



## Licensing Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### Licensing Update

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#### **Purpose of report**

To provide members with an update on licensing matters.

#### **Attachments:**

**Appendix 1:** Member briefing – stolen vehicle licence plates

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#### **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 the last update to this Committee and the report to Policy and Resources Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> November, it was agreed to rescind the decision to carry out further consultation on the removal of the ‘Grandfather Rights’. The committee also approved amendments to the Taxi Policy in respect of the wheelchair-accessible vehicle specification.

#### **3.0 National Taxi Database**

3.1 The council started using the National Taxi Database on the 1<sup>st</sup> February. According to a recent National Anti-Fraud Network newsletter, 250 councils have now nominated a Single Point of Contact and have started the process of signing up to the database.

#### **4.0 Gambling Policy**

4.1 The council approved and adopted the Gambling Policy at its meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> December. The policy is being advertised for one month prior to commencement on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019.

#### **5.0 Stolen Taxi Vehicle Licence Plates**

5.1 Members will be aware from a briefing dated 10<sup>th</sup> December (Appendix 1) that we have had a number of taxi vehicle licence plates stolen. Since the briefing a further taxi plate has been stolen.

#### **6.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

6.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

#### **7.0 Legal Implications**

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **8.0 Risk Management**

8.1 There are no identified risks arising from this report.

## 9.0 Resource and Financial Implications

9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## 10.0 Constitutional Implications

10.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

## 11.0 Implications for our customers

11.1 Local press have reported on the stolen taxi vehicles licence plates to alert the public. This included messages to residents about how they can stay safe when using taxis. A radio interview has also been carried out and schools have been contacted and reminded to remain vigilant and ensure procedures are followed for transporting children.

## 12.0 Privacy Impact Assessment

12.1 A Privacy Impact Assessment has been carried out in relation to the new National Taxi Database which has been reported to Policy and Resources Committee.

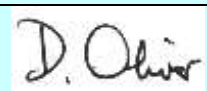
## 13.0 Corporate Outcomes

13.1 The Corporate Outcomes affected by this report are:

- High Quality Service Delivery –Effective Partnership Working – with the taxi trade and other local authorities and the police in relation to the stolen taxi plates
- Effective Management – by ensuring that the licensing regime meets appropriate guidance

## 14.0 Recommendations

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

<b>Legal</b>	Power: Town and Police Clauses Act 1847, Local Government and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976, The Gambling Act 2005.				
	Other considerations:				
<b>Background Papers:</b> P&R report September 2018 P&R report November 2018					
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Samantha Edmunds Environmental Protection Manager 01832 742030 sedmunds@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk					
<b>Date:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2019					
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>		<b>CX</b> 23/01/19	



<b>Date:</b>	14 December 2018
<b>Ref no:</b>	MBriefing-2018-028 Stolen Taxi Plates

## Member Briefing

<b>Title:</b>	Stolen Taxi Vehicle Licence Plates
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### Summary:

In the last six months four licenced taxi vehicle plates have been stolen from within our district. Northamptonshire Police are investigating and the Communications team are reminding residents about taxi safety over the festive period and reporting the stolen licence plates to the local press to alert the public.

### Further information:

The following Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle licence plates have been stolen:

PHV/31  
PHV/70  
HCV/6  
HCV/20

These plate numbers have now been taken out of use.

Taxi drivers are trusted members of our society and controls are in place through the licensing regime to ensure that taxi drivers are fit and proper people and that cars are safe to be driven. It is therefore of concern that four license plates have been stolen.

Members are asked to ensure that they refer any residents who have concerns about taxi drivers to the Licensing Enforcement Officer of the Council ([environment@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:environment@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk) or 01832 742241). If members of the public see any of the licence plates above, they should call the police on 101 immediately and report the sighting with as much detail as possible.

The Council's safeguarding officer will remind schools to be vigilant and ensure that they follow their procedures for transporting children. All councils in Northamptonshire have also been made aware.

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<b>Approved by CMT</b>	Yes
<b>Approved by the Leader</b>	Yes