

## **Licensing Committee**

# **Taxi Licensing Policy Update**

## **Report of Executive Member for Neighbourhoods**

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### **Executive Summary**

This report requests that Members approve an amendment to the Council's taxi licensing policy in light of policy changes and best practice.

### **Recommendations**

That Members:

- 1) Note the report; and
- 2) Approve the policy amendment as outlined in the report.

## Taxi Licensing Policy Update

### 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request that Members approve an amendment to the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy.

### 2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Council in its capacity as licensing authority is responsible for the licensing of private hire and hackney carriage drivers and vehicles and private hire operators.
- 2.2 Best practice suggests that licensing authorities adopt a single licensing policy in order to unify all its decisions, procedures and conditions as a single source of information for licensees, applicants and interested parties.
- 2.3 Oldham has had such a policy for a number of years and from time to time it is reviewed in order to keep up with decisions made by the Licensing Committee, revised application procedures, guidance and best practice.

### 3. Proposed Amendments

- 3.1 Upon reviewing current practices against the policy Officers wish to request that Members approve the following amendments/additions to the policy to it covers the latest decisions (particularly the GM minimum licensing standards) and best practice/guidance.
- Para. 2.5.8 relating to licensing a vehicle
  - Para. 3.2.4 in relation to the DBS update service
  - Para 3.2.8 in relation to new HMRC checks from April 2022.
  - Para 3.3.6 relating to how many times an applicant can undertake a written test before considering refusal
  - Para 7.6 is to consider adjusting the frequency of medicals for younger drivers following first medical examination

### 4 Legal Services Comments

- 4.1 Under section 57 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council can require an applicant for a licence under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (in respect of hackney carriages) or the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (in respect of private hire vehicles and private hire operators) to submit such information as they may reasonably consider necessary to enable them to determine whether the licence should be granted or whether conditions should be attached to any such licence. Any person aggrieved by the refusal to grant him a licence may appeal to the magistrates' court. (A Evans)

### 5 Co-operative Agenda

- 5.1 The licensing process is in place not only to protect the public but also to support and where necessary regulate businesses within the Borough.
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**6 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

6.1 None

**7 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

7.1 None

**8 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

8.1 No

**9 Key Decision**

9.1 No

**10 Key Decision Reference**

10.1 N/A

**11 Background Papers**

11.1 None

**12 Appendices**

12.1 Appendix 1 - Taxi Licensing Policy

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