

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

7th November 2016

PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR LICENCE DURATIONS

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

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Members are asked to consider whether to direct officers to take steps to enable private hire operator licences to be granted for a period of three years in addition to the current options of licences that last for one or five years.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members RESOLVE whether to direct officers to take steps to enable private hire operator licences to be granted for a period of three years in addition to the current options of licences that last for one or five years.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Council has currently set two fees for the issuing of private hire operator licences. One fee relates to licences that are issued for one year and the other fee relates to licences that are issued for five years. The Council would need to set an additional licence fee for licences that last three years if Members decide they would like to implement this as an option.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 Any proposed amendment to the fees charged by the Council for private hire operator licences must be advertised in accordance with the provisions of section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

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Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 With effect from 1st October 2015, as a result of section 10 of the Deregulation Act 2015, the standard duration of licences issued under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to authorise individuals to operate private hire vehicles is five years or such less period as the Council think appropriate in the circumstances of the case. Up until this time the Council only issued private hire operator licences for a period of one year.
- 3.4 In order to offer greater flexibility and choice to the holders of private hire operator licences, the Council has adopted the policy shown at **Appendix 1**. This states that if an applicant requests a licence that lasts for one year rather than the standard five years, the Council think it would be appropriate to grant a one year licence in accordance with the applicant's wishes.
- 3.5 At a private hire liaison meeting earlier this year, members of the private hire trade indicated that they were pleased with being able to choose to remain on a one-year licence, but also asked that the Council give consideration to introducing an option of a licence that is issued for three years.
- 3.6 If a licence of three years duration were to be introduced, amendments would need to be made to the policy shown at **Appendix 1** to reflect this. Furthermore the Council would need to take appropriate steps to set a fee applicable for applications for licences that last three years.
- 3.7 Any proposed amendments to the fees charged for private hire operator licences need to be advertised by the publication of a public notice in accordance with section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 3.8 If Members resolve to direct officers to takes steps to implement an option for a private hire operator's licence that lasts for three years, officers would need to calculate and advertise an appropriate fee to be charged before a final decision is made at a future Licensing Committee to amend the Policy shown at **Appendix 1**.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None

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5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Policy on the Duration of Private Hire Operator
Licences

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