

**LICENSING  
COMMITTEE**

6<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**APPROVAL OF REVISED HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE  
LICENSING POLICIES**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Joe Baker
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 formally approve revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle and Driver Policies following the decisions taken at the last Licensing Committee meeting in response to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's "Improving Access for People with Disabilities to Redditch Taxi Fleets" Short, Sharp Review.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are asked to RESOLVE to approve the revised Driver Licensing Policy at Appendix 1 to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.**

**Members are asked to RESOLVE to approve the revised Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy at Appendix 2 to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The costs involved in carrying out the consultation exercise were met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 Proper consultation on the proposals to amend the Council's policies was undertaken to minimise the risk of legal challenge if the proposals are subsequently implemented.

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**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 On 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 the Licensing Committee resolved to proceed with the implementation of the following proposed changes to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle and Driver Policies:
- to allow applications for new hackney carriages to be made for vehicles that are less than six years old, meet European M1 safety standards and have facilities for carrying a disabled person in a wheelchair within the vehicle.
  - The Driver Licence Policy be amended to require that refresher training should be provided on driving standards and disability awareness to taxi drivers every three years.
- 3.4 These proposed changes were recommended to the Licensing Committee following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's "Improving Access for People with Disabilities to Redditch Taxi Fleets" Short, Sharp Review and were subject to extensive consultation.
- 3.5 The responses received during the consultation were considered carefully by Members at the Licensing Committee meetings on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and then again on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- 3.6 Following the decision taken on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017, officers have updated the relevant policies to reflect the decision taken and Members are now asked to resolve to formally approve the revised policy documents.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 None

**5. APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 – Revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licensing Policy
- Appendix 2 – Revised Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licensing Policy

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