

COUNCIL 30th November 2022

Licensing and Regulatory Committee 17th October 2022

11 CHANGES TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

The Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods submitted a written report which provided an update on the review of the Calderdale Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, following the Licensing Working Party meeting and sought the approval to introduce a revised Calderdale Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy outlined in Appendix 2 of the report.

At a meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 1st March 2022 Officers reported on the publication of Department of Transport Statutory Guidance that had been issued to taxi and private hire licensing authorities to protect and safeguard children and vulnerable individuals using those services. On this basis, it was agreed to commence a review of the Calderdale Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. A review was carried out which was approved by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and Council and was consulted on between March and June 2022.

At a meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 15th August 2022 it was agreed that additional draft Best Practice be considered by Officers and the Licensing Working Party for potential inclusion in a revised policy and be submitted for consideration by this Committee. The Council was responsible for licensing hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles and private hire operators. In undertaking these regulatory responsibilities, the Council must have had regard to the legislation, relevant statutory guidance and best practice as well as its own policies and procedures.

Members discussed the appeals process on revocations and refusals, tinted windows, age of vehicles at first registration, MOT and testing charges, the option of using private testing stations, the capacity of enforcement and service provision, guidance being made available to the trade on compliance testing, the complaints process and the consultation process.

Members were advised that the policy, once approved, was not set in stone, and could be revisited, reviewed and refreshed.

***RESOLVED that:**

(a) It be recommended to Council that the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy in full, as set out in appendix 2 of the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods written report, be approved and the policy be implemented from 1st January 2023 and used to assess new applicants, renewals and enforcement from this date; and

(b) the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods be requested to investigate the possibility of using private MOT testing stations and submit a report to a future meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

(Part 11 (a) only)