

MELTON ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

7TH MARCH 2017

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND REGULATORY SERVICES

AMENDMENTS TO THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To invite the Committee to adopt the on proposed revisions to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire policy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) **The Committee agrees to adopt the Policy for the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy at Appendix A.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy enables 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 main changes to the current way of operating are highlighted in the policy for ease of identification. The changes to the Disclosure and Barring Services checks have been made on the recommendation by The Welland Audit Consortium and their report can be seen at **Appendix B**. A table of all other changes can be seen at **Appendix C**

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 minor implications from the proposed change to the reduction for fully Wheelchair accessible vehicles on the application and renewal fees from 25% to 100% in this report.
- 5.2 The current fees table can be seen at **Appendix D** (n.b. these subject to review for 2018/19).

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 will be carried out when the content of the policy is fully determined.

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 Full consultation has been carried out with drivers, operators and other key stakeholders. One response has been received and can be seen at **Appendix E**. It is not considered that this impacts of the content of the proposed amendments to the Policy.

12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards.

Contact Officer: Simon Greensmith: Licensing and Compliance Officer

Date: 20th February 2018

Appendices : Appendix A – Proposed Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Policy.
Appendix B – Welland audit report and recommendations
Appendix C – Table of changes
Appendix D – Table of Fees
Appendix E – Representation

Reference : Q : Committees