

**Report to LICENSING COMMITTEE**

## **Executive Hire Policy**

**Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr A. Shah – Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

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

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Manager

**Ext. 5026**

**6 November 2018**

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**Reason for the Report**

The reason for this report is to provide Members with feedback from the private hire trade following a consultation on the proposed Executive Hire Policy.

**Recommendations**

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

**Executive Hire Policy**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Over recent years, the private hire trade has become more diverse and there is now a much wider range of vehicles and services available to customers/passengers.
- 1.2 It is important that policies recognise the wide range of private hire services that are now available, and have a licensing regime in place that facilitates the licensing of businesses which operate professionally and safely. At the same time the licensing regime should offer adequate protection to prevent the licensing and operation of businesses which are non-compliant and do not offer the necessary level of public protection.
- 1.3 The main distinction between standard and Executive Private Hire can broadly be described as the type of client catered for, the type of service offered, and the cost of the service provided. Drivers of Executive Private Hire Vehicles must hold a valid private hire drivers licence issued by the same local authority that issued the Executive vehicle and operator licence. The legislation requires that all licensed drivers (private hire and hackney carriage) are fit and proper to hold such a licence. The standards required by the Licensing Authority in terms of driving skills, medical fitness, criminal/motoring convictions, knowledge of licensing requirements, safeguarding and regional topography knowledge is deemed to be same for both standard and Executive Private Hire drivers.

**2 Current Position**

- 2.1 The proposed Executive Hire Policy attached at Appendix 1 went out for consultation to the private hire trade on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 for a period of 28 days. At the time of writing this report, the consultation period is still open and due to close on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The responses will then be collated and analysed.
- 2.2 A verbal update regarding the responses will be provided.
- 2.3 Members are asked to consider the attached proposed policy prior to moving forward for approval at December 2018 Council.

**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 Yes

**6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 None

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7        **Legal Services Comments**

7.1       Under section 55(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council may attach such conditions to the grant of a private hire vehicle operator's licence as the Council considers to be reasonably necessary. Under section 48(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council may attach such conditions to the grant of a private hire vehicle licence as the Council considers to be reasonably necessary. Any person aggrieved by any conditions attached to a private hire vehicle operator's licence or a private hire vehicle licence may appeal to the magistrates' court.  
(A. Evans)

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

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19      **Background Papers**

19.1   None

20      **Appendices**

20.1   Appendix 1 – Executive Hire Policy