



Derby City Council

LICENSING COMMITTEE

20 September 2018

ITEM 6

Report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place

Taxi Licensing and Air Quality Update

SUMMARY

- 1.1 To tackle poor air quality, the Government has announced that Derby must introduce measures to reduce roadside nitrogen dioxide levels as soon as possible. The Council is currently undertaking work across a number of areas to enable it to meet this requirement.
- 1.2 The Council is working with the Government to develop a feasibility study and is seeking views to help inform its future decisions and ensure that locally proportionate solutions to the issues the Government has identified are sought.
- 1.3 The report provides an update on the current work being undertaken and how this may impact on taxi licensing policy and processes.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the information set out in the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To provide Members of the Committee with an update on a number of issues that may need to be considered in the future and could potentially impact on taxi licensing policy and processes.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Members will be aware of the need for the Council to introduce measures to reduce roadside nitrogen dioxide levels as soon as possible to tackle poor air quality. The Council is currently undertaking work across a number of areas to enable it to meet this requirement.

- 4.2 At Committee on 18 January, Members considered and authorised a 12 week statutory consultation with the trade and public on proposals to change the frequency of licensed vehicle testing and introduce a new requirement that new vehicle licences would only be issued to vehicles less than a certain age. Not only was this in response to concerns raised by Derbyshire Constabulary about the overall condition of the vehicles licensed in Derby as hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, but it was also part of an early warning initiative to the licensed trade of work to reduce roadside nitrogen dioxide levels and the potential for this impact on the trade.
- 4.3 A twelve week consultation exercise was undertaken between 4 May and 27 July 2018. The consultation was primarily conducted through an online survey with paper versions and translations available on request. The information collected as part of the exercise is currently being collated and will be retained for analysis and further assessment alongside the wider consideration of the statutory consultation on air quality, details of which are set out below.
- 4.4 A separate statutory public consultation exercise on air quality is currently being undertaken by the Council's Traffic & Transportation Team (within whose remit any proposals to address nitrogen dioxide emissions falls). The closing date for electronic submissions is 24 September and 1 October for paper submissions. Once complete, the findings of this consultation exercise will be collated and considered along with other information.
- 4.4 As part of the work being done to provide further information to Government about the Council's proposals, other related topics are being considered. Some of these have already been discussed with the taxi trade and currently include:
- Electric vehicle charge point infrastructure
 - Licensing changes to promote take-up of emission standard compliant vehicles
 - Support and incentives available to the trade

This is not an exhaustive list and other topics may be identified.

- 4.5 Further communication with the taxi trade will be necessary and it is hoped that a meeting can be arranged in the future to discuss these topics in more detail.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal Services
Financial officer	-
Human Resources officer	-
Estates/Property officer	-
Service Director(s)	-
Other(s)	-

For more information contact:	Michael Kay 01332 641940 michael.kay@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None directly arising from this report.

Legal

2.1 None directly arising from this report.

Personnel

3.1 None directly arising from this report.

IT

4.1 None directly arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

5.1 None directly arising from this report although some of the changes that may be proposed may have to be assessed.

Health and Safety

6.1 None directly arising from this report although some of the changes that may be proposed will promote public safety.

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None directly arising from this report although some of the changes that may be proposed will have a positive impact on air quality.

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None directly arising from this report.

Risk Management and Safeguarding

9.1 None directly arising from this report although some of the changes that may be

proposed will positively impact on safety and health.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 Protecting vulnerable children and adults, promoting health and wellbeing, and delivering services differently.