

Taxis Committee – 17th March 2010

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Review of Policy in respect of Applications for the Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers Licences

Purpose of Report

1. To review the policy in respect of applications for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers licences.

Background

2. It is proposed that the policy in respect of applications for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers licences be amended following the issue of the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice Guidance which states as follows:

Local Licensing authorities will want to have a policy on background checks for applicants from elsewhere in the EU and other overseas countries. One approach is to require a certificate of good conduct authenticated by the relevant embassy.

The Authority can also obtain case specific immigration status information, including whether an applicant for a licence is permitted to work or details of work restrictions.

A copy of the guidance notice issued by the Department of Transport is attached to this report as appendix 1.

3. It is therefore proposed that application forms be amended requesting that applicants from elsewhere in the EU or other overseas countries be required to produce a certificate of good conduct authenticated by the relevant authority which should accompany the application and that the Licensing Officer be authorised to enquire with immigration as to whether the applicant holds a current work permit and as to whether or not that permit holds any restriction.
4. This review of policy is on the basis that the Local Authority must satisfy itself that all applicants for the grant of private hire or hackney carriage licences are “fit

and proper persons". This would include ensuring that the licence applicant is entitled to reside and work in the United Kingdom.

5. This application falls within the Council's responsibility for Taxi and Private Hire licensing, which has a direct link to the Council's key corporate priority that safety matters.

Finance

6. There are no financial implications.

Law

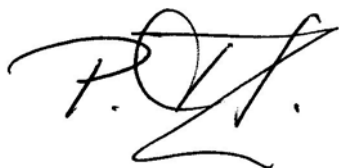
7. Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 regulates the grant of private hire and hackney carriage licences.

Equality Impact

8. This report takes into account the Council's policy on equal opportunities.
9. The licensing of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles and drivers will impact on children and young people through their transportation in licensed vehicles.
10. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in developing these proposals.

Recommendation

11. That the Committee consider the review of policy in respect of applicants for private hire and hackney carriage licenses.



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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

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List of Background Papers