

**Report of the Service Director Legal Services  
to the General Licensing Regulatory Board  
to be held on the 23 June 2021**

**Taxi and Private Hire Policy Review Consultation 2021**

**1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform Members and seek views on the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy Consultation.

**2. Background**

The Department for Transport (DfT) has recommended that all licensing authorities make publicly available a cohesive policy document that brings together all their procedures on taxi and private hire vehicle licensing. This should include policies on convictions, a 'fit and proper' person or 'suitability' test, conditions of licence and vehicle specifications and standards. A copy of the DfT statutory guidance is attached as appendix 1.

When formulating any taxi and private hire vehicle policy, the primary and overriding objective must be to protect the public by ensuring that the licensing regime protects the vulnerable.

In respect of this we have produced our Taxi and Private Hire Licensing policy and are now in a position to carry out the statutory consultation before the final policy is determined. A copy of the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy is attached as appendix 2.

**3. Current Position**

The Council is responsible for the regulation of taxi and private hire services within its area.

We have a statutory duty to have regard to and fully recognise the importance of the new statutory standards published by the Department for Transport in July 2020. Whilst the focus of the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards is on protecting children and vulnerable adults, it is considered that all passengers will benefit from the recommendations contained in it.

This policy sets out the requirements and standards that must be met by those working within the trade as drivers, vehicle proprietors or operators.

Changes have been made to some existing conditions of licence to ensure they are accurate and reflect current practises and to ensure that we are applying consistent standards with the other Licensing Authorities in South Yorkshire.

The principal purpose of taxi and private hire licensing is to protect the public and promote public safety.

In order to reflect any changes in the taxi and private hire sector, either locally or nationally, the Council undertakes to review this policy at least once every five years but will also consider a policy review at any time should there be significant issues arising in the interim.

The consultation will run for 10 weeks commencing on 25 June 2021 and finishing at 00:00 hours on 3 September 2021.

A brief summary of changes is attached as appendix 3.

#### **4. Proposal**

Members are asked to consider the consultation document and provide any views to the Licensing Officer in writing no later than 00:00 on the 3 September 2021.

**5. Recommendation**

- (i) That the report be noted, and the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy be approved for public consultation to take place for 10 weeks commencing on 25 June 2021 and finishing at 00:00 hours on 3 September 2021; and
- (ii) That a report on the outcome of the public consultation be submitted to the September meeting of this Committee for consideration and referral to Cabinet and Council for final approval.

**6. Officer Contact**

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