

## **GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE – 9 MARCH 2018**

### **REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING POLICY**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide additional information on the review of the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy (Taxi Policy) for New Forest District Council.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Taxi Policy was last reviewed in 2012 and is currently being revised to ensure it is current and fit for purpose.
- 2.2 The new policy will reflect changes in technology, social climate and vehicle specifications and will give a clear framework for the licensing of drivers, vehicles and operators.
- 2.3 The legislation which governs taxis and private hire trade is outdated and has not kept pace with technology. This increases the importance of a policy which provides clear standards for applicants and licence holders and provides a guide for officers and Members of the Council in any decision making process.

#### **3. PROPOSED TIMETABLE**

- 3.1 The timetable for implementation of the new policy was approved by Members at the General Purposes and Licensing Committee on 12 January 2018.
- 3.2 The draft policy is currently being reviewed by legal services prior to publishing the document for consultation from 1 April 2018.
- 3.3 An overview of the key changes to the licensing policy for Members to consider prior to commencing the public consultation are set out in Appendix 1. These include enhanced safeguarding provision, simplifying of language, new and varied conditions and a general updating of the policy.
- 3.4 All Members will be able to view the draft policy and submit comments during the consultation process between 1 April 2018 and 31 June 2018.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The General Purposes and Licensing Committee will consider the consultation responses on 7 September 2018 and any relevant amendments will be made to the licensing policy.
- 4.2 The final policy will be submitted to General Purposes and Licensing Committee in November and adopted by Full Council in December.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Any costs associated with this review will be met by taxi licensing income.

**6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The policy will address the approach taken by the Council to tackle crime and disorder in the District.

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL/ EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The policy will address the approach taken by the Council to address environment and equality and diversity implications.

**8. RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 That the Committee notes the content of the key changes to the taxi policy as set out in Appendix 1; and approve the issue of the draft taxi policy for consultation.

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**Background Papers:**

None