

<b>Notice of:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Decision Number:</b>	EX7/2016
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Growth and Jobs)
<b>Date of Decision</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> February 2016

## LICENSED HORSE DRAWN HACKNEY CARRIAGES SCRUTINY REVIEW FINAL REPORT

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider the Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriages Scrutiny Review final report.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To consider the report and offer a response to the recommendations contained within the Action Plan.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The recommendations contained within final report seek to deliver improvements in service.

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:

The Executive must consider the recommendations outlined in the Scrutiny Review but may accept them, reject them or vary them.

#### **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 review topic was chosen following a referral from the Public Protection Sub-Committee regarding reviewing the Council’s policy on licensed horse drawn hackney carriages following an increase throughout 2014 in the number of complaints about the amount of horse droppings on the Promenade and about carriage drivers driving down the middle of the road and going through red lights. There had also been an increase in the number of queries concerning the welfare of the horses whilst on the Promenade. In addition, in October 2014 a serious incident took place where a horse was startled and bolted down the Promenade. The carriage in question collided with members of the public on the Promenade and a six year old boy had his collar bone broken as a result.

5.2 A previous scrutiny review of the licensed horse drawn hackney carriages service had been undertaken in 2007. Since then, the layout of the Promenade has changed significantly and, in light of the above mentioned increase in complaints, it was therefore considered appropriate for the issue to be considered in detail once more.

5.3 Following an initial meeting of the Panel to establish a Chairman and to agree the scope for the review, an ‘in a day’ review approach was utilised. This meant that the Panel only held one meeting to which all key officers and representatives of the service were invited. All evidence was considered before the Panel came to its conclusions and recommendations.

5.4 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny / Cabinet Member Relations Protocol, the final report has been considered by the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, which approved the report for consideration by the Executive. The Deputy Leader of the Council as the relevant Cabinet Member has had the opportunity to meet the Chairman of the Panel and make comments on the recommendations and these are contained within the report as Appendix 2a, to the Executive report.

5.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

#### **5.6 List of Appendices:**

Appendix 2a - Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriages Scrutiny Review final report.

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 Contained within the body of the report.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 Not applicable.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 Not applicable.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 Contained within the body of the report.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Contained within the body of the report.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 Not applicable.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Contained within the body of the report.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.

**14.0 Key decision information:**

14.1 Is this a key decision? No

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

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:

Date approved:

**17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

17.1 None

**18.0 Executive decision:**

18.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

To agree the recommendations of the Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriages Scrutiny final report action plan as outlined below and work towards their implementation:

1. A full health and safety risk assessment be undertaken considering Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage operations on the Promenade, which would specifically include the considerations of operations on a Friday evening.
2. The Head of Licensing Services to investigate that the insurance cover required of Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Operators is suitable and fit for purpose and if it is found to not be fit for purpose the matter to be brought to the attention of the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.
3. The Head of Licensing Services to investigate establishing a more stringent and rigorous driving test for horse drawn carriage operators. The new test should

include:

- a) A theory test element
  - b) Part of the test to be conducted off the public highway to examine drivers' control of the carriage and ability to perform manoeuvres, as well as testing on animal husbandry and attaching the dung catching device.
  - c) An increased amount of test time on the promenade
  - d) Following completion of the above elements of the new test, the Horse Drawn Carriage Operator should be given a 'provisional licence'. A full licence would then only be given following the completion of an appropriate number of supervised hours with an experienced Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Operator. It was suggested that 100 hours may be considered appropriate.
4. A comprehensive review of the Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Policy and Fare structure be undertaken by the Head of Licensing Service.
    - a) This review to be undertaken in conjunction with the Highways and Traffic Management Services and representatives of Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Operators, in order to consider where it would be appropriate to prohibit U-turns on the promenade.
  5. The Head of Licensing Services to investigate the cost and feasibility of ring-fencing part of the licence fee for clean-up operations, with a view to allocating appropriate resources to reduce horse waste on the promenade in busy periods.
  6. The Head of Licensing Services to investigate the possibility of having different, separate stands for horse drawn carriages and motorised licensed hackney carriage vehicles and dedicated change over areas away from the promenade.
  7. A dedicated Forum for Licensing Services and Licensed Horse Drawn Hackney Carriage Operators be established to meet three times per year. It was suggested those times be at the start, once during and after the main tourist season and that Licensing Services would administer that Forum.

**18.2 Date of Decision:**

8<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**19.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

It is considered that these recommendations will lead to improvements in service and will address the concerns raised which lead to the scrutiny review.

**19.1 Date Decision published:**

8<sup>th</sup> February 2016

**20.0 Executive Members present:**

20.1 Councillor Campbell, in the Chair

Councillors Cain, Collett, Cross, Jackson, Kirkland, Smith, I Taylor and Mrs Wright

Apologies were received from Councillor Blackburn who was engaged elsewhere on Council business.

**21.0 Call-in:**

21.1

**22.0 Notes :**

22.1 The following non-Executive members was in attendance: Councillor Hunter

Ms Cath Johnson made representations to the Executive on this item.

Councillor Hunter as the Chairman of the Scrutiny Review presented the report to the Executive.