

<b>Report to:</b>	Licensing and Regulatory Committee	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Monday 8 January 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Revised Licensed Driver Convictions Policy		
<b>Report of:</b>	Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	N	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

**Summary:**

To request members approval to the suggested changes to the driver convictions policy in line with national statutory standards.

**Recommendation(s):**

(1) Agree to the proposed changes to the Council's current convictions 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.

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

None

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue Costs**

None.

**(B) Capital Costs**

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

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<p><b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b></p> <p>The cost of the service is wholly recovered from the ring-fenced Taxi Licensing Trade Account (Revenue Budget BD12).</p>									
<p><b>Legal Implications:</b></p> <p>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.</p>									
<p><b>Equality Implications:</b></p> <p>There are no equality implications.</p>									
<p><b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b></p> <p>The recommendations within this report will</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Have a positive impact</td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a neutral impact</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a negative impact</td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> </table>		Have a positive impact	N	Have a neutral impact	Y	Have a negative impact	N	The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
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**Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: Strengthening of the criteria to be eligible to obtain a licence in Sefton
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:

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.5576/23..) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5576/23.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

**(B) External Consultations**

Trade representatives sub group has been consulted and agreed to the revisions.

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**Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Annex 1 – current convictions policy

Annex 2 – new convictions policy

**Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 Members will recall a 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 National Convictions Policy**

- 2.1 Attached as annex 1 is the current convictions policy and annex 2 contains the proposed changes.

## **3. Conclusion**

- 3.2 As these are national statutory standards the Council is under a duty to introduce the changes.
- 3.3 It is intended to introduce the changes on 05/02/24 which will give an opportunity to revise the current knowledge test questions and produce a revised test.
- 3.4 Further proposed changes to general conditions will be considered in future meetings following appropriate consultation.