

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th November 2022

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 Private Hire & Hackney
Carriage Licensing Policy Review.

Cabinet considered the views and comments received from the Licensing
Committee, transport trade and other interested parties following
consultation on the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy.

The private hire & hackney carriage licensing policy was approved in
2021 to adopt the Department for Transport published the 'Statutory Taxi
and Private Hire Vehicle Standards'.

It was vital to review policies to reflect changes in the industry both
nationally and locally. The effectiveness of the hackney carriage and
private hire licensing regime depends on licensing authorities to
acknowledge and manage changes to ensure that, alongside the benefits
being achieved, any negatives were minimised for passengers, the trade,
and wider communities.

The licensed trade made a number of requests to amend the current
policy and a 21-day public consultation was undertaken giving
stakeholders opportunity to comment.

The public consultation survey was available online and links were
directly sent to all licensees via the Trade Times. The link was also
emailed to private hire operators and Stockton Hackney Carriage Drivers
Association (SHCDA).

Members, other local authorities and responsible authorities including the
police were sent the link and given an opportunity to comment on the
proposed changes.

Details of the policy review and how to make comments was also

advertised to the public on the Council website and library notice boards.

The consultation closed, with 78 responses with majority agreement on the proposed changes. A summary of the consultation document was attached to the report.

In response to the consultation two further amendments to the new wording had been proposed on:

- Wheelchair accessible vehicle renewals detailed and highlighted at page 3 of the attachment to the report.
- LPG vehicles detailed and highlighted at page 4 of the attachment to the report.

The full consultation result report was attached to the report.

A background report giving further information on the proposals and reasons for the changes was attached to the report.

The Licensing Committee considered the draft policy and consultation document on 8 November 2022 and no further comments were made and recommendations agreed.

With regard to the next steps, a summary of the consultation and any further Cabinet Member comments would be considered by full Council on 23 November 2022. If approved it was proposed the revised policy would be implemented on 1 December 2022.

If revised, the trade would be informed of the new policy via email and via private hire operators and the SHCDA. Changes would also be publicised on the trade Facebook page and via the Council website. In addition the policy changes will be added to future trade meeting agendas.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

1. The content of the report be noted.
2. The proposed Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy be approved with an implementation date of 1 December 2022.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Due to changes in the industry both locally and nationally the licensed transport trade made a number of requests to amend the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and a 21 day public consultation was undertaken giving stakeholders opportunity to comment.

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
21 November 2022