

Role of councillors

Councillors and the council's regulatory/licensing committee

Councils will usually operate with a regulatory/licensing committee which may be made up of non-executive/cabinet councillors, and sub-committees made up of councillors of the parent committee. Apart from setting taxi fares and ranks, taxi/PHV licensing is a 'council' and not an 'executive' function.

The role of the parent committee is to consider and propose policy, including setting the overall approach of the council, conditions and standards for vehicles and drivers.

There is no requirement to create a single licensing statement or policy for taxi and PHV licensing in the way that there is for the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005. However, the LGA strongly encourages licensing authorities to create a unified policy that brings together all their procedures in one place; this could include policies on convictions, determining the 'fit and proper' person test, licence conditions, and vehicle standards.

Creating a single, unified policy that is reviewed on a regular basis will provide clarity for drivers and operators, as well as strengthening the council's position if there is a challenge against a decision in court.