



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Strategic Licensing Committee
24 th September 2014

<u>Item</u>
6
Public

REQUEST FOR THE REVIEW OF THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY.

Responsible Officer Mandy Beever, Team Manager Operational Community Safety
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1. Summary

The existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy came into effect from 1st October 2011. The Licensing Service has undergone a number of changes since this time. As a consequence it has been identified that some areas of the policy require amendment in order to facilitate the work the service is undertaking with regard to enforcement and compliance.

On the 19th of March 2014 the Strategic Licensing Committee were originally consulted in regard to the proposal for reviewing the existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy. Following this meeting a number of Taxi Forums were held across the County in order to give the Trade the opportunity to identify areas of the policy where improvements could be made.

On the 21st of May 2014 the Strategic Licensing Committee were consulted about the suggested improvements made by the Trade and a revision of the existing policy was considered. A decision was made by the Strategic Licensing Committee to go out to formal consultation with the Trade for the period of the 2nd of June 2014 to the 24th of August 2014.

A summary of the consultation responses has been collated and is attached at Appendix A.

Copies of all the consultation responses are attached at Appendix B.

The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy has been amended to capture the suggested changes put forward by those who responded to the consultation and to include the current requirements of the Licensing Service the amended version can be found at Appendix C.

It is proposed that if the extended formal consultation is agreed the consultation will be undertaken using the Council's Website and a Taxi Forum to be held on the 28th October 2014 in The Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

At the time of writing this report the Law Commission Consultation on Taxi Legislation had not been published and there has been no formal date released as to when the report will be available or when any changes will come into force. However if this information is released during the period of the extended consultation proposed in this report the information will be included on the Website for consideration.

In addition consideration has been given to the processes followed during previous consultations and the most effective ways to consult with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade, resulting in the recommendations below.

2. Recommendation

That the Strategic Licensing Committee:-

- 2.1** Considers all the suggested amendments put forward by those who responded to the consultation as set out in Appendix B and agrees, with any necessary modifications, the summary of the amendments as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2** Agrees that the revised policy document as set out at Appendix C is published for formal consultation for no less than 4 weeks to commence from the 29th September 2014.
- 2.3** Agree that the Law Commission Consultation Report (if made available during the period of extended consultation) be added to the Website as part of the consultation proposed in this report.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Human Rights Act Appraisal

- 3.1** This report is to request Members for permission to extend the formal consultation on the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and therefore a risk assessment has not been carried out.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1** The Strategic Licensing Committee agreed for the Trade to be notified of the previous consultation by email and therefore this did not incur any additional costs over and above officer time to send out the notification emails. This process will be undertaken again this time if Members agree to the proposals.
- 4.2** It will cost around £500.00 to place a full circulation advert in the Shropshire Star.

5. Background

- 5.1** The existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy came into effect from the 1st October 2011 as a result of lengthy consultation with Trade Representatives.
- 5.2** Following the Strategic Licensing Committee meeting held on the 19th of March 2014 a series of Taxi Forums were undertaken across the County (between the 15th and 24th of April 2014). This gave an initial opportunity for members of the Trade to make any suggestions for improvements to the existing policy. The suggestions made by the Trade at the Taxi Forums were put forward to the Strategic Licensing Committee at a meeting on the 21st of May 2014 along with the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. Members agreed for formal consultation on the revised policy along with the suggested improvements made by the Trade to be undertaken (between the 2nd of June 2014 and the 24th of August 2014).
- 5.3** A further revision of the existing policy has been made taking into consideration the consultation responses received. (Appendix C)
- 5.4** At the time of writing this report the Law Commission Consultation on Taxi Legislation had not been published and there has been no formal date released as to when the report will be available or when any changes will come into force. However if this information is released during the period of consultation proposed in this report the information will be included on the Website information for consideration.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

16th March 2011 – Strategic Licensing Committee Report, Common Licence Conditions for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles and Drivers.

Minutes from the Strategic Licensing Committee Meeting held on the 16th March 2011.

Minutes from the Strategic Licensing Committee Meeting held on the 8th June 2011.

Minutes from the Strategic Licensing Committee Meeting held on the 13th June 2012.

Minutes from the Strategic Licensing Committee Meeting held on the 5th September 2012.

19th March 2014 – Strategic Licensing Committee Report, Request for the Review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policies and Associated Documents.

21st May 2014 – Strategic Licensing Committee Report, Request for the Review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

Cabinet Member: Cllr Steve Charmley

Local Member:
Cover all areas of Shropshire

Appendices:

Appendix A – Summary of the Consultation Responses.

Appendix B – Documents submitted during the consultation (Consultation responses).

Appendix C - A copy of the revised policy to be put forward for formal consultation.