

## **Report to the Environment and Licensing Committee**

**Subject:** Proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence Conditions and Private Hire Operator's Conditions

**Date:** 9 May 2017

**Author:** Director for Health and Community Wellbeing

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### **Purpose of the Report**

To inform Members of the results of the consultation on the proposed changes to the driver and operator conditions.

### **1. Background**

Members are reminded that at the meeting of the Environment and Licensing Committee in March 2017, it was approved that the proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver and Private Hire Operator Conditions be sent out for consultation.

A letter detailing the proposed changes to the conditions was sent to each driver, vehicle and operator licence holder and the Committee report documents were published on the Council's website.

The Council has received two responses, within the consultation period, both relating to the proposal to introduce an annual disclosure and barring check (DBS). Members are reminded that, as considered in the previous report, the requirement for an annual DBS check will increase public safety by providing information to the Council on a more regular basis as to licence holders' criminal records, allowing the Council to consider the 'fit and proper' status of its licence holders.

The first response acknowledged 'the importance of a DBS for the safeguarding of customers who use the industry' but further commented on the increased financial burden placed on applicants of having the check carried out annually. For Members information the fee charged by the Council for the processing of the DBS is the same as the fee the Disclosure and Barring Service recharge the Council for providing the service. There is an online process the applicant can sign up to after the initial DBS check is carried out and this is calculated at a reduced annual cost. The applicants are made aware of this service when they apply. The second response commented that the licence holder appreciated the Council taking steps towards public safety. Subject to having consideration of these responses Members are requested to consider the recommendations below.

### **2. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Conditions

Appendix 2 - Private Hire Operators Licence Conditions

### **3. Recommendations**

#### **That Committee:**

1. Approve the amended Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Conditions attached at Appendix 1.
2. Approve the amended Private Hire Operators Licence Conditions attached at Appendix 2.