

**DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT STATUTORY TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE GUIDANCE
FEEDBACK AND SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO POLICY**

Council - 20 April 2021

Report of: Chief Officer Planning & Regulatory Services

Status: For Decision

Key Decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. McArthur

Contact Officer: Susan Lindsey Ext. 7491

Recommendation to Licensing Committee:

- a) To note responses regarding implementation of changes following issue of Department for Transport Statutory Guidance (shown in appendix A and B)
- b) To recommend to Council to approve changes to Sevenoaks District Council Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Policy shown in red in Appendix C

Reason for recommendation:

While it is not a legal requirement, it is best practice for a Licensing Authority to have a Statement of Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Policy.

Introduction and Background

- 1 At the Licensing Committee on 22 September 2020, members approved amendments to the Sevenoaks District Council Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Policy following the issue of Department of Transport Statutory Guidance.
- 2 Proposed changes were consulted upon and the feedback received has been positive although concerns have been expressed at the increased costs for new drivers with the introduction of the Safeguarding training and testing.
- 7 Responses have been sent to those querying how we propose to implement the various changes and the feedback received with responses are in **Appendix A and Appendix B**

8 Changes to the Sevenoaks District Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy are shown in red at **Appendix C**

Key Implications

Financial

None directly arising from this report

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

It is expected the recommendations contained within the new Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Transport be implemented unless there is a compelling local reason not to. The legal implications are as set out in Septembers Licensing Committee report.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users

Appendices

Appendix A - Responses received to new Statutory Guidance and changes to Policy

Appendix B - Response D.Mason to proposed fees and new Statutory Guidance

Appendix C - Sevenoaks District Council Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Policy

Background Papers

[Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Standards](#)

Richard Morris
Chief Officer Planning and Regulatory Services