MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor M Lewis – Chairperson

S Easterbrook
RM James
A R Berrow
P W Jenkins
O Clatworthy

Present Virtually

R Williams
J Llewellyn-Hopkins
J E Pratt
RJ Collins
H T Bennett
S J Bletsoe

Officers:

Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Nimi Chandrasena	Democratic Services Officer - Support
Kirsty Evans	Senior Licensing Officer
Will Lane	Operational Manager Shared Regulatory Services
Andrea Lee	Legal Officer

48. Apologies for Absence

Decision Made	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Colin Davies
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

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49. Declarations of Interest

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

50. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	RESOLVED: That the minutes of 30 September 2025, be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

51. Bridgend County Borough Council Taxi Testing Regime

Decision Made	The Team Manager – Licensing presented a report, the purpose of which, was to seek approval to consult with the taxi and private hire trade, Ty Thomas Testing Centre and the Home to School Transport Department on the proposal to allow taxi and private hire vehicles to obtain an MOT and additional compliance test at any Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) approved MOT testing station or to retain the current regime of in-house testing. The report sets out the advantages and disadvantages of both approaches and these were detailed in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of the report, respectively. Approval was therefore sought from members to progress the options available to Committee to consultation with the taxi and private hire trade within Bridgend County Borough Council, Ty Thomas Testing Centre and the Home to School Transport Department. Following such consultation, a report setting out the consultation responses will be presented to the Committee at the earliest opportunity for consideration and a determination to be made. Members raised a considerable number of questions on the report, including the following:-

	• Who presently undertakes Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle compliance checks, ie Ty Thomas or BCBC Licensing Officers? • Is the current provider fit for purpose, that is considered satisfactory from a vehicle testing capacity perspective in terms of maintaining Taxi's, given that it's a joint venture that also covers MOT of South Wales Police vehicles? • Are there any 'spot checks' of Taxi vehicles on the road carried out, aside of just the MOT testing, in order to ensure these vehicles are roadworthy at any given time? • The report confirms that Ty Thomas generates around £46k of revenue income for the MOT of the above vehicles, but there is no reference made to the cost for the local authority in association with that income? • Maybe the Committee should have had more input into the consultation, for example, what questions were asked as part of it and what form the consultation took, etc • A member made the point that though Ty Thomas carries out MOT testing for both the Council and the Police, they were not obligated to undertake any works required as a result of the MOT, to ensure any such vehicles were roadworthy, which was a disadvantage of the service • Members noted that as there were only two Licensing Enforcement Officers in BCBC, there was not enough of a resource to carry out 'spot checks' on Taxi's, in order to ensure that they are covered by road insurance, a valid MOT and are generally in the standard the vehicles should be in to be considered roadworthy, at any given point in time. Following the debate on this item, Members took a vote and unanimously RESOLVED: That the Committee agreed to consult with the taxi and private hire trade, the Home to School Transport Department, and Ty Thomas on the following options with regards to taxi and private hire testing within Bridgend County Borough Council: i) To retain the current in-house testing regime. This requires proprietors to obtain an MOT Certificate from Ty Thomas Joint Maintenance Facility along with an additional taxi compliance check. ii) To allow proprietors to obtain an MOT Certificate from any DVSA approved MOT testing station in the County Borough, and that the same testing station undertakes an additional taxi compliance check.
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

52. Urgent Items

Decision Made	There were no urgent items
Date Decision Made	12 February 2026

The meeting closed at 10:45.

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