

**LICENSING  
COMMITTEE**

7<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LIAISON MEETING**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Yvonne Smith
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

At the request of Members two liaison meetings were organised for hackney carriage and private hire licence holders.

This report updates the Licensing Committee on the matters discussed at these meetings and of the actions that have arisen as a result of them.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are asked to note the contents of the report.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The costs involved in organising and conducting the liaison meetings with licence holders were met from existing budgets held by the Council and Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 None

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 At the Licensing Committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015, Members considered a report on the implications of the Deregulation Act 2015 on hackney carriage and private hire licence holders.

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- 3.4 During the course of discussions about this matter it was suggested by the Chair and agreed by Members of the Committee that two liaison meetings be arranged with hackney carriage and private hire licence holders in order to communicate with them about the changes resulting from the Deregulation Act 2015, the Council's vehicle age policies and any other relevant matters that were raised either by officers or licence holders themselves.
- 3.5 The two meetings were arranged to take place on the evening of Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016. All hackney carriage and private hire operators and drivers were sent an invitation to attend one or other of the meetings alongside a newsletter which was sent out in November 2015.
- 3.6 Following the meetings officers have entered into dialogue with the bus station owners to see if any of the issues raised by Members and licence holders about the bus station rank can be resolved. These discussions are on-going.
- 3.7 Additionally reports will be presented at this and other future Licensing Committee meetings to enable Members to consider taking forwards some of the other matters that were raised during the meetings.
- 3.8 One particularly promising outcome of the meetings was that licence holders have indicated their intention to form a new association. A functioning hackney carriage / private hire association would be very beneficial in improving communication between the Council and licence holders and would enable better consultation to take place with the trade on matters of policy that directly affect them.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 None.

**5. APPENDICES**

None

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Dave Etheridge – Senior Practitioner (Licensing)  
Worcestershire Regulatory Services

E Mail: [dave.etheridge@worcsregservices.gov.uk](mailto:dave.etheridge@worcsregservices.gov.uk) Tel:  
(01905) 822799