



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

LICENSING & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

10 December 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 vehicle 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 and October 2019 the Committee gave it's views on the proposed driver and operator consultations respectively. The next phase is about licensing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

3. Licensing of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles

- 3.1 Hackney carriages are licensed under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and private hire vehicles 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.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Officer have reviewed the council's current policies and procedures. Draft proposals for consultation are attached at Appendix A.
- 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 Section 37 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 governs the licensing of Hackney Carriage vehicles. Section 47 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 provides that the Local Authority may upon the grant of a Hackney Carriage under the Act of 1847 attach conditions that they consider reasonably necessary and enable the Local Authority to make policy guidelines determining the design or appearance of the vehicle to make it identifiable as a Hackney Carriage.

5.3 Section 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 governs the licensing of Private Hire vehicles. The section states that before granting a licence for a vehicle to be used as a Private Hire vehicle, the licensing authority must be satisfied that the vehicle is:

- Suitable in type, size and design for use as a Private Hire vehicle;
- Not of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage;
- In a suitable mechanical condition;
- Safe; and
- comfortable

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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