

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

14TH JULY 2008

**Guidance relating to the
Licensing of Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicles,
Drivers and Operators
Published in a Handbook**

OPEN	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
CONTACT OFFICER:	Brian Kent – Ext. 2593 Brian.Kent@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix A – Guidance to Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators <i>(this Appendix has been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request (see front cover for details))</i>

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to adopt guidance published in a handbook relating to the Licensing of Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators issued under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Committee is asked to DECIDE that:

1. **the guidance to Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators, as set out in Appendix A to the Report, be agreed and that officers be authorised to undertake consultation on the handbook before reporting back with a further recommendation**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The prime aim of licensing of vehicles, drivers, and operators is protecting public safety.
- 3.2 Over recent years many changes have been made in respect of Taxi and Private Hire vehicle Licensing and Best Practice guidance has been published by the Department of Transport.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 In 2007, an internal audit of the Council's Licensing Team recommended that a new licensing handbook relating to Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators should be published.
- 4.2 Many authorities have been required to change their existing policies with regard to applicants wishing to become taxi drivers and operators.
- 4.3 The six district councils within Worcestershire have formulated a new handbook to offer guidance to applicants on taxi licensing to give a consistent approach published in documents circulated via the Worcestershire *Hub* (*Appendix A*)

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report apart from the cost of printing the Handbook which has been accounted for in the budget.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A District Council has a statutory duty under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, the Transport Act 1985 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to license hackney carriage and private hire drivers and operators.
- 6.2 Information published in a handbook relating to these licences will be taken into account when dealing with new applications, as well as renewal applications for an existing hackney carriage/private hire/operator's licence, and also when considering whether to suspend or revoke an existing licence.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There is no risk management issues arising from this report

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Taxis and Private hire vehicles have a specific role to play in a sustainable integrated transport system.
- 8.2 It is important to provide clear information to current and potential applicants with a view to minimising cost and time spent by both the Council and the applicant for taxi licences.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 Head of Legal and Democratic Services

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.

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