
<b>No of Tests</b>	74	80	108	120	74	85	98	40	55	58	90	107
<b>Passed</b>	58	60	89	105	61	72	73	27	46	44	7	86
<b>Failed</b>	16	20	19	15	13	13	25	13	9	14	20	21
<b>% Passed</b>	78%	75%	82%	87%	82%	85%	74%	67%	84%	76%	78%	80%
<b>% Failed</b>	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
<b>No of Tests</b>	171	194	236	227	192	198	214	173	179	172	227	243
<b>Passed</b>	124	129	168	169	143	141	140	123	131	126	159	173
<b>Failed</b>	47	65	68	58	49	57	74	50	48	46	68	70
<b>% Passed</b>	73%	66%	71%	74%	74%	71%	65%	71%	73%	73%	70%	71%
<b>% Failed</b>	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: -

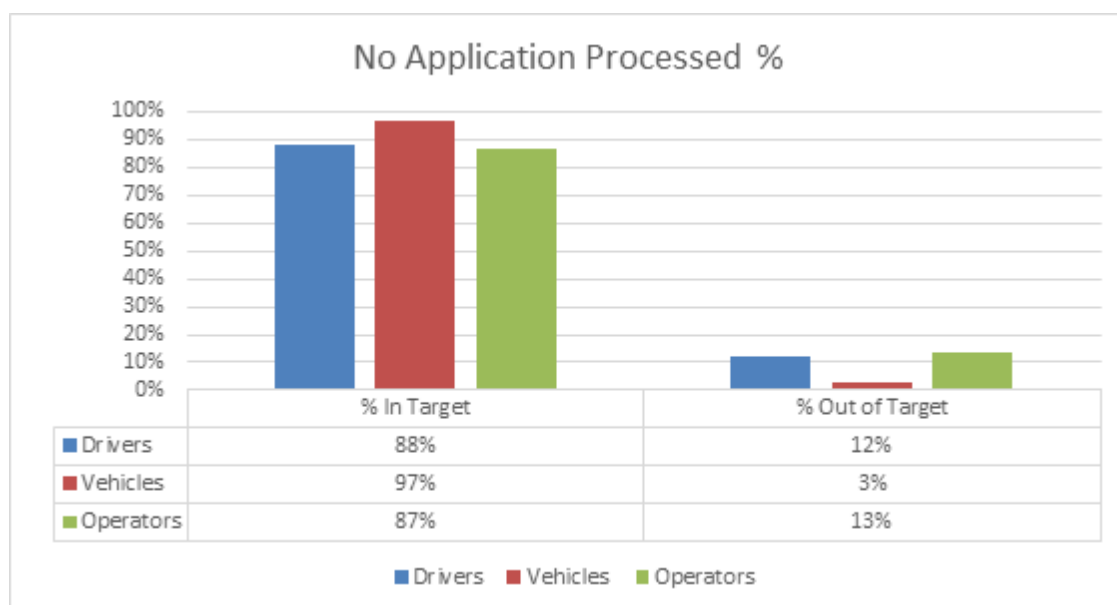
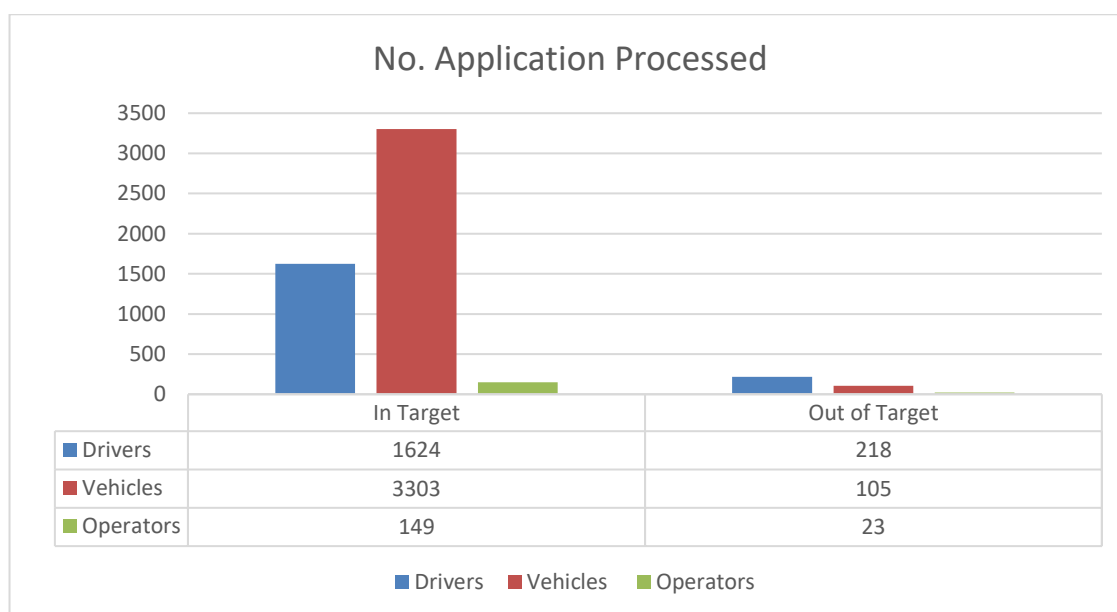
(Please note some vehicles may have failed on more than one item which will account for the numbers being higher than the failure rates as shown in the previous tables)

