

Licensing and Regulatory Committee



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Taxi/Private Hire Handbook Revision	
Report No:	LIC/FH/17/009	
Report to and date/s:	Licensing & Regulatory Committee	30/10/2017
Portfolio holder:	Councillor Lance Stanbury Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Tel: 07970 947704 Email: lance.stanbury@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Amanda Garnham Licensing Team Leader Tel: 01284 757132 Email: amanda.garnham@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	To make minor amendments to conditions in the existing taxi/private hire handbook	
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the Licensing and Regulatory Committee approve and adopt the revised conditions (attached at Appendix 1).	
	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Consultation:	None required	
Alternative option(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do nothing – keep the existing conditions as they are 	
Implications:		
<i>Are there any financial implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Are there any staffing implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Are there any ICT implications? If yes, please give details</i>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

<i>Are there any legal and/or policy implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>Are there any equality implications? If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
	Low/Medium/ High*		Low/Medium/ High*
revising our conditions for Drivers and vehicles up to date promotes public safety and ensures drivers meet the fit and proper person test	medium	Conditions are adopted under the Home Office Guidance to give control and public reassurance	Low
Ward(s) affected:		All	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		Current version of FHDC Handbook https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/Business/Regulation and Licensing/Licensing/Taxi licensing/upload/FHDC-Taxi-Handbook-April-2017-June-2017.pdf	
Documents attached:		Appendix 1 – Proposed Handbook Revisions Appendix 2 – Committee report from 10 April 2017 updating conditions	

1. **Key issues and reasons for recommendation(s)**

1.1 The Council licences the following:

- Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers
- Hackney Carriage Vehicles
- Private Hire Vehicles
- Private Hire Operators.

2.0 **Background**

2.1 The current Taxi and Private Hire handbook was revised and re-adopted on 10 April 2017, it had not had any revisions made to it since 2011. **See Appendix 2** Committee report outlining important revisions and legislation changes.

2.2 Officers have received further feedback from the trade through forums and inspections and have proposed some further minor amendments.

3 **Conditions**

- 3.1 The proposed amendments to the conditions, see **Appendix 1**, are highlighted in red in the handbook and are as follows:
- a) P9 and 16, the inclusion of vaping as well as smoking to be banned from the vehicle as a place of work. Although vaping is not smoking, it still poses a distraction to the driver as vapour may obstruct a driver's view.
 - b) P23, Transfer of vehicles. Initially there has been some confusion on when a vehicle can be transferred to a new owner and when it becomes a vehicle change on an existing licence, causing issues with age restrictions.
 - c) P24, a reminder to adhere to the age restriction on vehicles when replaced/changed
 - d) P31, Advertisements on Private Hire Vehicles and the 'pre-booked stickers'. There has been some feedback on the way private hire vehicles advertise their own businesses. To negate the need for a council prescribed pre-booked sticker, we have requested that drivers include 'pre-booked only' writing on their door signs or vehicle writing on their vehicles. We have removed the size of signage.
 - e) P37, adding vaping into the penalty points system.
- 3.2 The advertising changes were mainly brought in after the trade needed clarification in what they could advertise on their vehicles, size and placement of writing and if they could incorporate 'pre-booked only' into their own signage which looks more presentable than another sticker.

4 **Recommendations**

- 4.1 It is Officer's recommendation to make the proposed changes to the handbook based on trade feedback and enquiries.