

## **Report to LICENSING COMMITTEE**

### **Government Response to the Working Party on Taxis**

**Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr A. Shah – Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

**Officer Contact:** Deputy Chief Executive – People & Place

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#### **Reason for the Report**

The reason for this report is to advise Members of the Government response to the Department for Transport Ministerial Working Party review of Taxi and Private Hire Licensing.

#### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the report and feedback any comments on its content.

**Government Response to the Working Party on Taxis**

**1 Background**

- 1.1 In September 2017 the Transport Minister requested that a working party be convened to review the current regulatory regime for taxis and private hire as he did not consider it fit for purpose.
- 1.2 A working party was convened and was chaired by Professor Mohammed Abdel-Haq from the University of Bolton. Other members of the group included trade representatives of trade groups, the Local Government Association, Transport for London, Suzy Lamplugh Trust, two Members of Parliament and the Competition and Markets Authority. Oral and written evidence was also taken. Their report was published in September 2018.
- 1.3 The Government have recently published their response to the recommendation from the working party. It is attached to this report at Appendix 1. In addition, a consultation was launched on statutory guidance to licensing authorities. This is attached at Appendix 2.

**2 Report findings**

- 2.1 The main proposals as outlined by the Government include:
- Implementing national minimum standards via legislation
  - Statutory guidance
  - Restricting cross border working
  - National enforcement powers
  - Fixed penalty powers to be examined
  - Support for CCTV in licensed vehicles
  - Enhanced DBS checks and update service
  - Convictions guidance
  - Mandatory national database
  - Training for Officers and Councillors
  - Training for licence holders
  - English communication skills
  - Access to wheelchair accessible vehicle

**3 Recommendations**

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report and feedback any comments on its content.

**4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 N/A

**5 Consultation**

- 5.1 N/A

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- 6      **Financial Implications - None**
- 7      **Legal Services Comments - Information only report**
8.     **Co-operative Agenda**
- 8.1    Not applicable
- 9      **Human Resources Comments**
- 9.1    Not applicable
- 10     **Risk Assessments**
- 10.1   Not applicable
- 11     **IT Implications**
- 11.1   None
- 12     **Property Implications**
- 12.1   None
- 13     **Procurement Implications**
- 13.1   None
- 14     **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 14.1   None
- 15     **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1   None
- 16     **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1   No
- 17     **Key Decision**
- 17.1   No
- 18     **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1   N/A
- 19     **Background Papers - None**
- 20     **Appendices**
- 20.1   Appendix 1 – Government response  
Appendix 2 – Draft statutory guidance