

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
General Licensing Committee	22 November 2016

Report template revised June 2008



SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy – Proposed Changes to Convictions Policy	Public Health, Safety and Wellbeing	Sharon Davies	5

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The key aim of the licensing service is to protect the public. This report introduces proposed changes to the hackney carriage and private hire convictions policy (Appendix 1) aimed at making the policy more robust and to reflect best practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Committee consider the revised Appendix 1 (policy relating to the relevance of previous convictions and cautions etc.) and subject to any amendments they may wish to make to approve a four week period of consultation.

DETAILS AND REASONING

The Council’s first hackney carriage and private hire policy was approved on 20th July 2016. This document brought together in one place policies that had been adopted by the General Licensing Committee over a number of years. Since its introduction further work has taken place to identify ways of strengthening the policy further and to reflect best practice.

Appendix 1 of the document – the policy relating to the relevance of previous convictions and cautions, etc. is important because it provides the framework through which decisions are made concerning an applicant/licence holder’s fitness to be/remain licensed. Whilst the existing document provides a structure for decision making, the proposed revised version is in line with best practice and more robust with a greater emphasis on considering non-conviction information and identifying patterns of behaviour.

The Committee is asked to consider the document attached to this report and approve a four week public consultation on it.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these.

FINANCIAL	None
LEGAL	The Council's legal team have considered the proposed policy. At this stage there is no likelihood of legal challenge as the Committee are only being asked to approve a period of consultation.
RISK	It is considered that this policy will provide a greater level of protection for members of the public.
THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	There will be no impact at this stage as the proposal is for a period of consultation.

OTHER (see below)	
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<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Proposed Appendix 1