



LICENSING COMMITTEE
4 November 2021

ITEM 07

Report sponsor: Samantha Dennis, Director of
Public Protection & Streetpride
Report author: Angela Rawson, Service
Manager Licensing

Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards Update

Purpose

- 1.1 The report provides a progress update following the release by the Department of Transport (DfT) of the Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards intended to improve safety for taxi and private hire vehicle passengers.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Committee note the content of the report.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 The information provided in this report is for member information only.

Supporting information

- 4.1 The subject was first introduced to this Committee on 6 August 2020 following release of the Statutory Standards by Government.
- 4.2 As advised at the update in March, we are already at the forefront with many of the suggested actions already being embedded within in our existing processes, conditions and policies.
- 4.3 A proposed timeline of work was also prepared and presented to the Committee in March. The short term licensing review is an ongoing continuous improvement process but is taking shape with application processes being moved online saving time for applicants in having to keep travelling to the Council House
- 4.4 In relation to safeguarding of vulnerable persons, members may recall the standards suggested enhancements in relation to criminality checks for drivers, vehicle proprietors and operator bases. A consultation is shortly being released following a report to this committee to add additional conditions to our licences. Once consultation has finished, the results will be referred to this Committee in the New Year.

- 4.5 A review has also been carried out in relation to the content of our safeguarding training for drivers introduced a few years ago following reports released highlighting Child Sexual Exploitation. The Police and our safeguarding teams are having input to ensure we are covering all relevant topics, including the context of vulnerable persons, disability and trends such as County Lines.
- 4.6 Turning to the medium actions in relation to Information Sharing and Enforcement, it is proposed to expand our current local authorities meeting to include taxi relevant matters. A place where local trends can be floated and suggestions for managing them can be discussed.
- 4.7 Our Data Protection Team are finalising the requirements for managing data so that the final implementation of the NR3 database can be rolled out following consultation as approved by this Committee earlier in the year. As a reminder, use of the database will help identify any drivers who have been either refused a licence or had a licence revoked by any other Council.
- 4.8 Multi agency operations are beginning to take place again now the City is opening up and there have been a few carried out in Derby City with inclusion in a multi agency East Midlands Airport operation which normally takes place around Christmas.
- 4.9 The review of existing enforcement policies is the next big project and that will include review of the Convictions Policy and the Driver Penalty Point Scheme. Again, this will be presented to the Committee in the New Year for release for consultation.
- 4.10 The subject of CCTV in vehicles is also highlighted by the Statutory Standards and a paper will be prepared in due course relating to the subject and presented to this Committee for consideration and next steps.
- 4.11 Once all reviews and consultations are complete, a complete Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Policy will be produced to inform applicants, operators, customers and the public of the expected standards required by Derby City Council.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report.

Other options

- 6.1 Not applicable.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 Not applicable for the purpose of this report.

Legal implications

- 8.1 None directly arising from this report.

Climate implications

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

Other significant implications

10.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu – Head of Legal Services	13/10/21
Finance		
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Samantha Dennis - Director	17/10/21
Other(s)	Michael Kay, Head of Service	17/10/21

Background papers:	Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
List of appendices:	None