

LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 13th January, 2026
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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Present: Deputy Mayor. Councillor Joan Whieldon (Chair)

Councillors:	Johnson	Adcock	G Williams
	Whitmore	Dymond	Edgington-Plunkett
	Heesom	Allport	
	Skelding	J Williams	

Apologies: Councillor(s) Barker MBE, Sweeney, Wilkes and Wright

Substitutes: Councillor Andrew Turnock (In place of Councillor Lilian Barker MBE)
Deputy Mayoress. Councillor Susan Beeston (In place of Councillor Stephen Sweeney)

Officers:	Matthew Burton	Licensing Lead Officer
	Geoff Durham	Civic & Member Support Officer
	Gareth Harvey	Environmental Health Manager
	Michelle Hopper	Mobile Multi-Functional Manager

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO LICENSING MATTERS

There were no declarations of interest stated.

2. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 October, 2025 be agreed as a correct record

3. RELAXATION OF LICENSING HOURS FOR THE 2026 MEN'S FIFA WORLD CUP

Consideration was given to a report informing Members of a Home Office consultation which would allow certain licensed premises to open later than normal in the event of home nations team reaching the semi-finals or final of the men's football world cup.

The consultation would end on 15 January, 2026 and this Council's responses were shown at paragraph 2.5 of the report.

Councillor Johnson asked if the big screen in the town centre would be showing any matches.

Licensing & Public Protection Committee - 13/01/26

The Council's Licensing Administration Team Leader advised that the screen was not under the remit of Regulatory Services. It was the Neighbourhood Team's remit as to what was shown.

The Chair asked if the question could be asked regarding showing the matches on the screen.

The Council's Mobile Multi-Functional Manager advised that discussions were currently in place with Newcastle Business Improvement District as to what plans were in place and what events would be on following the world cup.

Resolved: (i) That the contents of the report be noted
(ii) That that the proposed response be submitted prior to the consultation closing.

[Watch the debate here](#)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO PUBLIC PROTECTION MATTERS

There were no declarations of interest stated.

5. ANIMAL WELFARE (PRIMATE LICENCES) REGULATIONS 2024

Consideration was given to a report informing members of upcoming changes to legislation in relation to new primate licensing requirements.

From 6 April, 2026 any person keeping a non-human primate would be required to hold a licence issued by the local authority unless already licensed by a zoo or scientific legislation.

The regulation placed new responsibilities on the Council and officers had undertaken relevant training.

Resolved: That the report be received and noted.

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6. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS RESPONDED TO IN CONSULTATION WITH CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Consideration was given to a report updating Members of four government consultations which this Council had responded to, which related to current and proposed licensing regimes.

The consultations were outlined at paragraphs 1.1 to 1.4 and responses to those were attached at appendices A to D.

Councillor Adcock thanked the officers for the work that had gone into the report and made reference to the consultation on cross border taxi licensing response reflected the conversations that had been had over a number of years and the responses to the vaping bill were very well put.

The Council's Licensing Administration Team Leader stated that a report on cross border hiring would be brought to the next meeting of this Committee. There was

currently another consultation looking at which level of local authority dealt with taxi licensing and whether it should be the responsibility of local transport authorities.

The Chair stated that it was important to continue to respond to future government consultations in order to protect the public and promote economic growth.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. PRIVATE HIRE & HACKNEY CARRIAGE FEES & CHARGES 2026/2027

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for the proposed taxi and private hire fees and charges, following consultation for 2026-27.

The table at paragraph 2.7 showed the proposed changes to the fees and charges.

The Chair thanked officers for including her proposal to show the actual monetary change alongside the percentage change.

Resolved: That the proposed taxi and private hire fees for 2026/27 be approved.

[Watch the debate here](#)

8. MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 12 November and 9 December, 2025, be received.

9. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

There were no confidential items

10. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

**Deputy Mayor. Councillor Joan Whieldon
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.25 pm