

DELEGATED

Report to General
Licensing Committee

9 June 2026

Report of Assistant Director
Regulated Services &
Transformation

LICENSING DELEGATED DECISIONS UPDATE REPORT

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update with regards to the decisions which officers have made in utilising powers delegated to them by this Committee.

Recommendation(s)

Members to note the information included.

Detail

1. Certain powers have been delegated by the committee to officers, in consultation with the chair of the general licensing committee and committee legal advisor.
2. Since the last update several delegated decisions have been made and include:
 - 7 Licence suspensions (2 licences later reinstated by the general licensing committee, some later revoked)
 - 7 Licence revocations (5 following police disclosure)
 - 1 Request refusal and 1 request agreement to depart from policy on vehicle specifications
 - 2 Licence revocations and 1 licence refusal following a positive oral fluid drug sample
 - 1 Licence application (driver) refusal
3. A full list of 2025 - 26 delegated decisions and action taken is attached at Appendix 1.
4. Members are aware the licensing service have carried out oral fluid drug screening on licensed private hire and hackney carriage drivers since the proactive public safety measure was agreed in 2014.

Additional information

5. In the same reporting period 47 screening tests were carried out on a random or intelligence led basis, the screening tests for six illegal substances.

6. Of those tested three screens returned a positive lab result, all samples contained THC (cannabis) two driver licences were revoked, and one new applicant had his licence application refused via the delegated decision process.
7. For members information there have been three court appeals / prosecutions in the reporting period.

Unlicensed private hire operator	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	Unlicensed PHO advertising on Facebook – test purchase carried out, successful prosecution for unlicensed activity and driving without insurance.
Licensed driver	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	Driver licence revoked by general licensing committee for driver watching a video whilst driving. Decision appealed to Magistrates court. Appeal granted, licence reinstated.
Licensed driver	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976	Driver arrested and charged with conspiracy to supply class A drugs – cocaine and proceeds of crime. Driver licence revoked by delegated decision (24-25). Decision appealed to Magistrates court. Appeal dismissed.

Legislation and Policy Considerations

8. When making any decisions the following documents are considered, full copies can be found online:

Stockton Borough Council Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Policy 2021-2026	www.stockton.gov.uk/article/1528/Appendix-E
Taxi and private hire vehicle licensing best practice guidance for licensing authorities in England (2023)	www.gov.uk/government/publications/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-licensing-best-practice-guidance/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-licensing-best-practice-guidance-for-licensing-authorities-in-england
Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards (2022)	www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-standards
Institute of Licensing Guidance on Suitability (2018)	www.instituteoflicensing.org/documents/Guidance_on_Suitability_Web_Version_(16_May_2018).pdf

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not ward related

9. Not ward related.

Financial Implications

10. None

Legal Implications

11. Any decision made carries a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court within 21 days.

Environmental Implications

12. None

Community Safety Implications

13. The review of a driver's history (using the Relevance of Convictions guidance where appropriate) to establish if they are, or continue to be, 'a fit and proper person' contributes towards the Council's Community Safety objectives. Action following the consideration of this report will aim to reinforce community confidence, reduce the fear of the public and increase the safety of those who may be vulnerable when using 'taxi' services.

Background Papers

14. Appendices

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