

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICIES**

<u>Report of the:</u>	Head of Housing & Community
<u>Contact:</u>	Rachel Jackson
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
<u>Annexes/Appendices</u> (attached):	Annexe 1: Convictions policy Annexe 2: Revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy
<u>Other available papers</u> (not attached):	Report to the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee dated 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 Responses to consultation on the convictions policy

**REPORT SUMMARY**

**The Committee are asked to agree to recommend to Council the adoption of the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy incorporating the new Surrey-wide convictions policy.**

**RECOMMENDATION (S)**

- 1. That the Committee agree to recommend to Council the adoption of the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy incorporating the new Surrey-wide convictions policy.**
- 2. Authorise the Licensing, Grants & HIA Manager in consultation with the Chair of Licensing Policy and Planning Committee to make such minor amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy (including convictions policy) as may be required from time to time under the Delegated Powers scheme.**

*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 In September 2017 this Committee were informed of project work being undertaken in Surrey regarding licensing and safeguarding. The Committee agreed in principal to the adoption of a Surrey-wide convictions policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, and a further report be brought to this Committee following the public consultation. Consultation on the convictions policy commenced on 21 October 2017 and ended on 4 December 2017.
- 2.2 The convictions policy is attached as Annexe 1, and responses to the consultation have been previously circulated to the Committee, but in general are supportive of the proposal..
- 2.3 Members were also advised of other proposals within the project, one of the proposals is to introduce mandatory child sexual exploitation (CSE) awareness training for all drivers. Members are asked to approve this requirement in line with the Surrey project.
- 2.4 As the introduction of a mandatory training scheme would require amendments to the existing Council policy, Officers have taken the opportunity to suggest some minor revisions to the policy for consideration by the Committee. Consultation on the revised policy commenced on 31 October 2017 and ended on 4 December 2017.
- 2.5 The revised policy is attached Annexe 2, and despite a wide consultation with the trade, not one response was received, therefore it can be taken that there are no objections to the revised Policy.
- 2.6 The main amendments to the policy are:
- (i) Reference to the new convictions policy.
  - (ii) Inclusion of the requirement for drivers to undertake the CSE awareness course.
  - (iii) To extend the period an applicant needs to have held a UK/EU driving licence before they may apply for a Private Hire Driver Licence from 2 to 3 years.
  - (iv) To extend the period for an applicant for a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence to have held a Private Hire Driver Licence from 3 to 6 years.
  - (v) Inclusion of an "intended use" policy.

### **3 Proposals**

- 3.1 That the Committee agree to recommend to Council the adoption of a revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy incorporating the convictions policy.

### **4 Financial and Manpower Implications**

- 4.1 The implementation and enforcement of the policies 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 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 convictions policy and revised 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 A Surrey-wide Local Authority partnership is critical to ensuring effective licensing and safeguarding practices are 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 to recommend to Council the adoption of a revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy incorporating the convictions policy.

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