

For publication

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy -

Meeting: Appeals and Regulatory Committee

Date: November 2023

Cabinet portfolio: Health and Wellbeing

Report by: Licensing Manager

Policy Amendments

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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The proposed amendments are adopted with immediate effect.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The amendments will provide greater clarity in terms of taxi regulation and will not adversely affect public safety.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)

4.2 The proposal is to amend paragraph 1.10 of the council's policy, which states that as the council is an approved body under DBS rules the application should be made direct to them, to a

requirement whereby applicants make their application to the approved body as indicated by the council.

- 4.3 In the short term this will have no material effect, but it opens the door to engaging a third-party to administer DBS checks on behalf of the council.
- 4.4 DBS certificates obtained via an authorised and regulated third party can reduce costs to the council in both time & money, they can also provide the umbrella body status for the council to obtain DBS certificates for employees.
- 4.5 Any such move will be with the agreement of senior leadership at the council and be subject to procurement rules.
- 4.6 Vehicle Side-Steps
- 4.7 To remove the requirements in paragraph 2.1 as they have become outdated. Type approval now covers these requirements and ensures that any such equipment is safe and fit for use.
- 4.8 Vehicle Signage
- 4.9 Paragraph 2.11 is amended to clarify that no signage or advertising is permitted on the front or side windows. This was requested by the committee after a recent case.

5.0 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 A preliminary equalities impact assessment has been conducted and is attached at Appendix A. The conclusion was that a full assessment was not required as the proposed changes to the policy will not have any adverse impact with regard to the protected characteristics.

6.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A full risk management assessment has not been completed but this measure will not endanger public safety and reflects current practice.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 The amendments are approved with immediate effect.

For more information on this report please contact Trevor Durham
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