

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting12th November 2015

1. Title of Item/Report

Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy Review

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the views and comments received from the Licensing Committee, trade and other interested parties following consultation on the review of the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy. Members were requested to determine the final policy.

The existing Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy was introduced on 1 May 2012. At their meeting held on 17 October 2014, the Licensing Committee agreed a draft revised policy document in respect of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage licensing for consultation with the trade and other interested parties (Minute L63/14 refers).

All licensees were informed in the 'Trade Times' newsletter of the consultation, an advert was placed in a local newspaper and details and a consultation response document were placed on the Trading Standards & Licensing website.

Consultation was undertaken and the Licensing Committee considered the responses received, together with officer's comments at their meetings on the 15 July 2015 and 20 October 2015. Members considered that various proposed amendments should be incorporated into the draft revised policy and that there were certain issues that Cabinet may wish to consider further and these were detailed within the report. A copy of the revised draft policy following the consultation exercise and the comments made at the Licensing Committee meetings were attached to the report.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy as presented in Appendix 1 be approved and come into force on 1 January 2016.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The introduction of the revised Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy following this review will improve public safety, protect reputable traders and assist in ensuring that licensing applications and disciplinary decisions are made in an open and transparent matter. This will strengthen the Council's position when dealing with any 'taxi' licensing appeals.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

N/A

Proper Officer
16 November 2015