

LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 8th October, 2025
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present: Deputy Mayor. Councillor Joan Whieldon (Chair)

Councillors:	Johnson	Sweeney	J Williams
	Whitmore	Adcock	G Williams
	Barker MBE	Wright	Edgington-Plunkett
	Heesom	Allport	

Apologies: Councillor(s) Wilkes, Skelding and Dymond

Substitutes: Councillor David Hutchison

Officers:	Geoff Durham	Civic & Member Support Officer
	Nesta Barker	Service Director - Regulatory Services
	Gareth Harvey	Environmental Health Manager
	Michelle Hopper	Mobile Multi-Functional Manager
	Jason Griffiths	Mobile Multi-Functional Team Leader

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 19 August, 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

3. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2025-30

Consideration was given to a report advising upon the outcome of the draft Statement of Licensing Policy and sought approval for the Policy to be submitted to Council.

Members were advised that one response had been received during consultation – from the Council's Environmental Health Department.

Proposed amendments to the Policy were outlined at paragraph 2.3 of the report.

Councillor John Williams stated that it was disappointing that nobody from the licensing trade or members of the public had commented on the consultation.

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The Service Director for Regulatory Services stated that The consultation had been open to everyone and it could only be assumed that nobody wished to comment on the document.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the outcome of the public consultation be received.
 - (ii) That the Statement of Licensing Policy be submitted to Council on 19th November 2025 for adoption.

4. FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR THE LICENSING OF SCRAP METAL DEALERS, GAMBLING & SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES 2026-27

Consideration was given to a report asking Members to consider the fees to be charged in relation to Scrap Metal Dealers, Gambling and Sexual Entertainment venues.

The current and proposed fees were set out at paragraph 3.1 of the report.

Members were content to receive the report.

- Resolved:** That the fees to be charged for the licensing of Scrap Metal Dealers, Gambling and Sexual Entertainment Venues for 2026-27, be agreed.

5. MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meetings held on 11 August, 2025 be received.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO PUBLIC PROTECTION MATTERS

There were no declarations of interest stated.

7. NEWCASTLE TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER RENEWAL

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval for a twelve week consultation to be carried out for a new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Newcastle Town Centre.

The main issues encountered within the town centre were outlined at paragraph 1.4 with e-scooters and e-bikes being a more recent issue.

Councillor Heesom stated that it was good to see the PSPO expanding in the town centre to include e-scooters and e-bikes.

Councillor Gill Williams asked if the PSPO would include e-scooters and e-bikes that were used for collecting food deliveries from the town centre. This was confirmed to be the case.

Councillor John Williams was concerned that such PSPO's pushed crimes to the outskirts of the town centre. He asked if signs would be placed around the town centre stopping all bikes or just e-bikes. In addition, would it stop religious groups from handing out leaflets.

Members were advised that the PSPO was specifically in relation to e-scooters and e-bikes and not pedal bikes. Regarding the leaflets, if groups/persons had received permission from the Council to hand them out, they would not be prohibited.

Councillor Sweeney asked if the 'area' of the PSPO had changed. It was confirmed that there had been a slight change – with Station Walks now being included.

Resolved: That a 12 week public consultation for a renewed PSPO for Newcastle town centre and surrounding areas, be agreed.

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

Consideration was given to a report outlining the proposed fees and charges for private hire and taxis prior to them being sent out for consultation.

The current and proposed fees were set out at paragraph 3 of the report and showed some fee increases and some decreases.

The Chair stated that it was a good idea too include the fee changes in monetary terms as well as percentage wise as percentages could sometimes be misleading.

Councillor Whitmore enquired why the fee for failing to attend a knowledge test had reduced rather than increased. Members were advised that this was due to a reduction in the actual knowledge test and therefore the figures were consistent.

Resolved: (i) That the proposed fees be sent out for consultation.
(ii) That following consultation a further report be brought to Committee.

9. UPDATE ON RESULTS OF TAXI LICENSING APPEALS

Consideration was given to a report advising upon the results of all taxi licensing appeals that had been considered since last being reported to this committee.

There had been seven Magistrate's Court appeals and one Crown Court appeal. Five of the Magistrate's Court and the Crown Court appeals had been withdrawn in advance of the Court dates. Of the two remaining appeals one was upheld and the other was dismissed.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be noted.

10. ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995 - PART IV LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT - ANNUAL STATUS REPORT 2025

Consideration was given to a report advising on air quality in Newcastle.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 2.10 which showed a graph of the trends in relation to air quality and only one location was shown to be in exceedance.

Resolved: That the Annual Status Report 2025 be received.

11. MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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Resolved: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 13 August and 17 September, 2025 be received.

12. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

There were no confidential items.

13. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reminded Members of the training being held on Monday 20 October by James Button and urged all members and substitutes to attend if they could.

**Councillor Joan Whieldon
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.40 pm