

**TAXI LICENSING: REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES – CONSULTATION RESPONSES**

<b>REF:</b>	<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>	<b>APPRAISAL</b>
1	<b>3 Year Driver Licences</b> Introduction of an initial 3 years driver licence.	YES: = 11 NO: = 3 N/A = 8	See Report GPLC 13 November 2015
2	<b>Driver Applications &amp; Awareness Test</b> Changes to initial application to allow drivers to make full application rather than waiting until Driver Awareness Test has been passed.	YES: = 7 NO: = 8 N/A = 7	Recommend no change to policy - As the alternative in allowing applicants to submit the full application carries a risk that the DBS certificate (valid for 1 month) or possibly the Medical (valid for 3 months) could become out of date ( under the terms of the current policy) before the licence is ready to issue. There is also the issue of refunds applicable to applicants who fail to pass the driver awareness test or fail to fulfil other licence application requirements.
3	<b>Late or Delayed Renewals</b> Introduction of a temporary licence where driver renewals are delayed or are made late prior to expiry.	YES: = 13 NO: = 5 N/A = 4	Recommend change to policy to allow the issue of a temporary licence in the following circumstances - where renewal applications have been made in good time but are subject to undue delay which have been caused by the DBS (disclosure & barring service) or DVLA (driver & vehicle licensing agency) a temporary licence should be issued.  For <b>new</b> applications it is viewed on grounds of public safety that the required checks with the DBS & DVLA <u>must</u> be undertaken before a licence is initially issued.
4	<b>5 Year Operator Licences</b> Introduction of 5 year operator licences.	YES: = 13 NO: = 3 N/A = 6	See Report GPLC 13 November 2015

5	<p><b>Sub – Contracted Bookings</b> A new private hire operator's licence condition requiring operators to notify customers if their booking has been sub-contracted.</p>	<p>YES: = 13 NO: = 4 N/A = 5</p>	<p>For the benefit of customers a new condition should be added to the policy/PHO licence conditions requiring operators to notify the hirer when their booking has been sub-contacted to another operator. The condition will require the original operator to provide the name and contact details of the sub contracted private hire operator.</p>
6	<p><b>Age limit for all new vehicles</b> Should the Council introduce an age limit for all vehicles when presented the first time for licensing?</p>	<p>YES: = 7 NO: = 12 N/A = 3</p>	<p>Recommend no change to policy.  The alternative is for the Committee to request a full report regarding this matter is submitted for consideration.</p>
7	<p><b>Terminal age limit policy for all licensed vehicles</b> Should the Council introduce a terminal age limit for all licensed vehicles?</p>	<p>YES: = 7 NO: = 13 N/A = 2</p>	<p>Recommend no change to policy.  The alternative is for the Committee to request a full report regarding this matter is submitted for consideration.</p>
8	<p><b>Applications that do not Conform to the Policy</b> Should the Council consider applications for suitable vehicles to be licensed with the determination of passenger capacity based on the DVLA V5 document where less than 4 passengers (city cars etc)?</p>	<p>YES: =7 NO: = 8 N/A = 7</p>	<p>Given the complexity of this matter it is recommended that a further report is submitted to the Committee to consider an appropriate approach to deal with vehicles that fall outside the current policy.</p>

9	Any other comments	<p>(1) Planning</p> <p>(2) DAT</p>	<p>Application form already includes reminder to all operators to check any possible planning implications. The licence also states that it does not supersede any planning restrictions etc.</p> <p>Passing the Driver Awareness Testing (DAT) is now compulsory for all drivers. Originally introduced in September 2007 there are however a number of drivers holding a licence prior to its introduction.</p>