

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE	24 MARCH 2021	5

STATUTORY TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE STANDARDS AND REVIEW OF THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

This report is submitted to update members regarding the Department for Transport's Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards which will result in updates to the current policy. Members of the Committee will be requested to authorise Officers to commence a consultation exercise to update the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee notes the Department for Transport correspondence regarding Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards.
2. That the Committee authorises Officers to conduct a full consultation exercise and report the results of the consultation exercise to a subsequent meeting of the Public Protection Committee.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

First Policy approved by the Public Protection Committee following consultation on the 20th September 2006

Council meeting on 16th October 2017 RESOLVED to approve the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy document.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

REPORT

1. During the summer of 2020, the Secretary of State for Transport published the [Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards](#) under section 177(1) of the Policing and Crime Act 2017.
2. Section 177(4) of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 requires licensing authorities to have regard to the contents of the document when setting, implementing, and reviewing policies and practices that underpin local taxi and private hire licensing regimes.
3. Fylde Council currently apply a number of the standards in the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, but some areas require further clarification and amendment, such as in relation to background checks via the Disclosure and Barring Service.
4. The Secretary of State indicated that Licensing Authorities are expected to implement these measures as soon as possible and that the Department for Transport will closely monitor progress, work with authorities not meeting their responsibilities and look to introduce legislation if licensing authorities fail to adopt the standards and update their operations. It should be noted that the statutory standards carry significant weight and the recommendations contained in the document should be implemented unless there is a compelling local reason not to.
5. Officers have therefore prepared a summary of the proposals and any required alterations which may be seen at appendix 1. These will require updates to the Policy, which is currently due for renewal and as such, an updated Policy has been prepared for consultation at appendix 2.
6. Members are therefore requested to consider the information from the Department for Transport and consider instructing officers to undertake a consultation exercise to review the existing Policy.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no implications arising directly from the report.
Legal	There are no implications arising directly from the report.
Community Safety	There are no implications arising directly from the report.
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no implications arising directly from the report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no implications arising directly from the report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no implications arising directly from the report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy	2017	https://new.fylde.gov.uk/business/licensing/taxi-licensing/hackney-carriage-and-private-hire-licensing-policy/ https://new.fylde.gov.uk/business/licensing/taxi-licensing/hackney-carriage-and-private-hire-licensing-policy/
Department for Transport Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards	2020	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-standards

Attached documents

Summary of Proposals

Amended Policy for Consultation