

LICENSING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE

14 January 2016

REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY WITH RESPECT TO
HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES, DRIVERS AND PRIVATE HIRE
OPERATORS - UPDATE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION

REPORT OF HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & LICENSING

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RECENT REFERENCES:

[LR 454](#) – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy with respect to Hackney and Private hire Vehicles, Drivers and Private Hire Operators – 8 October 2015

[LR 411](#) – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy with respect to Hackney and Private hire Vehicles, Drivers and Private Hire Operators – 13 June 2013

[LR 400](#) – Review of Policy for licensing private hire vehicles – update following consultation – 10 December 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to consider comments made during the consultation period for proposed changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy with respect to Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Private Hire Operators.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 That in view of the comments received, the Committee consider whether changes should be made to the Statement of Licensing Policy with respect to Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Private Hire Operators.

2 That, subject to any amendments, the draft Statement of Licensing Policy with respect to Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Private Hire Operators attached at Appendix 1 is approved for adoption.

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DETAIL:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At the Licensing and Regulation Committee on 8 October 2015, Members approved a draft version the Statement of Licensing Policy with respect to Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Private Hire Operators (“the Policy”) for consultation.
- 1.2 The Licensing Team wrote to all hackney carriage and private hire drivers and private hire operators on 22 October 2015, to consult them on the proposed changes to the Policy. The consultation period was for one month and ended on 22 November 2015.
- 1.3 During the consultation period, the Licensing Team received one comment from Mr Tim King, a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver licensed by the City Council, which can be found at Appendix 2.
- 1.4 Members are asked to consider the comments made and whether any additional changes should be made to the Policy.

2 Comments

- 2.1 Mr King raised a number of points regarding the draft Statement of Licensing Policy with respect to Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Private Hire Operators including having specifications and measurements that new vehicles must meet in order to be licensed as Hackney Carriages.
- 2.2 Some of the points raised by Mr King would not be enforceable. In reference to Mr King’s comment that some of the licensed Hackney Carriage vehicles are not wheelchair accessible, these vehicles were licensed before the policy change, so have grandfather rights. The Licensing team considers that having a range of saloon and wheelchair capable hackney carriage vehicles allows for customers to have a choice of vehicle as some passengers cannot easily get in and out of the larger vehicles.
- 2.3 Following research by licensing officers, it was found that no other licensing authorities in Hampshire have specific dimensions for wheelchair accessible

vehicles. Some however do have a list of acceptable vehicles that meet that Council's policy.

2.4 This Council's licensing section have historically preferred not to list particular vehicles as make, model and specification of vehicles change frequently making it difficult for officers to keep an up-to-date list.

2.5 Members may wish to consider if it is appropriate to specify a set of minimum dimensions for wheelchair accessible vehicles.

3 Decision required

3.1 Members are asked to consider, in light of the comments received during consultation, whether to amend the Policy to include the changes put to Members at the Licensing and Regulation Committee on 8 October 2015, and to include the comments made by Mr Tim King, a licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

4 COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO PLANS (RELEVANCE TO):

4.1 This report relates to ensuring the safety of the public using taxis and private hire vehicles licensed by the Council.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Income and expenditure is forecast to remain at existing levels and within the current approved budgets.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

6.1 None.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None.

APPENDICES:

Appendix – 1 Draft Statement of Licensing Policy with respect to Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Private Hire Operators for consultation – review October 2015

Appendix 2 – response from Mr Tim King, licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver