

LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 17th March, 2026
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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Present: Deputy Mayor. Councillor Joan Whieldon (Chair)

Councillors:	Johnson	Sweeney	J Williams
	Whitmore	Adcock	G Williams
	Heesom	Dymond	

Apologies: Councillor(s) Barker MBE, Skelding, Allport and Edgington-Plunkett

Substitutes: Councillor John Tagg (In place of Councillor Craig Skelding)
Deputy Mayoress. Councillor Susan Beeston (In place of Councillor Lilian Barker MBE)

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

Also in attendance:

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 13 January, 2026 be agreed as a correct record.

3. THE NATIONAL LICENSING POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE SECTORS

Consideration was given to a report which updated Members on a recently published document "The National Licensing Policy Framework for the hospitality and leisure sectors".

In Spring 2025 The Government established a task force whose aim was to update the licensing system. The recommendations of the task force were set out at paragraph 1.2 of the report.

To date, all but the National Licensing Policy Framework (NLPF) were still under consultation.

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With regard to the NLPF, the publishing department responded by acknowledging the merits of having a national framework for Local Authorities. A link to the NLPF could be found at paragraph 15.2 of the report.

The NLPF was broken down into 7 sections and those were outlined at paragraph 2.3 of the report.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be noted

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4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO PUBLIC PROTECTION MATTERS

There were no declarations of interest stated.

5. NEWCASTLE TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER RENEWAL

Consideration was given to a report updating Members on the recent consultation for the renewal of the Newcastle Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and to seek approval for the implementation of the Order.

Newcastle Town Centre had had an active PSPO since 2019 and the main issues within the town centre were highlighted at paragraph 1.4 of the report.

Paragraph 3.1 of the report outlined the proposed prohibitions which all had strong support from the consultation responses which were received.

Councillor John Williams stated that it was important for people to come into town and feel safe. He asked whether the CCTV was part of the Newcastle Town Centre PSPO.

Members were advised that there were over 100 cameras in and around the town centre and was constantly monitored by Stoke on Trent City Council and it was used by the police on a regular basis.

The Chair asked if the CCTV was monitored constantly or from time to time and if it was one company that did the monitoring.

Members were advised that it was monitored 24/7 and was based in the Stoke on Trent Offices by their staff and had extensive coverage in and around the town centre.

Councillor Sweeney stated that he was happy to see that it had been expanded to Station Walks and to see the inclusion of temporary structures on the PSPO.

Councillor Whitmore asked how long CCTV recordings were saved for.

Members were advised that it was saved for thirty days. However, any footage that was deemed or logged as evidence could be kept for a longer period.

Resolved: That the Licensing and Public Protection Committee considers the content of this report, reviews consultation outcomes and provides approval of the Order for implementation.

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6. **GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO MAKE TAXI LICENSING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITIES**

Consideration was given to a report notifying Members of an open consultation that sought views on making all local transport authorities in England responsible for taxi and private hire vehicle licensing.

Members were referred to paragraph 2 of the report which set out other Government workstreams which were ongoing alongside of the consultation.

The suggested benefits of the proposal were outlined at paragraph 2.7 of the report.

A draft response to the consultation was attached at Appendix A and would need to be submitted by 1 April, 2026.

Councillor Sweeney stated that he did not think that it would save money and it seemed to be the next stage of removing licensing powers from Borough Councils. The consultation did not include anything regarding improving things.

Councillor John Williams stated that longer serving Councillors had seen services sliced year on year and did not agree with this proposal. He asked if it would be the County Council that would take on the licensing function.

It was confirmed that it would be the County Council as they were the current Local Transport Authority for Staffordshire.

The Chair agreed with everything that had been said. However we were required to do this even with Local Government Reorganisation in the pipeline.

Councillor Adcock, referring to question 13, stated that standards were really important and moving round who dealt with taxi licensing did not solve the key problem about having National Standards. He asked , if this were to happen, when there was a taxi licensing case, it would be heard at Stafford and would that cause issues including case load.

Members were advised that one possible solution would be for local offices to be retained for meetings to be held in the locality of the taxi driver/operator. It could also be likely that a number of licensing staff from the various boroughs and districts from around Staffordshire could move into Staffordshire County Council and form a licensing team.

Resolved: (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and
(ii) That Officers submit a response to the consultation having considered Officers' proposed information.

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. **MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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Resolved: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 14 January, 27 January and 4 February, 2026 be received.

8. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

There was no confidential business.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

**Deputy Mayor. Councillor Joan Whieldon
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.37 pm