

**REPORT TO THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

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**Status:** Recommendation  
**Title:** Draft Taxi Licensing Policy  
**Originator:** Sarah Greenway – Senior Licensing Officer  
**Where from:** Regulatory Services  
**Where to next:** Council

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1 Purpose of report:

1.1 To approve the new taxi policy following public consultation through the Summer of 2012.

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 R That the Committee approves the final version of the taxi policy following public consultation.**

3. Key Facts

3.1 Harborough District Council has responsibility for licensing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles, drivers and operators within the district of Harborough. A comprehensive review has been undertaken of the existing policy since the original policy had been produced in 1998. The current policy is outdated and it was felt appropriate to review the existing policy to bring into line with other local authorities. The new taxi policy has been subject to public consultation with seven of the largest taxi companies within the District together with the National Private Hire Association. . The new taxi policy had been placed on the Council's web-page to engage with stakeholders to generate views and comments. Unfortunately the consultation process did not attract any responses.

3.2 The Taxi trade also requested at their meeting in December 2011 that the Council's taxi policy be reviewed to take into account their suggestion relating to Taxi vehicles displaying their Company names on their Taxi vehicles and telephone number. They consider that this change would enable taxis to be clearly identifiable to the travelling public and will offer additional protection to them..

3.3 The aim of Local Authority licensing of the Taxi Trade is to protect the public, and to ensure effective engagement between services and customers.

3.4 The main changes to the taxi policy have been summarised as per below:-

- New taxi policy in line with the Department of Transport's Practice to include vehicle identification as outlined in paragraph 2.2 above and Section 52 of the Road Safety Act which gives licensing authorities the power to suspend or revoke a hackney carriage or PHV driver's licence with immediate effect where they are of the opinion that the interests of public safety require such a course of action.
- Incorporates the knowledge tests required prior to being licensed for all new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers
- Overhauling the requirements in respect of advertising and signage on both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.
- New section entitled "Statement of Policy regarding relevant Convictions" providing information regarding convictions and whether taxi driver's licences should be issued depending upon the nature of the convictions as listed in the policy.
- New policy written in plain English

#### 4. Legal issues

4.1 None

#### 5 Resource Issues

5.1 Currently within existing budget provision.

#### 6.0 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes

6.1 An initial equality impact assessment (Appendix A) confirms that there is no requirement to carry out a full assessment as there is no direct discrimination against any groups identified.

#### 7.0 Impact on the Organisation

7.1 Not Applicable

#### 8.0 Community Safety Implications

8.1 The adoption of the amended Taxi Licensing Policy will ensure that the policy complies with Government best practice guidance, and will provide protection for the public using the service

#### 9.0 Carbon Management Implications

9.1 None arising from this report.

#### 10.0 Risk Management Implications

10.1 None arising from this report.

11.0 Consultation

11.1 There were no responses arising from the consultation process.

12.0 Options Considered

12.1 Option 1 to do nothing would not allow the new taxi policy to be implemented

12.2 Option 2 is to allow the new policy to be implemented Taxi Licensing Policy will ensure that the policy complies with Government best practice guidance, and will provide protection for the public using the service

13 Background Papers

13.1 None

Appendices:

A Hackney Carriage And Private Hire Licensing Policy

B Equality Impact Assessment