

**SURREY-WIDE CONVICTIONS POLICY FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND  
PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS**

Report of the: Head of Housing & Community  
Contact: Rachel Jackson  
Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No  
If yes, reason urgent decision required:  
Annexes/Appendices (attached): None  
Other available papers (not attached): None

**REPORT SUMMARY**

**That the Committee agree in principal to the adoption of a Surrey-wide convictions policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers**

**RECOMMENDATION (S)**

- (1) That the Committee agree in principle to the formulation of a Surrey-wide convictions policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers.**

*Notes*

**1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy**

- 1.1 None for the purposes of this report.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Officers have been working in partnership with all 11 Surrey Authorities on a Licensing and Safeguarding project whose aim is to make improvements to licensing in Surrey to meet safeguarding responsibilities.
- 2.2 One key aim of the project is to implement a convictions policy across the county relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers. The formulation of the policy has been led by Guildford Borough Council in liaison with all Surrey Authorities, and Surrey Chief Executives agreed that a common (Surrey wide) convictions policy for drivers should be supported.

- 2.3 Other proposals in the project include training for drivers, information sharing and matters under the Licensing Act. Once progressed, any such proposals will be brought to this Committee for consideration as necessary.
- 2.4 The intention is that a common convictions policy is adopted across the county. As the intention would be to formulate a single policy Surrey-wide, one Authority (Reigate & Banstead Borough Council) will facilitate the public consultation. This Authority would of course have links to the consultation on our website and other trade communications.
- 2.5 The draft policy is extensive, and of a different style to other licensing policies adopted by this Authority, therefore Members will be notified when the consultation period commences to ensure that any comments or observations they wish to submit can be taken into account.
- 2.6 The final policy would be brought to this Committee in January for adoption. It is proposed that only very minor (if any) changes should be considered at this time to ensure that there are no significant deviations from the common policy.

### 3 Proposals

- 3.1 That the Committee agree in principle to the adoption of a Surrey-wide convictions policy (following public consultation) which would sit alongside the Authority's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire policy.
- 3.2 Following the consultation, a further report will be brought to the Committee in January recommending adoption of the policy.

### 4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 The implementation of the new policy will be progressed using existing officer resources.
- 4.2 ***Chief Finance Officer's comments: All financial implications and budget requirements are addressed within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Efficiency Plan.***

### 5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 5.1 ***Monitoring Officer's comments:*** The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 requires the Council to be satisfied that a person is a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver's licence. The adoption of a countywide policy would ensure a consistent and robust approach is taken across all Surrey licensing Authorities.

### 6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

- 6.1 None for the purposes of this report.

## **7 Partnerships**

- 7.1 Surrey-wide Local Authority partnership working is critical to ensuring the policy is adopted across the County.

## **8 Risk Assessment**

- 8.1 There are no significant risks arising from this report.

## **9 Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 9.1 That the Committee agree in principle to the formulation of a Surrey-wide convictions policy, and that the final policy be approved by this Committee in January 2018.

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: (All Wards);**