

AGENDA NO

OTHER LICENSING COMMITTEE

8 NOVEMBER 2022

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND REGULATED
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 which was carried out at the request of the transport trade.

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 2021 to adopt the Department for Transport published the 'Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards'. A copy of the current policy document can be found at: www.stockton.gov.uk/article/1514/Introduction
2. It is 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 are minimised for passengers, the trade, and wider communities.
3. The licensed trade have made a number of requests to amend the current policy and a 21 day public consultation was undertaken giving stakeholders opportunity to comment.
4. 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. Members, other local authorities and responsible authorities including the police were sent the link 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 on the Council website and library notice boards.
7. The consultation closed, with 78 responses with majority agreement on the proposed changes. A summary of the consultation document is attached as Appendix 1.
8. In response to the consultation two further amendments to the new wording have been proposed on:
 - Wheelchair accessible vehicle renewals detailed and highlighted at page 3 of Appendix 1

- LPG vehicles detailed and highlighted at page 4 of Appendix 1
9. The full consultation result document is attached as Appendix 2.
 10. A background report giving further information on the proposals and reasons for the changes is attached as Appendix 3.
 11. Next Steps – summary of the consultation and any further licensing committee comments will be considered by Cabinet on 17 November 2022 and full Council on 23 November 2022. Following approval any changes agreed would come in to effect on 1 December 2022.
 12. If revised, 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.
 13. Members of the trade who responded to the consultation and expressed an interest in attending the committee meeting and provided contact details have been invited to today's meeting.

**Assistant Director Community Safety
& Regulated Services**

Contact Officer Name:

Telephone No.

Email Address:

Financial Implications :

Environmental Implications :

Legal Implications:

Community Safety Implications:

Human Rights Implications:

Background Papers:

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

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The Trade licensing fees are set locally.

changes to the policy can support the Environmental strategy.

If a person is aggrieved with the adoption of the Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy then they could challenge it by Judicial Review proceedings before the Administrative Court. A claimant must file a claim promptly, and in any event not later than three months after the first grounds arose. Any decision taken on the implementation of a new policy could be judicially reviewed within 10 weeks to the Administrative Court. The implementation and operation of the policy will be done in accordance with the legislation and associated guidance.

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

None

Appendices

Not ward related