

Report to:	EXECUTIVE
Relevant Officer:	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
Date of Meeting:	15 December 2016

HORSE DRAWN HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING POLICY

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 Following consultation, to consider the proposed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree the proposed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy as attached at Appendix 10a.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The current Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy was approved in 2011 and requires updating.

The amended policy addresses the concerns raised by the Scrutiny Report on Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriages and the concerns raised by the Casey report. It has also been supported the trade and the Licensing Committee.

- 3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

- 3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Not to approve the policy which could mean that the Council would be reaching decisions using an outdated document.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: “The economy – maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 The Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy is not a statutory policy. This means that there is no requirement for the Council to adopt one, although it is good practice to do so as it sets out the Council’s approach to issuing licences and enforcement. Decisions made in accordance with the policy are more likely to be upheld in the event of an appeal.
- 5.2 The current policy has been in existence since 2011 and the 2015 Scrutiny Report on Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriages recommended that officers undertake a full review of the policy.
- 5.3 In February 2015, the Casey Report into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) was published. That report devoted two chapters to taxi licensing and the involvement of taxis in Child Sexual Exploitation. A subsequent Serious Case Review from Oxford also highlighted the involvement of taxi drivers in Child Sexual Exploitation – on this occasion they were not the perpetrators, however they were used to take young people to places where they were then abused. The reports highlighted the importance of ensuring that only suitable people are licensed as drivers and that those who are licensed receive appropriate training on safeguarding issues. Whilst the reports outlined above related to the drivers of motorised vehicles, the same principles also apply to Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Drivers.
- 5.4 The Licensing Committee approved a draft policy for consultation at its meeting in March 2016. Consultation with the trade took place until June 2016. There were no formal written responses to the consultation however the draft policy was discussed in detail at the Landau Liaison meeting held on 12 May 2016 and amendments to paragraph 5.5 of the draft policy have been made to take into account the comments made at the meeting.
- 5.5 The proposed policy is attached at Appendix 10a. The Licensing Committee considered this policy at its meeting on the 8 November 2016 and agreed to recommend it to the Executive for approval.

5.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.7 List of Appendices:

Appendix 10a – Proposed policy

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 There will be a possible impact from requiring applicants to demonstrate a basic level of English language. This can however be mitigated by the intention to signpost applicants who cannot meet the required standards to relevant training.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation took place with the trade and interested stakeholders until 10 June 2016. The consultation with the trade included the Landau Liaison meeting outlined in paragraph 5.5 of the report on the 10 May 2016.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

14.0 Key decision information:

14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 33/2016

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

15.0 Call-in information:

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed: 7 December 2016 Date approved:

17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

17.1

18.0 Executive decision:

18.1

18.2 Date of Decision:

19.0 Reason(s) for decision:

19.1 Date Decision published:

20.0 Executive Members in attendance:

20.1

21.0 Call-in:

21.1

22.0 Notes:

22.1