

West Suffolk Council

Portfolio Holder Decisions Notice (Published: Thursday 16 January 2020)

The following decision was taken by the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory on **Tuesday 14 January 2020** and, if not called in by Councillors, will come into operation on Friday 24 January 2020. An executive decision may be called in, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules contained within Part 4 of the Council's Constitution, by at least five Councillors submitting the required call-in request form to the Assistant Director (HR, Legal and Democratic Services) (e-mail: democratic.services@westsuffolk.gov.uk) **by 5.00 pm on Thursday 23 January 2020.**

Should you have a query regarding the decision taken, contact should be made with the named officer in the first instance, either on the telephone number listed against their name, or via email using the format firstname.surname@westsuffolk.gov.uk. Alternatively, you may also contact the relevant Portfolio Holder on the telephone number listed against their name, or via email using the format firstname.surname@westsuffolk.gov.uk. Contact may also be made via Democratic Services, West Suffolk Council, West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, IP33 3YU, or College Heath Road, Mildenhall, IP28 7EY.

Agenda Item and Report No.	Declarations of Interest/Dispensations Granted	Decision(s) (including recommendations to Council)	Reason(s) for Decision(s)	Other Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection	Contacts
No Agenda Item No. as PH Decision Report No: CAB/WS/20/014	None	<u>Taxi Policy Handbook - Permission to Consult</u> RESOLVED: That changes to the West Suffolk Taxi Policy Handbook be consulted upon, as set out in Section 3 and Appendix A to Report No: CAB/WS/20/014.	The current policies that govern the operation of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles, operators and drivers were agreed by Cabinet in February 2019 in preparation for a single West Suffolk Council. An initial harmonised taxi policy handbook was created to ensure greater consistency of licensing and to make the Council's licensing requirements transparent to the trade and the public. It was agreed in 2019 that the policy would then be reviewed within two years so that longer-term decisions could be made on the more complex issues arising from the harmonisation of the two councils. This includes hackney carriage licensing areas and taxi	To make no changes to the current Taxi Policy Handbook. This poses a reputational risk as Cabinet agreed to consult again within two years of becoming a single council to make sure our policy is fit for purpose. This also misses the opportunity to make beneficial changes relating to safety considerations.	<u>Portfolio Holder:</u> Andy Drummond Portfolio Holder for Regulatory 01638 751411 <u>Officer:</u> Fiona Quinn Service Manager (Environmental Health) 01284 757042

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			<p>livery. Further substantive changes are also now being proposed to join up the public policy with the existing application requirements currently issued directly to licensees. This involves significantly changing the structure of the process to ensure it is easy to navigate. Details of the changes proposed are set out in Report No: CAB/WS/20/014 and the accompanying Appendix A.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder for Regulatory has considered the proposals and is satisfied that consultation should now take place on the changes, specifically with those set out in section 5 of the report.</p>		

Jennifer Eves
Assistant Director (Human Resources, Legal and Democratic Services)
16 January 2020