

Report to LICENSING COMMITTEE

TAXI POLICY

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Housing & Licensing

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Reason for Decision

The reason for this report is to request that Members approve an amendment to the Councils Taxi and Private Hire licensing policy in relation to the acceptance of driving licences.

Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the amendment.

TAXI POLICY**1 Background**

- 1.1 The Council, acting in its role as Licensing Authority in relation to taxi and private hire licensing adopts and reviews a policy periodically which sets out how it carries out its functions. This includes application requirements.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The current policy was adopted in June 2024. An amendment to the current policy is sought in relation to the production of driving licences as part of the application process. The current wording at 3.4 of the policy states:

Applicants must have held a full GB or EU driving licence for at least two years when applying for a licence. If you do not fall into the categories above and you have a foreign driving licence you must have held a valid licence for at least two years, of which 12 months must have been GB or EU. The two years commences from the issue date of the licence, rather than the date of passing the test.

- 2.2 It is requested that reference to EU licences is removed on the grounds that driving licence status checks on offences and endorsements cannot be carried out on EU licences. Therefore, going forward is request that the policy states that all applicants must have a UK licence to enable checks to be conducted.
- 2.3 It is further requested that existing licence holders who are operating on a UK driving licence must transfer to a UK licence before the expiry of their current dual drivers' licence issued by this authority.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 There are no alternative options, other than to approve a policy which we must have in place under the Act.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 Not undertaken.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Not applicable

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 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)

7 **Appendices**

7.1 None