

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE	21st MARCH 2017

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SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
UPDATE ON DRAFT POLICY TO ENSURE ROADWORTHINESS OF LICENSED VEHICLES WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION	PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING	PETER HAYWOOD	11

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report sets out the current position regarding a draft policy to ensure the roadworthiness of licensed vehicles which have been subject to modification.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is requested to note the report, and agree to receive a more detailed update at its June meeting containing:

- the outcome of discussions with Lancashire County Council (who will be commissioned to test the modified vehicles for roadworthiness); and
- a proposal for trade consultation on the draft policy and testing arrangements, which members will be asked to authorise with a view to put forward to council for the adoption of a final policy.

DETAILS AND REASONING

Members may be aware of a situation discovered by former Licensing staff relating to the modification of vehicles licensed for use in the Borough. In essence, it appears that vehicles were being modified but were not then subject to any further enhanced testing to ensure their continuing roadworthiness.

As a result of this concern, officers have drafted a policy to introduce an appropriate testing regime for existing modified vehicles and a requirement for all vehicles which are converted from the original manufacturer's specification which have not been previously been licensed with the council, to present the appropriate certification at the time of the application. These requirements will only come into effect once the policy is adopted. A copy of the draft policy is attached as Appendix 1.

There is still considerable work to be undertaken before the policy is ready for members' final consideration. This work includes:

- entering into formal discussion with colleagues at Lancashire County Council (whose facilities will be used to carry out any tests ultimately required to establish the roadworthiness of a modified vehicle). These discussions will cover topics such as fees to be charged for the agreed tests, frequency / timescales etc;
- incorporating any agreed tests into the Council's formal assessment checklist (in effect as a second stage or additional list of test(s) for modified vehicles); and
- developing a consultation plan for seeking the views of other interested parties (eg companies carrying out modifications, or holders of a vehicle licence when that vehicle has been modified).

It is envisaged that a further update report could be presented to members in June 2017. Once the necessary preparations are complete, and the practical implications better understood, a report will then be presented to members seeking agreement to go to wider / public consultation (along with a proposed methodology). Once the proposed consultation exercise is complete, a report summarising the responses can be placed before members, (with a view to considering adoption of the final draft of the proposed policy by council).

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas shown below. A risk assessment has also been carried out. The table shows the implications in respect of each of these.

FINANCIAL	There are no financial implications at this stage. Following discussions with Lancashire County Council, the financial implications of any proposed changes to the vehicle testing regime will be set out in the further update reports to members in relation to this policy.		
LEGAL	There are no legal implications identified at this stage.		
RISK	No risks identified.		
THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	None		
OTHER (see below)			
<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

Appendix 1 – draft policy for modified vehicles