

TAXI (PRIVATE HIRE & HACKNEY CARRIAGE) LICENSING – REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the review of the Statement of Principles for taxi (drivers, hackney carriage vehicles, private hire vehicles and operators) licensing, which was previously undertaken in November 2011.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As with many of its other areas of activities and functions the local authority is entitled to adopt policies in relation to taxi licensing. These policies and procedures are an integral part of the taxi licensing regime and provide transparency and guidance for all those involved in the process. Unlike the licensing regimes that deal with the Licensing Act or Gambling Act there is no statutory requirement to formulate such a policy but they are created voluntarily to assist with consistent decision making.
- 2.2 The current policy can be viewed on the Councils website at: www.newforest.gov.uk/taxi-licensing-policy

3. REVIEW OF POLICY

- 3.1 A twelve week consultation has been undertaken with the trade and other interested parties. This started on the 31 July and ended on the 23 October 2015.
- 3.2 There were 22 responses to the consultation which are attached to this report as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3 The Licensing Officer appraisal to the consultation is attached to this report as **Appendix 2**.
- 3.4 The Committee is invited to consider the consultation responses and the officer appraisal and make any further changes that are considered appropriate.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All costs associated with the review are met from taxi fee income.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Where applicable the statement of principles will cover the approach taken by the Council to address environmental considerations.

6. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Where applicable the statement of principles will cover the approach taken by the Council to consider crime and disorder concerns.

7. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Where applicable the statement of principles will cover the approach taken by the Council to address equality and diversity matters.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 That the Committee considers the responses to the consultation and approve the officer appraisal.

Further Information:

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Background Papers:

NFDC Statement of Principles
DFT Best Practice Guidance