

29 November 2017

Report of	Head of Environment Services	Author	Jon Ruder ☎ 282840
Title	Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy / Results of Consultation		
Wards affected	All		

**This report details the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken in relation to the review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and recommends that the Policy be referred to Council for adoption**

## 1. Decisions Required

### 1.1 Members are asked to -

- (i) Consider the table of responses and proposed amendments.
- (ii) Agree the draft policy and propose its adoption to full Council on 7 December 2017.

## 2. Reasons for Decisions

- 2.1 The Council has consulted on the draft hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy with the intention of implementing the new policy with effect from January 2018. A number of suggestions have been made by various parties and are presented to the Committee for consideration.

## 3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 The existing policy is no longer fit for purpose and therefore there is no alternative option as the policy needs to be reviewed to meet the changes in the industry and the challenges it faces in the future.

## 4. Matters for consideration

- 4.1 The consultation process ran from 14 September to 27 November 2017. All licence holders, Councillors, business representatives, town and parish councils, voluntary groups, and key partner agencies were notified of the consultation and given a link to the new policy on the website. Officers have met with representatives of the trade to discuss the policy..
- 4.2 The comments received are summarised at Appendix 1 and the original responses are included at Appendix 2. Any changes that have already been made to the Policy are highlighted in bold on the Policy attached at Appendix 3.
- 4.3 A number of comments have been received in relation to the introduction of CCTV. Whilst the vast majority are supportive, there are concerns in relation to its installation and operation. Considerable work has been done in this area and the Council is in discussion with providers in relation to the specification, installation and operation of the

units. It is considered that given that this is a complex and important matter its commencement should be delayed to enable discussions to continue with all parties. The matter will be brought back to the Committee at the conclusion of the discussions.

## **5. Strategic Plan References**

- 5.1 The Policy aims to contribute to the Council's vision of the Borough by ensuring that the licensed trade plays a significant role not only in the Borough's transport strategy but also in helping to promote Colchester and thereby enhancing our reputation as a destination and encouraging further investment.

## **6. Publicity Considerations**

- 6.1 The draft revised policy has been the subject of an extensive consultation process. A copy of the draft revised policy will be placed on the Council's website and will therefore also be available for public scrutiny, although it will not be open to any further public comment or consultation. In order to publicise the final adoption and approval of the policy the Council will seek to promote the publication of the policy through the local media in early January 2016

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 There may be costs incurred in defending any action brought against the Council which seeks to judicially review the policy. However, having consulted extensively it is thought such a challenge is unlikely.

## **8. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications**

- 8.1 The draft Policy has been developed in accordance with and taken account of, all relevant legislation and national and local strategies.

## **9. Community Safety Implications**

- 9.1 The policy deals with the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

## **10. Health and Safety Implications**

- 10.1 There is no known direct public health and safety issues which might arise from the adoption of the revised Policy.

## **11. Risk Management Implications**

- 11.1 A flexible yet robust revised Policy will continue to provide both the Council with a sound basis for decision making.