



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Mark Billington, Corporate Director Environment	Licensing Committee	22 February 2022

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To discuss the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, (Appendix 1) following a taxi licensing hearing on the 18 January 2022.

2. Outcomes

2.1 Members to decide whether the policy requires updating or to approve an update to internal licensing authority procedures.

3. Recommendation/s

3.1 That the Licensing Committee agree to new internal licensing authority procedures rather than an update the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

4. Background

4.1 The current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (Appendix 1) was adopted in 2018 and is subject to periodic reviews at least every five years. The new Wyre Taxi Policy was agreed by Committee in 27.9.21 (Appendix 2) and is adopted from April 2022.

4.2 In accordance with required procedures any revision to the policy is subject of an eight-week consultation with the trade and members of the public.

4.3 As part of the consultation individual letters need to be sent to every holder of a dual driver, hackney carriage, private hire vehicle or private hire operator licence, and Wyre Councillors, Town and Parish Councils in the borough, local organisations representing disability groups, trade associations, Lancashire Licensing Authorities and Lancashire Police.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** A review was requested by members following the taxi driver hearing on the 18 January 2022 which involved a driver with a large number of reported accidents.
- 5.2** The excessively large number of reported accidents came to light following the investigation of a complaint.
- 5.3** The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Convictions and other Relevant Matters Policy Appendix 1 states in Para 1.7 'In the case of existing licence holders the Licensing Committee will also take account of any history of compliance issues, or complaints'
- 5.4** The policy does not specify how many accidents a taxi driver is allowed before an appearance before committee is required. Realistically this is very difficult to quantify as factors such as the seriousness of the accident and liability are also relevant.
- 5.5** New internal procedures have been introduced by the licensing authority to ensure all vehicle accidents for each driver are reviewed and monitored, so where necessary drivers will be referred to Licensing Committee more readily. Staff have been trained in these new procedures (Appendix 3)

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.
Legal	The current policy was adopted in 2018 and is subject to periodic reviews at least every five years. A new Policy has been agreed by Licensing Committee from April 2022 The policy is not immutable, and every case should be considered on its own merits.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	✓
equality and diversity	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x

sustainability	x
health and safety	x

ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Mandy Seddon	01253 887411	Mandy.seddon@wyre.gov.uk	9.2.22

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy	2018	Attached
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2022	2022	Attached

List of appendices

Appendix 1 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2018
Appendix 2 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2022
Appendix 3 New Licensing Office Accident Reporting Procedures