

To: Councillor Woodward (Chair), Dennis and Keane.

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28 July 2025

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NOTICE OF MEETING - LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE 5 AUGUST 2025

A meeting of the Licensing Applications Sub-Committee will be held on Tuesday, 5 August 2025 at 5.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU. The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

	<u>AFFECTED WARDS</u>	<u>Page No</u>
1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST		
Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in relation to the items for consideration.		
2. MINUTES		3 - 6
To confirm the Minutes of the Licensing Applications Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 July 2025.		
3. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC		

At this point, the following motion will be moved by the Chair:

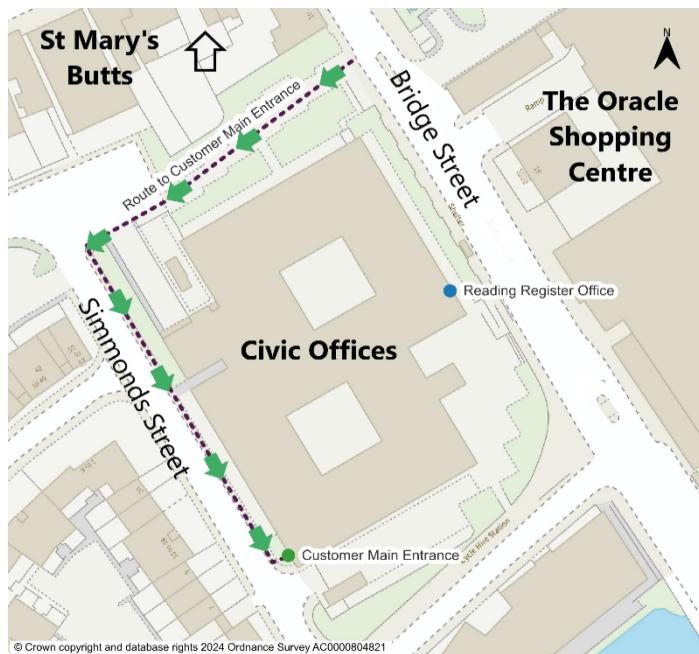
“That, pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) members of the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following items on the agenda, as it is likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

CIVIC OFFICES EMERGENCY EVACUATION: If an alarm sounds, leave by the nearest fire exit quickly and calmly and assemble on the corner of Bridge Street and Fobney Street. You will be advised when it is safe to re-enter the building.

4. AN APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENCE AND REPORTS TO CONSIDER THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENCES. BOROUGH 7 - 212 WIDE

A report setting out an application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver's Licence and reports to consider the suspension or revocation of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licences.

***** Access to Civic Offices** - Please note that the Customer Main Entrance to the Civic Offices has moved from the front of the building to the back, because of construction work for the new Central Library. If you are attending the meeting in person, please enter via the new Customer Main Entrance in Simmonds Street. (The Council is asking customers not to come down Fobney Street to access the new Customer Entrance, due to heavy construction traffic in this area, and instead to walk via the pedestrian alleyway off Bridge Street next to the "Greek Van"). See map below:



Agenda Item 2

LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

3 JULY 2025

Present: Councillors Woodward (Chair), Tarar (Vice-Chair) and Mitchell.

11. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

12. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved –

That, pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), members of the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following item of business as it was likely that there would be disclosures of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5 specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act.

13. AN APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A SCHOOL TRANSPORT VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENCE AND REPORTS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SUSPENSION/REVOCATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENCES

The Sub-Committee considered a report that set out the cases relating to the following:

- A report to consider the application for the suspension/renewal of a School Transport Vehicle Driver's Licence. Licence Holder: DHL (Appendix 1).
- A report to consider the suspension/revocation of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver's Licence. Licence Holder: AM (Appendix 2).
- A report to consider the suspension/revocation of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver's Licence. Licence Holder: FA (Appendix 3).

Summaries detailing the circumstances relating to each case were attached to the report at Appendices 1 to 3.

DHL attended the meeting, addressed the Sub-Committee and responded to questions.

AM did not attend the meeting and did not respond to phone calls or emails sent by officers during the meeting.

FA attended the meeting, addressed the Sub-Committee and requested an adjournment to allow them time to seek legal representation.

Nicola Butler, RBC Licensing Team presented the reports to the Sub-Committee. Ben Williams and Mike Harding, RBC Licensing Team, also attended the Sub-Committee meeting and asked and responded to questions.

In reaching its decisions the Sub-Committee endeavoured throughout to strike a fair balance between the interests of the licence holders and the concerns of the Licensing Officers, but its overriding consideration was to the safeguarding of the public.

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3 JULY 2025

In coming to its decisions, the Sub-Committee also gave due consideration to the written material contained in the paperwork, the oral evidence provided at the meeting, and to relevant legislation, guidance and the policies of Reading Borough Council, including:

- The Town Police Clauses Act 1847;
- The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) Act 1976;
- The Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Act 2022;
- The Equality Act 2010;
- The Secretary of State's Guidance;
- Reading Borough Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Convictions Policy;
- Reading Borough Council's Hackney Carriage driver and vehicle conditions;
- Reading Borough Council's private hire driver, vehicle and operator conditions;
- Reading Borough Council's private hire (school transport) driver, vehicle and operator conditions;
- All of the documents provided for the meeting, including the additional information circulated via email, and;
- The Fit and Proper Person Test.

Resolved –

- (1) That the School Transport Vehicle Driver's Licence in respect of DHL be renewed subject to DHL reading and assimilating their licence conditions, and completing an extended driving assessment, at their own expense, through an approved provider, within a period of three months. If by that date DHL had not supplied proof of course completion to Licensing Enforcement Officers, no licence should be issued and application should be deemed to be refused;
- (2) That, in respect of the decision set out at (1) above, the following reasons be noted:
 - (a) The applicant had been driving for reward for a large number of years, with no previous disciplinary issues.
 - (b) That Reading Borough Council's Convictions Policy stated at paragraph 51 that more than one minor traffic conviction would result in a licence being refused. Paragraph 53 of the same Policy states that "Where there is a second occurrence of a minor traffic offence, whilst the first minor traffic offence is valid ... a licence holder can agree to complete an extended driving assessment, at their own expense, through an approved provider, as an alternative to revocation."
 - (c) The Sub-Committee accepted DHL's explanation as to why the convictions were not declared on the form.
 - (d) The Sub-Committee noted that Licensing were not informed of the convictions at the time, and were concerned that DHL had not read their licence conditions, because a knowledge of them was fundamental to the successful operation of a licence.

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3 JULY 2025**

- (e) The Sub-Committee was, however, satisfied that DHL remained a fit and proper person to continue to hold a licence, once they had read the conditions, and had successfully completed the extended driving assessment.
- (3) That the review of the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver's Licence in respect of AM be deferred until the meeting scheduled for 5 August 2025 to allow AM to be present. AM to be informed that the review would be heard in their absence on that date if they were not able to attend.
- (4) That the review of the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver's Licence in respect of FS be deferred until the meeting scheduled for 5 August 2025 to allow their legal representative to be present.

(The meeting started at 9.34 am and closed at 10.45 am)

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Agenda Item 4

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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