Reason for Failure	Vine Street and George Street	Percentage of total failures (700)	Percentage (Total number of tests 2,426)
<b>Lighting</b>	411	59%	17%
<b>Steering/Suspension</b>	191	27%	8%
<b>Brakes</b>	129	18%	5%
<b>Wheels/Tyres</b>	166	24%	7%
<b>Emissions Diesel</b>	75	11%	3%
<b>Emissions Catalyst</b>	2	0.3%	0.08%
<b>Meter Tests</b>	1	0.1%	0.04%
<b>Body Work</b>	7	1%	0.3%
<b>Fire Extinguisher</b>	37	5%	2%
<b>Interior</b>	8	1%	0.3%
<b>Other</b>	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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, and 31<sup>st</sup> 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"> <li>1. IN10 (no insurance motoring conviction) – consideration of explanation and length of time since conviction.</li> <li>2. Conviction for Battery – Consideration of circumstances and length of time since conviction.</li> <li>3. Arrested for actual bodily harm, police took no further action.</li> <li>4. Conviction for use of threatening / abusive words / behaviour / disorderly behaviour. Licence granted with a warning following consideration of circumstances.</li> <li>5. Previously revoked by another authority for totting up minor motoring convictions. Now outside scope of policy.</li> <li>6. Offences previously resulting in revocation of licence, offences now out of policy so licence granted with a warning.</li> <li>7. Conviction for criminal damage. Consideration of evidence resulted in licence being granted with a warning.</li> <li>8. Convictions outside policy. Licence granted with a warning.</li> <li>9. Convictions outside policy. Licence granted with a warning.</li> <li>10. Allegation with no evidence to support so licence granted with warning.</li> </ol>
New Driver Applicant – Refusals	16  (2% of total applications)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Convictions for intent to supply drugs and Assault both in policy.</li> <li>2. CU80 motoring conviction (use of mobile phone or other device).</li> <li>3. Caution for Criminal Damage. In policy.</li> <li>4. Multiple convictions showing pattern of behaviour. Conviction for affray in policy.</li> </ol>

