



Licensing Committee – 16th July 2018

Licensing Updates

Purpose of report

To provide members with an update on licensing matters.

1.0 Background

1.1 This report provides members with an update on licensing activity over the last three months.

2.0 Taxi Policy Consultation – Removal of the ‘Grandfather Rights’

2.1 Further to previous reports in September 2017 and March 2018 in relation to proposed changes to the taxi policy in respect of removal of the ‘Grandfather Rights’, a report was taken to Policy and Resources Committee on 11th June 2018.

https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/862/policy_and_resources_committee

2.2 Prior to the meeting, two written representations and a petition with 140 signatures were received opposing the removal of the ‘Grandfather Rights’.

2.3 The Committee agreed to amend the wording of the taxi policy and resolved that the amendments be submitted for further consultation. The timescale for implementation of the policy was extended from 1st April 2019 to 1st April 2020.

3.0 Updated Section 182 guidance

3.1 There have been some minor changes to the Section 182 guidance from April 2018. The updated document and a summary of the changes have been provided to all members of the Licensing Committee.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003>

4.0 Update training for Councillors

4.1 Licensing Training was carried out on 19th June for members of the new Licensing Committee. The training, attended by nine of the fourteen members, covered licensing legislation and process and included a mock hearing. For those not able to attend further training is being sought, it being important that members attend so they are competent to sit on Licensing Panels, in line with the revised Licensing Protocol being considered by Council on 23 July 2018.

5.0 Fit and Proper person test

5.1 The Institute of Licensing issued new guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney and private hire trades in April 2018. This guidance gives an update on the fit and proper person test which the Licensing Enforcement Officer will update members on during this meeting.

6.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report. In respect of the Taxi Policy Consultation – Removal of the ‘Grandfather Rights’, the Equality Impact Assessment will be reconsidered in light of comments made at Policy and Resources Committee on 11th June 2018.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

8.0 Risk Management

8.1 There are no identified risks arising from the report.

9.0 Resource and Financial Implications

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report.

10.0 Constitutional Implications

10.1 There are no constitutional Implications arising from this report.

11.0 Implications for our customers

11.1 There are no implications for our customers arising from this report. Any implications which arise from the taxi policy consultation will be reported to Policy and Resources Committee.

12.0 Privacy Impact Assessment

12.1 There are no privacy impact implications arising from this report.

13.0 Corporate Outcomes

- 13.1 The Corporate Outcomes affected by this report are:
- High Quality Service Delivery – by ensuring the taxi licensing regime meets the legislative requirements and by assisting those who require wheelchair accessible vehicles
 - Knowledge of Customers and Communities – through listening to the requests of the taxi trade and consulting with the public
 - Councillors and staff with the right knowledge, skills and behaviours – through ensuring members are trained and given appropriate and timely updates

14.0 Recommendations

14.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

Legal	Power: Town and Police Clauses Act 1847, Local Government and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976, Licensing Act 2003.				
	Other considerations:				
Background Papers: P&R report September 2017 P&R report March 2018 P&R report June 2018					
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Date: 2nd July 2018					
CFO		MO		CX	