

# **Cherwell District Council**

## **Licensing Committee**

**7 September 2016**

<b>Taxi Policy and General Licensing Update</b>
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### **Report of Shared Public Protection Manager**

This report is public

#### **Purpose of report**

To update the Licensing Committee on various licensing matters including the progress of the new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

#### **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 The committee is asked to make any comments in relation to the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
- 1.2 The meeting is recommended to note the licensing update

#### **2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 This report provides an opportunity for members to comment on the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
- 2.2 The committee will be given a verbal update on all other licensing matters

#### **3.0 Report Details**

- 3.1 A draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy is currently out for public consultation. The consultation period closes on the 9 September. The policy amalgamates and updates the current South Northamptonshire Council and Cherwell District Council policies.
- 3.2 It is not a statutory requirement for a local authority to have a formal taxi policy but it is seen as best practice and that any policy is reviewed on a 5 yearly basis or when legislative changes require a review.
- 3.3 We have consulted with Thames Valley Police, Northants Police, all Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire local authorities, Milton Keynes Council, all licensed drivers and all licensed private hire operators.

3.4 Taxi forums were held with the taxi trade on the 20 July at Cherwell District Council and the 27 July at South Northamptonshire Council members of the taxi trade were invited to listen to an explanation as to why the new policy is being introduced and to ask any questions. All responses will be considered at the close of the consultation period.

3.5 As of this month the council currently has the following licensed:

- 479 drivers
- 377 vehicles
- 59 operators

The licensing team are actively working with Thames Valley Police on enforcement activity and this will result in a number of joint operations between now and March 2017 as part of the wider Nightsafe initiative.

Over the weekend of the 23 and 24 July 2016 a number of licensed drivers were involved in an incident of violent disorder. This has resulted in 5 drivers having their licences revoked. 4 drivers have lodged appeals with the magistrates' court. All 5 drivers are still under investigation by the police.

3.6 We have had one major event during the summer, the Cropredy Festival. There was a licensing presence at the event and it was trouble free.

3.7 The licensing department is now a shared service and currently has a manager, a lead enforcement officer; 2 enforcement officers and 3 full-time and 1 part time technical officer. Recruitment is underway to have someone in post by early September.

## **4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

4.1 There is no recommendation

## **5.0 Consultation**

5.1 There has been no consultation in relation to this report.

## **6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons set out below:

- None identified

## 7.0 Implications

### Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by Kelly Wheeler, Principal Accountant for Operations and Delivery, 01327 322230, [kelly.wheeler@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:kelly.wheeler@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk)

### 7.2 Legal Implications

Comments checked by Matt Marsh, Solicitor, 01295 221691, [matt.marsh@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:matt.marsh@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk)

## 8.0 Decision Information

### Wards Affected

Not applicable

### Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

Not applicable

### Lead Councillor

Councillor Ilott

### Document Information

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
	None
<b>Background Papers</b>	
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