

Report to:	PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davies, Head of Licensing Service
Date of Meeting	16 th December 2014

HORSE-DRAWN HACKNEY CARRIAGE REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider a report from the licensing service about complaints received and incidents investigated relating to Horse-Drawn Hackney Carriages in 2014.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 The Sub-Committee is asked to consider referring the issues relating to Horse-Drawn Hackney Carriages on the Promenade to the Scrutiny Committee for investigation.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The Sub-Committee will note the concerns raised by the licensing service. Officers feel that whilst the Scrutiny Committee did consider the issue of Horse-Drawn Hackney Carriage licensing in 2007, the layout of the Promenade has changed significantly since that time therefore it may be appropriate for the issue to be considered in detail once more.

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 Sub-Committee could decide that no further action needs to be taken at this time.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- Expand and promote our tourism, arts, heritage and cultural offer
- Create safer communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Horse-Drawn Hackney Carriages, often referred to as Landaus are licensed to ply for hire all year round although in practice the majority of carriages only work between Easter and the Illumination switch off.

5.2 Whilst these vehicles are licensed as Hackney Carriages and therefore can ply for hire anywhere within the borough, they tend to restrict themselves to the Promenade and are a popular attraction for visitors.

5.3 Over the last 12 months there has been an increase 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 has also been an increase in the number of queries concerning the welfare of the horses whilst on the Promenade.

5.4 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.

5.5 Officers will provide the Sub-Committee with a full report detailing all of these issues at the meeting.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

None

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 Animal welfare considerations should be taken into account.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None