

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE

DATE: 21 MARCH 2017

TITLE: LICENSED VEHICLE STANDARDS

LEAD OFFICER: MICHAEL PITT, ENVIRONMENT AND LICENSING MANAGER (01279) 446114

CONTRIBUTING OFFICER: DAVID TAYLOR, PRINCIPAL EHO (LICENSING) (01279) 446164

RECOMMENDED that:

- A** the Licensing Committee consider the responses to the consultation and recommend to Full Council the changes to Private Hire and Hackney Carriage licensed vehicle conditions as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

BACKGROUND

- 1 Harlow Council licenses private hire vehicles and Hackney Carriages through a licensing system established by statute. Sections 47 and 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provide for vehicle licensing conditions designed to ensure that Hackney Carriage and private hire vehicles are presentable, safe and maintained to an acceptable standard.
- 2 Licensing Committee, at its meeting of 22 November 2016, approved consultation of stakeholders on potential changes to the Council's current Licensed Vehicle Licensing conditions. A seven week on-line public consultation on the proposals closed on 5 March 2017. There were 56 individual responses. Of these eight people had completed the survey twice and two had completed the survey three times. The consultation results may be found at Appendix 1 and 2. Further detailed responses received by email may be found at Appendix 4, 5 and 6.
- 3 Appendices 4 and 5 show responses received from elected officials of the Harlow Private Hire Association. These responses do not purport to represent the collective views of all members of the Association.
- 4 The Licensing Team is grateful to the trade and public for taking the time to consider carefully, all the issues which affect the trade and safety of the travelling public. The three issues that have attracted the most comment in the consultation are: tinted windows; higher emission control standards; and the existing condition which requires new Hackney Carriage vehicle licence applicants to purchase a new vehicle.
- 5 The Licensing Team has reviewed the representations received, commented on the issues raised, and made recommendations for future licensing policy in Appendix 3.

PROPOSALS

6. The Licensing Committee consider the representations made by the trade and the comments made by the Licensing Team and adopt the amendments to vehicle licensing conditions proposed in Appendix 3.

IMPLICATIONS

Place (includes Sustainability)

As set out in the report.

Author: **Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place**

Finance (Includes ICT)

None specific.

Author: **Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

Housing

None specific.

Author: **Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

Community Wellbeing (includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

None specific.

Author: **Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing**

Governance (includes HR)

Prior to adopting any amendment to vehicle licencing conditions, the council must have due regard to all the representations received in order to minimise the risk of legal challenge to the Council.

Author: **Dimple Roopchand, Assistant Solicitor, on behalf of Brian Keane, Head of Governance**

Background Papers:

Department of Transport Taxi and Private Hire Licensing: Best Practice Guide March 2010 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-licensing-best-practice-guidance>

Taxis: Quantity Restrictions: Standards Note SN 2772
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN02772/SN02772.pdf>