



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

LICENSING & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

22 October 2019

TAXI STRATEGY – CONSULTATIONS

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee of the forthcoming driver consultation and to seek views on the private hire operator consultation.

2. Background

2.1 The taxi strategy involves a review of all of the council's policies and procedures in relation to taxi licensing. This is being taken in phases in order to make to task more manageable.

2.2 In July 2019 the Committee gave it's views on the proposed driver consultation. The next phase is about licensing of private hire operators. A third phase on vehicle licensing will follow in due course.

3. Licensing of private hire operators

3.1 Private hire operators are licensed under the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976. The council's existing policies and procedures have not been reviewed for some time. It is appropriate to review them to ensure they reflect current legislation and best practice, and thereby allow the council to fulfil its obligations as a licensing authority.

3.2 There is little formal guidance on private hire operator licensing, but the Institute of Licensing issued guidance in April 2018 that include this area of work. The guidance does not have legal status but does reflect best practice across the country and has been adopted by many licensing authorities. The guidance "Safe and Suitable?" is attached at Appendix A.

4. Consultation

4.1 Officer have reviewed the council's current policies and procedures. Draft proposals are attached at Appendix B.

3.2 The draft consultation will be submitted to the Deputy City Mayor for approval, together with the comments of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee.

1. Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to comment on the draft consultation.

5 Financial & Legal Implications

Financial Implications

5.1 No significant financial implications for the Council are expected to arise from the consultations described in the report.

Colin Sharpe, Deputy Director of Finance, ext 37 4081

Legal Implications

5.2 S.55(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 governs the licensing of operators of private hire vehicles.

5.3 The legislation provides that any person who applies for an Operator's Licence must satisfy the Local Authority that they have the right to work in the UK and are fit and proper persons to hold a licence. This involves a detailed examination of the applicant's entire character in order to make a judgement as to their fitness and propriety. If a licence holder falls short of the fit and proper standard at any time, the licence should be revoked or not renewed on application to do so in accordance with S.61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Katherine Jamieson, Solicitor, Legal Services, ext 37 4542

6 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

None

7 Consultations

Head of Legal Services

Head of Finance

8 Report Author

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