

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 11 JULY 2013

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

9. TAXI LICENSING POLICY: FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION WITH THE LICENSED TAXI TRADE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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**Purpose/Summary of Report:**

- This report presents the public consultation responses to proposals for amendment of taxi licensing policy.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LICENSING COMMITTEE: that</b>	
<b>(A)</b>	<b>The draft amended policy be re-considered in the light of responses to public consultation; and</b>
<b>(B)</b>	<b>The revised draft policy be recommended to Full Council for approval.</b>

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Leader of the Council made a commitment to a review of taxi licensing services in a press briefing following a series of articles in the Mercury newspaper looking at criminal convictions among taxi licence holders
- 1.2 On 12 June 2012 Community Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up a Task and Finish Group to undertake a review of Taxi Licensing in East Herts.
- 1.3 A task and finish group was convened and asked to report to Community Scrutiny Committee on 20 November 2012.
- 1.4 The task and finish group comprised of Councillors Beeching, Crofton, Hollebon, Pope and Wood, with Councillor Cheswright attending as an invited observer.

- 1.5 The task and finish group considered on 6 September 2012 whether the process is effective, looking at convictions, standards and compliance, and complaints.
- 1.6 On 24 September 2012 the group considered whether the processes are efficient, and considered evidence from taxi driver representatives in person.
- 1.7 On 18 October the group considered whether the process is economic, considering the process costs and evidence from members and officers from Development Control.
- 1.8 Community Scrutiny Committee met on 20 November 2012 and endorsed the approach and findings of the task and finish group, and resolved to recommend to licensing Committee that a robust Convictions Policy be introduced, with some powers delegated to officers.
- 1.9 Licensing Committee in March agreed to consider recommendations of Community Scrutiny and further proposals for amendment from officers, for incorporation in the Taxi Licensing policy, subject to consultation with the licensed taxi trade and further consideration of consultation responses.
- 2.0 Report
- 2.1 Licensing Committee is invited to consider responses to public consultation, and whether, and if so how, the draft revised policy should be altered before recommendation to full council.
- 3.0 Implications/Consultations
- 3.1 The licensed taxi trade has been consulted on proposals in this report, the results from this feedback can be found at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**. Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

### Background Papers

Taxi Licensing Policy 2011.

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