

AGENDA NO

OTHER LICENSING COMMITTEE

12 JANUARY 2021

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
ADMINISTRATION, DEMOCRATIC AND
ELECTORAL SERVICES**

PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING POLICY REVIEW

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update Members on a recent private hire and hackney carriage policy consultation regarding the implementation of the Department for Transport's statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Members note the contents of the report.
2. That Members comments are received.

Detail

1. The current private hire & hackney carriage licensing policy was approved in 2016 and amended in 2018 and again in 2019.
2. In July 2020 the Department for Transport published the 'Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards'. Which it recommends all Local Authorities adopt. A copy of this document can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-standards>
3. The current licensed transport policy already included some of these statutory standards, and in this policy review it is proposed all the Department for Transport's standards are adopted in full. A draft policy document can be found at:
<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/our-people/licensing/current-applications-and-consultations/>
4. A 31-day period of consultation was undertaken giving all stakeholders opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. 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).
5. Other local authorities, responsible authorities including the police and all Council Members were sent the link via email on the 7 December 2020 and given an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes.
6. Details of the policy review and how to make comments was also advertised to the public via library notice boards. The consultation has now closed, there were 13 responses the majority in favor of the proposed changes. Details of the responses are attached at Appendix 1.

7. Next Steps – summary of the consultation and any further licensing committee comments will be considered by Cabinet on 25 February 2021 and full Council on 24 March 2021. Following approval any changes agreed would come in to effect on 1 April 2021.
8. The trade will be informed of the new policy via email and via private hire operators and the SHCDA. Changes will 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.

**Assistant Director Administration
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Financial Implications:

None

Environmental Implications:

None

Legal Implications:

Any decision taken on the implementation of a new policy could be judicially reviewed within 10 weeks to the Administrative Court.

Community Safety Implications:

Control and regulation of the private hire and hackney carriage trade ensures the safety of the public and other road users.

Human Rights Implications:

None

Background Papers:

Appendices

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not ward related