

General Licensing and Registration Committee

14 January 2010



Amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Report of Terry Collins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services

1. Purpose

The Committee is asked to consider and agree a number of amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

2. Background

2.1 The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy was adopted by the Council on 1st April 2009 and the Policy provided that it would be reviewed within one year of its adoption and every three years thereafter.

3.0 Material Considerations

3.1 Since the adoption of the policy, the Council has embarked on a major consultation process concerning the future control and regulation of the hackney carriage and private hire trade, licensed within the County of Durham (zoning, limitation of taxi numbers and colour policy). Given the substantial nature and potential impact of the taxi regulation consultation, it is recommended that the first comprehensive review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing policy should be delayed until the outcomes of the consultation process are known.

3.2 However, the Council are aware of some practical inconsistencies within the Policy as currently drafted, and it is therefore recommended that if the comprehensive review of the policy is to be delayed, some minor, technical amendments are made to the policy.

3.3 Most of the minor amendments to the policy that have been identified as being necessary at this stage relate to the vehicle licence conditions detailed in Appendices 3 and 4 of the policy. Two amendments to Appendix 2 of the policy relate to the guidance on the relevance of convictions.

3.4 Appendix 1 to this report sets out in tabular form the amendments proposed and the reasons for the amendments. The amendments do not adversely impact upon the trade, and in some cases will positively benefit the trade. In all cases, the amendments will ensure that the policy is clear and unambiguous and that members of the travelling public are adequately protected. A copy of the proposed amended policy is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

3. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:-

- 3.1 Approve the delay in conducting the comprehensive review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy until the outcome of the consultation on the future regulation of the taxi trade in Durham is known.
- 3.2 Support the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, as attached at Appendix 2 to this report.

Background Papers:

- Durham County Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- Town Police Clauses Act 1847.

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