

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods)	Licensing and Public Safety Committee	16/09/2009

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING CONDITIONS - REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To advise Members of the progress made since the introduction of revised hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licensing conditions and seek permission to review them.

RECOMMENDATION

2. Members are asked to approve that the current hackney and private hire licensing conditions are reviewed in consultation with the trade in order to reduce the regulatory burden on business, increase administrative efficiency within the Council and maintain the public protection that the licensing regime provides.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The Licensing and Public Safety Committee agreed the implementation of new conditions for hackney carriage and private vehicle licenses at its meeting on 17 September 2009.
4. The new conditions imposed several layers of bureaucracy including the dating of licence plates, a revised vehicle testing regime and conditions relating to vehicle capacity.
5. During the past 10 months the implementation of these conditions have led to several representations from the licenced taxi trade and seen an increase in the administrative burden placed on licensing team staff in dealing with the new requirements.
6. Whilst the ultimate aim of the licensing regime for hackney and private hire vehicles is to ensure public safety, the Council does have a statutory obligation to reduce the regulatory burden on business and ensure its administrative processes are efficient.
7. It is proposed that the Public Protection and Business Process Teams within the Neighbourhoods Directorate undertake a review of the current conditions and through consultation with the trade and allied bodies propose revised conditions that meet the objectives above.
8. It is anticipated that the review will be undertaken in over the next four weeks with a report to this Committee on any recommended changes to the conditions imposed on hackney carriage and private hire vehicles

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

(If the recommendations are accepted)

9. The review of conditions will ensure that we are actively seeking to reduce the regulatory burden on business whilst ensuring the Councils public safety remit and providing an efficient administrative process in the processing and issuing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licences.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10. Leaving the conditions without a review was considered and rejected on the grounds that the integration of the licensing function into the Neighbourhood Directorate provides an opportune time to undertake such a review.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

11. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	√
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	√

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

12. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Corporate Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	

ISHBEL MURRAY
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (NEIGHBOURHOODS)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
S Clark	5732	3 September 2009	Lic/review