

RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

8th JUNE 2016

REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To invite members to consider and approve a new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire policy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **To agree the Policy as amended following the formal consultation process, for the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy at Appendix B.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 A Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy will enable this Council to have a clear policy on all matters relating to vehicles and drivers.
- 3.2 This Policy has been drawn up in line with the Department of Transport's Best Practice Guidance.
- 3.3 The proposed amendments following consultation are highlighted in the Policy in italics.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 If this Policy is approved all taxi matters will be dealt with in the future with reference to this document.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. It is feasible that amendments to the policy could impact upon the cost of the service and/or fees charged, however this report seeks only to agree the content of the policy for consultation purposes.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

- 6.1 This policy has been written in accordance with the Council's responsibilities under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 7.1 This policy has been written with Community Safety in mind and it endeavours, as far as is possible, to ensure that the travelling public are safe both in respect of the suitability of the driver and the mechanical soundness of the vehicle.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment Report has been carried out. The policy makes significant provision for issues arising from Equalities and the changes proposed in this report raise no further such issues.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 There are no risks relating to this report.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 The report recommends that a reduction of 25% off the fee should be given where the vehicle is fuelled by LPG, Petrol/+ electric or compressed natural gas. This is to actively encourage the use of these vehicles for Hackney Carriage or Private Hire.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Formal consultation on the new Policy ended on Friday 20th May 2016. The following were consulted:

- MBC Licensed Drivers
- MBC Licensed Proprietors
- MBC Licensed Operators
- MBC Town and Parish Councils
- Neighbouring Authorities
- Melton Town Centre Partnership
- Melton Chamber of Trade
- Local Businesses
- Local Residents
- General Public
- MBC Councillors
- The National Private Hire Association
- Age Concern
- Health Authority
- Leicestershire County Council
- Leicestershire Constabulary
- Public notice to Melton Times
- Hard Copies to 3 Melton Sure Start Centre & MBC reception
- Website updated
- Notice on MBC board

In addition, there was also a meeting with drivers and their representatives on 12th May 2016.

11.2 Their comments and officers' responses are summarised in the table attached at Appendix A.

11.3 As a result of consultation minor changes are proposed to the Policy. These are marked as red tracked changes to the Policy at Appendix B.
Note that the previous changes to the policy which were made before consultation remain as italics which are highlighted in yellow.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards.

Contact Officer: Pat Reid Regulatory Services Manager

Date: 26th May 2016

Appendices : Appendix A – Summary of Consultation Responses
Appendix B - Proposed Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Policy.

Reference :