

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting14th December 2017

1. Title of Item/Report

Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy Consultation

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy Consultation.

Further to the Licensing Committee meeting in December 2016 at which the Committee agreed for Licensing Officers to consult with the taxi trade on the proposed amendments to the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy. The consultation had taken place and copy of the consultation was attached the report.

A number of members of the trade responded to the online survey and written response from licensing consultants / private hire operators were also received.

The taxi trade meeting on Thursday 20 July 2017 provided a further opportunity for Officers to engage with approximately 170 members of the trade attending. The main areas of discussion were around the proposal to change the vehicles standards from a Euro Emission Standard to an Age Related Policy in relation to new vehicles coming on to the fleet and when they have to be removed from the fleet.

A copy of a letter from V&F Associates dated 29 November 2017 and a copy of the response had been circulated to Members.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

1. An Age Restriction Policy be introduced for vehicles (No older than 5 years from the date of first registration for new vehicles and an maximum age limit of 12 years for vehicles already licensed) from 01 January 2020.
2. The Disclosure and Barring Update Service be implemented from 01 June 2018.

3. An Age Restriction Policy be introduced for wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) (No older than 5 years from the date of first registration for new vehicles and an maximum age limit of 15 years for vehicles already licensed) from 01 January 2020.

4. The amendment of the approval of advertisements for vehicles from 1 June 2018.

5. The requirement to have vehicle roof identification numbers on licensed vehicles does not be adopted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The introduction of the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy following this review will improve public safety, protect reputable traders and assist in ensuring that licensing application and disciplinary decision are made in an open and transparent matter.

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
18 December 2017