

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2009

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

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Communities that are safe and feel safe
CORPORATE PLAN AIM:	A Better Quality of Life
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HEAD OF SERVICE:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
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APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 – Consultation responses on the draft Guidance to Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Vehicles Drivers and Operators Appendix 2 – Guidance to Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators <i>These Appendices have 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 adopt guidance / policy 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 Council is asked to APPROVE:**

1. **The guidance / policy to Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.**

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 worked together to produce a new handbook to offer guidance to applicants on taxi licensing to give a consistent approach published in documents circulated via the Worcestershire.
- 4.4 A period of consultation has been undertaken between 1st December 2008 and 9th January 2009. Responses were made by various stake-holders, notably the National Taxi and Private Hire Association, and the Wyre Forest Taxi Trade and considered by the Licensing and Environmental Committee on 23rd February 2009.
- 4.5 A matrix of the comments, Appendix 1 has been circulated electronically.
- 4.6 The final draft of the Guidance / Policy document, Appendix 2 has been circulated electronically.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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

Director of Legal and Corporate Services.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Draft 1 of the Guidance / Policy Document.