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

		<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"> <li>1. Arrested for drug driving – considered immediate risk to public.</li> <li>2. Arrested for drug driving – considered immediate risk to public.</li> <li>3. Arrested for possession with intent to supply drugs – considered immediate risk to public.</li> <li>4. Arrested for conspiring to rape female – considered immediate risk to public.</li> <li>5. DBS status change. Considered immediate risk to public.</li> <li>6. Road traffic collision resulting in serious injury. Considered immediate risk to public.</li> <li>7. Driving without due care and attention resulting in vehicle striking pedestrian. Considered immediate risk to public.</li> <li>8. Arrested for drug driving. Considered immediate risk to public.</li> <li>9. Driver not medically fit to be a licensed driver.</li> <li>10. Driver arrested for possession with intent to supply drugs. Considered an immediate risk to public.</li> <li>11. Allegation of stalking customer. Considered an immediate risk to public.</li> <li>12. Arrested and charged with ABH and intentional strangulation. Considered an immediate risk to public.</li> </ol>
Existing Driver – Immediate Revocation	<p>5</p> <p>(0.1% of total licensed drivers)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DVLA driving licence disqualification.</li> <li>2. Imprisoned for drugs offences.</li> <li>3. DVLA driving licence disqualification.</li> <li>4. DVLA driving licence disqualification.</li> </ol>

		5. DVLA driving licence disqualification.
Existing Driver – Written Warning	11  (0.3% of total licensed drivers)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions. Requirement to pass driving test and receive written warning.</li> <li>2. Accumulation of complaints. Final written warning and verbal warning from group leader.</li> <li>3. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions. Requirement to pass driving test and receive written warning.</li> <li>4. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions and complaints about behaviour. Requirement to pass driving test and receive final written warning.</li> <li>5. Driver had confrontation with passenger who recorded inappropriate behaviour. Final written warning issued.</li> <li>6. Altercation with another licensed driver. Final written warning issued.</li> <li>7. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions. Requirement to pass driving test and receive final written warning.</li> <li>8. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions. Requirement to pass driving test and receive final written warning.</li> <li>9. Caution for affray. Circumstances considered. Issued final written warning.</li> <li>10. Accumulation of minor motoring convictions. Requirement to pass driving test and receive final written warning.</li> <li>11. Inappropriate behaviour towards passenger. Requirement to undertake driver training and receive final written warning.</li> </ol>
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<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 04<sup>th</sup> June 2026 are set out in the table below: -

<b>Type</b>	<b>No.</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,380</b>

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

<b>Application Type</b>	<b>2025/2026</b>	<b>2024/2025</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,059</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>900</b>

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

<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Premises</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 the service received a total of **7,046** applications. In comparison in the period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 Officers carried out 38 proactive enforcement visits / inspections. The Following table provides a brief overview of the activities undertaken within the period:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Partners Worked With</b>	<b>Type of Activity</b>
<b>08.05.2025</b>	Joint operation with West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
<b>14.05.2025</b>	Joint visits with West Yorkshire Police	Investigation of complaints
<b>15.05.2025</b>	Joint Operation with Safer Kirklees, West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
<b>16.05.2025</b>	West Yorkshire Police	Vehicle Checks
<b>23.05.2025</b>	Leeds City Council	Vehicle Checks
<b>30.05.2025</b>		Out of hours work – Taxi and premises visits
<b>09.06.2025 – 13.06.2025</b>	National licensing week	Proactive Enforcement Activities across all areas of licensing
<b>14.06.2025</b>		Accu Stadium for Event
<b>19.06.2025</b>	Home Office – Immigration	Licensing Act visits with home office
<b>24.07.2025</b>	West Yorkshire Police and Safer Kirklees	Vehicle Checks
<b>25.07.2025</b>	Various other Licensing Authorities	Sheffield Tramlines Festival
<b>30.07.2025</b>		Vehicle Checks
<b>07.08.2025</b>		Nighttime Enforcement across Kirklees
<b>19.08.2025</b>	West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
<b>29.08.2025</b>		Licensing Act visits across Kirklees
<b>08.09.2025</b>		Licensing Act visits across Kirklees
<b>12.09.2025</b>	West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
<b>19.09.2025</b>		Nighttime Enforcement across Kirklees
<b>02.10.2025</b>	West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
<b>03.10.2025</b>		Taxi and premises visits
<b>21.10.2025</b>	West Yorkshire Police and DVSA	Vehicle Checks
<b>24.10.2025</b>		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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 02<sup>nd</sup> 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 03<sup>rd</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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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