

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

ORIGINATING SECTION: PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE

REPORT TO : LICENSING COMMITTEE 19th Sept 2016

TITLE : TAXI LICENSING POLICY

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek members' views for the approval to formally consult on a proposed Taxi Licensing Policy, and an adequate time frame for the duration of the consultation

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members note the report and approve a formal consultation for a period of eight weeks commencing from 1st October 2016

3. KEY ISSUES

Unlike other licence regimes, there is no statutory requirement for local authorities to set hackney carriage and private hire policies. Local authorities are however entitled to adopt such policies as they are integral parts of the decision making process. A policy guides, but does not bind a local authority.

The council has a set number of policies and conditions, at present these are not contained within one formal document. Policies and conditions currently agreed are only available within committee reports and minutes, with relevant policies and all conditions being available in guidance notes to new applicants and the existing licensed trade.

4. RATIONALE

There are a number of issues that need addressing in the policy document, these include the delivery of safeguarding training for existing drivers, changes introduced to the supplemental training manual need formally adopting, and considering the introduction of a new operating licence for Executive/Chauffer businesses.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A draft policy will be made available to members prior to the commencement of the consultation.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At the time of this report there are no financial implications

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no statutory requirement to adopt a Taxi Policy however; it is considered best practice to do so and we are aware that a number of neighbouring authorities are introducing taxi policies. When developing a policy it is important to provide for adequate consultation. The Policy should be clear that each application will be considered on its own merits. Whilst an adopted policy will be a consideration in determining applications it must not be applied in a prescriptive way which could fetter the discretion of the Licensing Authority in respect of individual applications.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Existing staff in the public protection service will undertake the associated work in composing and implementing the Taxi Policy.

9. CONSULTATIONS

A draft policy will be circulated to Members prior to the formal consultation commences .

10 . CONTACT OFFICER

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