

- Report for:** **Regulatory Committee**

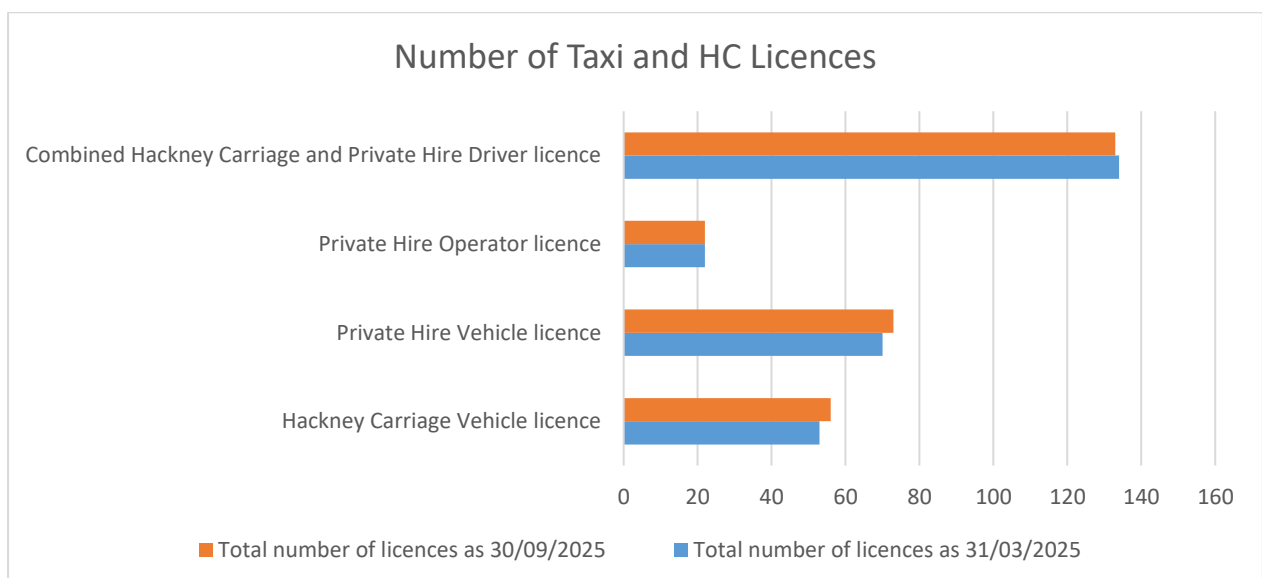
2 Service Delivery updates

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire

2.1 During the first half of 2025/2026 the team dealt with Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing applications as detailed below:

	Total number of licences	Number of new applications and renewals processed	Number of cancelled or surrendered licenses	Revoked or suspended
Hackney Carriage Vehicle licence	56	27	7	3
Private Hire Vehicle licence	73	34	7	3
Private Hire Operator licence	22	5	0	0
Combined Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver licence	133	30	0	4

2.2 Figure 1 below shows total numbers against the previous reporting period, which have remained largely constant. This shows a stabilisation in the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences following falls in 2024/25 as previously reported.



2.3 32 Taxi inspections have been carried out in the first half of 2025/26. This is an increase of over 3 times against the same period last year, due to proactive checks of vehicles against the new policy and follows the introduction of new policy requirements.

- 2.4 91 drivers have attended Safeguarding and Disability Awareness training in 2025/26.
- 2.5 A consultation has taken place to determine if the trade wishes for a review of the Hackney Carriage tariff. Of the 23 licensed Hackney Carriage Proprietors consulted, 6 responded (26.1%). They all confirmed they would like an increase in the tariff.
- 2.6 The consultation asked those responding to suggest how much the tariff should be increased by and only 2 respondents provided this information. As a result, the Licensing Team plan to carry out further benchmarking and will also gather more information from those that did respond to the consultation.
- 2.7 The setting of the Hackney Carriage tariff under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 is considered an executive function and will therefore go to Cabinet when necessary. The Regulatory Committee will be informed of any changes at the next meeting appropriate meeting.

Animal Welfare

- 2.8 The team are responsible for licencing animal related establishments. This can range from dog breeding through to zoos. There are 52 animal related licenses in total which is comparable to that reported for 2024/25. Figure 2 below shows the breakdown by licence type and a comparison of number of licences to previous period:

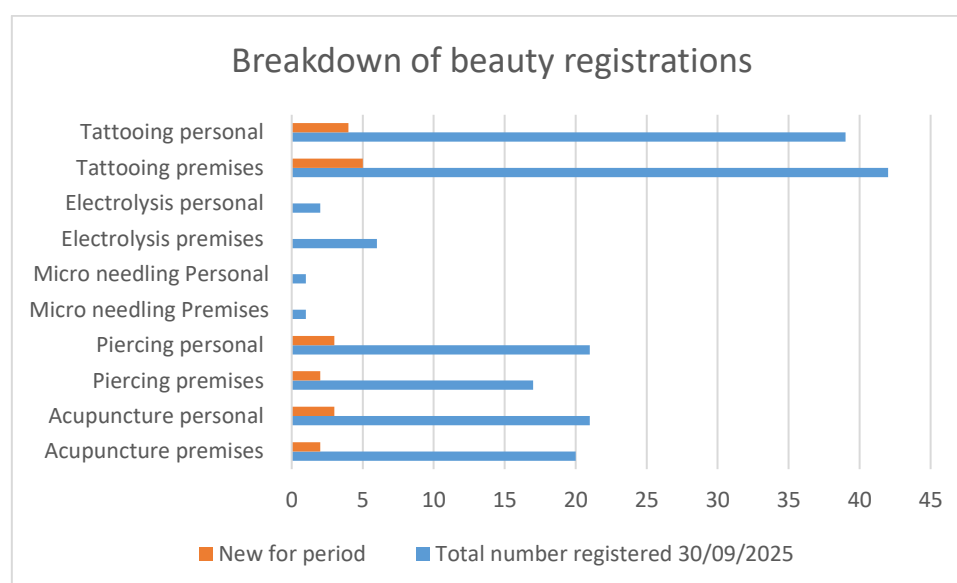


- 2.9 The team have investigated eight complaints related to animal establishments during the period. Three of these related to licenced establishments.
- 2.10 Five of the complaints therefore related to potentially unlicensed animal activity, with sources varying from members of the public to other Local Authority intelligence and voluntary sector organisations. These relate to alleged unlicensed dog breeding and sale of pets where investigations are ongoing.

- 2.11 A new Regulatory Officer (Animal Welfare) post had been created and once recruited, the officer will be responsible for all animal related licences activities, including licence issue, renewal, interim inspections and complaint investigations. Together with other officers within the team, this officer will be required to hold specialist animal licensing competency and a specific qualification as required under the licensing legislation.
- 2.12 A consultation on changes to the Animal Welfare policy has taken place with an updated policy being put forward as a separate agenda item today.

Specified beauty treatments

- 2.13 These are covered by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, including tattooing, piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture. Officers from Licensing work closely with officers from the Food and Health and Safety team to administer these licences. This is due to the risks associated with these activities and the need for health and safety and infectious disease considerations.
- 2.14 Total figures for premises and personal registrations in place across the district, including a breakdown of those issued in the first half of 2025/26 is shown in Figure 3 below. There has been a 6% increase in the number of registrations.



3 Enforcement and Hearings

- 3.1 One Regulatory sub-committee hearing has been conducted in the year to date.
- 3.2 This hearing was a consideration of an operator remaining fit and proper to hold said licence. The outcome of the hearing was that the operator would be monitored for compliance with licence conditions and policy over a 3-month period.

4 Caravan Site Licencing

- 4.1 A joint piece of work between Licensing and Environmental Health has been initiated with a focus on our licenced caravan sites. Planning Enforcement are also supporting the work to ensure a joined-up approach.
- 4.2 A separate report on the proposal for a new caravan site and mobile home policy will be presented to Committee today

Financial Implications: All licences for the areas mentioned above have a charge associated with them. As opposed to licensing functions that come under Licensing Act 2003/Gambling Act 2005 (Licensing Committee), these charges are set locally and reviewed on an annual basis. In some cases these are subject to statutory consultation processes. These must all be calculated based on the resource required to meet statutory obligations in issuing the license and regulating the licenced activity on a non-profit basis. The income from the licences is therefore used to offset the running of the Service. The Service is not self-funding overall as some of the fees are set at a national level (Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005) and therefore do not fully cover costs but makes a significant contribution towards its costs within the general fund.

Legal Implications: There are various regulations that govern the range of applications administered by the Licensing Team. These detail a range of duties and statutory deadlines, as well as policy and procedural requirements.

Risk Assessment: Provision of the licensing service is statutory obligation. If resources for the Team are not available there is a risk that the Council is unable to meet its statutory duties in relation to licensed activities. This would put the health and safety of residents at risk if they accessed a service that did not meet licensing standards. This is a particular concern in respect of taxis and the beauty industry. Animal welfare is also at risk if the Council was unable to conduct regular checks of these establishments.

Impact on Climate Change: There is no direct impact on climate change as a result of this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment: An equality impact assessment is not required in respect of this update report.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: This report links directly to the Licensing Authority functions of the Council with the primary aim of protecting public safety and ensuring the well-being of our community and licensed service users. It therefore contributes to the priority of Community, People and Equalities within the Corporate Plan.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Date: 20.11.25

Statutory Officer: Maria de Leburne
Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 20.11.25

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford
Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director
Date: 20.11.25

Performance and risk: Steve Carr
Agreed by the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager
Date: 06 November 2025

Cabinet member notified: Yes

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

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Background papers: None.