



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

9 JULY 2008

Report of the Director of Environmental Services

REQUEST FOR RELAXATION OF 'CONTRACT HIRE' EXEMPTION REGIME

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To approve the recommendations of the Cross Party Working Group regarding the amendments to the Council's Private Hire Driver Conditions, Private Hire Vehicle Conditions, Private Hire Operator Conditions and Specification for Private Hire Vehicles.
- 1.2 To recommend approval to Full Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 When this issue was initially considered at the Taxi Licensing & Appeals Committee on 23 April 2008, members agreed for officers to meet with trade representatives to seek their views and report these views back to a Cross Party Working Group who would then make recommendations to Committee.
- 2.2 Officers met with representatives of the executive car hire trade and the private hire trade on 13 June 2008 and went through the Council's existing conditions for private hire drivers, vehicles and operators. The existing specifications for private hire vehicles were also discussed. A number of comments were received about specific conditions and these were recorded and collated together for consideration by the Cross Party Working Group.
- 2.3 The Cross Party Working Group met on 19 June 2008 to consider the specific comments made by the trade and by officers and agreed the recommendations that they would subsequently make to Committee to be approved by Full Council.
- 2.4 The Cross Party Working Group's recommendations for amendments to the Council's Private Hire Driver's Licence Conditions are contained at Appendix 2.
- 2.5 The Cross Party Working Group's recommendations for amendments to the Council's Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions are contained at Appendix 3.

- 2.6 The Cross Party Working Group's recommendations for amendments to the Council's Private Hire Operator's Licence Conditions are contained at Appendix 4.
- 2.7 The Cross Party Working Group's recommendations for amendments to the Council's Specification for Private Hire Vehicles are contained at Appendix 5.

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Background papers:	Taxi Licensing & Appeals Committee, 23 April 2008, Item 8
List of Appendices:	Appendix 1 Implications Appendix 2 Private Hire Driver's Licence Conditions Amendments Appendix 3 Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions Amendments Appendix 4 Private Hire Operator's Licence Conditions Amendments Appendix 5 Specification for Private Hire Vehicle Amendments

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None directly arising.

Legal

- 2.1 The removal of the contract hire exemption earlier this year was a deliberate act by Parliament to subject executive car hire and other chauffeur driven services to regulation and create parity with other licensed drivers/cars. Accordingly, any departure from this intention would require clear and necessary justification, and should not be taken lightly. Public safety remains the overriding consideration in licensing matters.

Personnel

3. None directly arising.

Equalities impact

4. The consultation process with the trade on this issue has been carried out in an open and transparent way. Public safety remains the overriding consideration in licensing matters.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. Taxi Licensing contributes to the priority of **giving excellent services and value for money.**