

Report to:	Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Date of Meeting:	Monday 13 June 2022
Subject:	Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy		
Report of:	Head of Highways and Public Protection	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To advise members of consultation on proposed revised taxi and private hire licensing policy.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) Note the contents of this report, and
- (2) Agree to the start of a consultation exercise on revised policy

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Department for Transport (DfT) has produced Statutory Standards and expects the recommendations contained in those standards to be implemented unless there is a compelling local reason not to.

The DfT has also made it clear that licensing authorities should consult on proposed changes in licensing rules that may have significant impacts on passengers and/or the trade.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The cost of the consultation will be met from within existing budgets for the service.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no direct capital implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
The cost of the service is wholly recovered from the ring-fenced Taxi Licensing Trade Account (Revenue Budget BD12).	
Legal Implications:	
The Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provide that a district council may set out criteria when undertaking their taxi and private hire licensing functions and may attach to the grant of a licence such conditions as they may consider reasonably necessary.	
Equality Implications:	
There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Y
Have a neutral impact	N
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
The Statutory Taxis and Private Hire Vehicle Standards have been set directly to address the safeguarding of the public and the potential impact of failings in this area. The adoption of recommendations made in this document will therefore have a positive impact on equality and diversity specifically for vulnerable individuals and children.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Increased safeguarding provisions to protect the most vulnerable.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

Commission, broker and provide core services: Updating taxi licensing service provision.
Place – leadership and influencer:
Drivers of change and reform:
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:
Cleaner Greener

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6815/22.....) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5015/22....) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Annex 1 – draft handbook 4.1

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Members will recall the previous report on ‘Statutory Taxi Licensing Guidance for Licensing Authorities’ in relation to taxi licensing at the 7 September 2020 meeting.
- 1.2 The committee considered the Government Statutory Standards for licensing authorities in relation to taxi licensing.
- 1.3 Following a consultation process, on 21 July 2020, the Secretary of State for Transport issued a set of statutory standards in relation to taxi licensing; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-standards>

2 New Standards

- 2.1 The proposed changes to the current conditions are as follows:
 - a) Annual DBS checks for vehicle proprietors (part 3, f)
 - b) The name of any person that responded to a booking request or dispatched a vehicle (part 4, g)
 - c) Annual DBS checks for operators and staff involved with bookings and dispatch of vehicles (part 4, p & q)
 - d) Guidelines on the relevance of previous convictions (annex 1). The draft new conditions can be seen along current conditions (shown with a line through).
- 2.2 In addition to the new statutory standards, at a Council meeting held on 3 March 2022 a suggested amendment to operator conditions in relation to workers’ rights was agreed and this has been included at part 4, r.

3 Consultation

- 3.1 The standards suggest a range of amendments which will require consultation with a further report to be brought back before this committee.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 Members are requested to consider the recommended changes with further reports to be presented in order to implement the changes to current conditions and policies following a consultation period.