

Special General Licensing and Registration Committee

22 November 2010



Comprehensive Review of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Report of Terry Collins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to ask Members to approve the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and to recommend this for adoption by Council.

Background

- 2 The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy was adopted by the Council in April 2009. The policy provided it would be reviewed within one year of its adoption. However, in January 2010, Members agreed to delay the comprehensive review of the policy given the substantial nature and potential impact of the consultation concerning zoning, quantity regulation and colour. Members therefore agreed to an interim revision and approved a number of minor, technical amendments to the policy that had previously been identified as being necessary, in January 2010.

Consultation

- 3 Between 1 August and 12 September 2010 the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy was subject to a broad consultation involving the taxi trade, service users, relevant authorities and organisations, Countywide and Area Taxi Working Groups and members of the public. The draft policy was widely advertised in the local and regional press. It was also made available on the Council's website where email responses were invited.

Responses

- 4 At the end of the consultation period, twelve responses had been received. The responses have been collated in a table which is attached as Appendix 2.
- 5 Appendix 3 to this report sets out the proposed responses by the Licensing Authority in relation to the comments received. Suggested amendments to the policy resulting from the consultation and review have been included in the proposed revised policy which is attached as Appendix 4.

Recommendations

- 6 That Members consider the consultation comments and proposed responses attached as Appendix 2 and 3 and to approve the suggested revisions to the current policy.
- 7 Members agree the final version of the revised policy which, is attached as Appendix 4 and recommend its adoption by full Council.

Background Papers:

- Durham County Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- Town Police Clauses Act 1847
- Department for Transport Best Practice Guidance

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – The duration of a private hire operators licence will be extended from one year to three years. The costs associated with the issue and control of private hire operators licences over the three year period will be fully considered when setting any new licensing fee.

Staffing - None

Equality and Diversity - The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy has gone through a full Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Sustainability - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation – A full countywide and targeted consultation process has been undertaken in respect of the review of this policy

Procurement - None

Disability Discrimination Act – None

Legal Implications - None