



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Licensing and Public Safety Committee

24 October 2017

Taxi drivers – code of conduct and penalty points scheme

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To inform the Committee of the City Mayor's decision regarding the code of conduct and penalty points scheme for taxi drivers.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are asked to note the decision.

3. Background

- 3.1 Members received a report on 25 August 2015 regarding proposals for a penalty points scheme for taxi drivers. The committee was supportive of such a scheme, and made some comments regarding amendments to the details of the scheme.

4. Introduction of the scheme and further consultation

- 4.1 The Penalty Points Scheme was introduced in December 2015, with a commitment to review the operation of the scheme after 12 months.
- 4.2 A further consultation took place in December 2016 / January 2017. The consultation covered the penalty points scheme and the code of conduct. Responses from the public indicate continued concern about driver behaviour. Of 45 responses from members of the public, 31 directly concerned the manner of driving and 5 referred to the overall fitness of drivers for licensing.
- 4.3 There were 12 responses from the trade. They raised issues about stopping places, the use of bus lanes and the behaviour of both drivers and passengers, but no constructive comments on the existing penalty points scheme or any alternatives.
- 4.4 A majority of the public supported a penalty points scheme. The majority of taxi drivers did not think it was a good idea.

5. Confirmation of the scheme

5.1 On 6 September 2017 the City Mayor decided:

- a) That the Penalty Points Scheme is made a permanent arrangement for the Council's management of standards and conduct within the licenced taxi sector alongside the Code of Conduct.
- b) That the Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services have the authority to make, after consultation with the relevant Assistant Mayor and, as may be required by the Council Constitution, any other relevant Council committee, such alterations to the Scheme as are likely to facilitate improvement in driver conduct, reduce contraventions and/or improvements in its management and administration.

5.2 The City Mayor was of the opinion that the Penalty Points Scheme should be retained and further developed to allow Leicester City Council to apply regulatory and enforcement measures in a proportionate way reflecting the risk and harm caused by the misconduct and other contraventions.

6 Financial, Legal and Other Implications

Financial Implications

6.1 There are no quantifiable financial implications arising as a result of this report, although there are additional demands upon staff time.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, ext. 37 4081

Legal Implications

6.2 Penalty points schemes are lawful - R. (on the application of Singh) v Cardiff City Council [2012] EWHC 1852 (Admin).

John Moss, Solicitor - Legal Services

7 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/ NO	Paragraph/References Within the Report
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	Yes	The report refers to the council's policy relating to taxi drivers
Sustainable and Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	

Corporate Parenting	No	
Health Inequalities Impact	No	

8 **Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**
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9 **Consultations**
None

10 **Report Author**
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