



Derby City Council

**COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD**  
**27 November 2017**

Report of the Strategic Director of Communities  
and Place

# ITEM 6

## **Information on Private Hire Operators Licence and School Contracts issued by the Council to Taxi Licence Operators**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Information has been requested by the Board on the current status of the private hire operators' licence issued to Uber Derby Ltd and on the school contracts issued by the Council to hackney carriage proprietors, private hire vehicle proprietors and private hire operators.
- 1.2 The report provides information on these two requests.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note the information set out in the report.
- 2.2 To consider and discuss the information presented and make any appropriate and relevant recommendations.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To inform the Board of the information they requested and provide an opportunity for them to make any recommendations, within their remit, that they may consider appropriate.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Two requests for information have been requested by the Board, one on the current status of the private hire operators' licence issued to Uber Derby Ltd and the other on the school contracts issued by the Council to hackney carriage proprietors, private hire vehicle proprietors and private hire operators.
- 4.2 The information requested by the Board about the current status of the private hire operators' licence issued to Uber Derby Ltd and the response to these requests is set out at Appendix 2.

- 4.3 The information requested by the Board about the school contracts issued by the Council to hackney carriage proprietors, private hire vehicle proprietors and private hire operators is set out at Appendix 3.
- 4.4 The information set out in the report is for noting. Any recommendations the Board wish to make must be within the remit of the Board.

<b>OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
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- 5.1 Not applicable.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Olu Idowu, Head of Legal Services  John Tomlinson, Service Director
<b>For more information contact:</b>  <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Michael Kay 01332 641940 <a href="mailto:michael.kay@derby.gov.uk">michael.kay@derby.gov.uk</a> Dave Dowbenko 01332 641754 <a href="mailto:dave.dowbenko@derby.gov.uk">dave.dowbenko@derby.gov.uk</a> None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Current status of the private hire operators' licence issued to Uber Derby Ltd Appendix 3 – Disclosure and Barring Service relating to taxi driving school contracts

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

1.1 None directly arising from the report.

**Legal**

2.1 As set out in the report.

**Personnel**

3.1 None directly arising from the report.

**IT**

4.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Equalities Impact**

5.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Health and Safety**

6.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Environmental Sustainability**

7.1 None directly arising from the report.

**Property and Asset Management**

8.1 None.

**Risk Management and Safeguarding**

9.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

10.1 None directly arising from the report.

## Appendix 2

### Current status of the private hire operators' licence issued to Uber Derby Ltd

A1 When was the UBER operating licence granted by Derby City Council?

A Private Hire Operators Licence was issued to Uber Derby Ltd on 13 December 2016.

A2 What criteria does UBER have to fulfil to obtain an operator's licence from DCC?

As with all businesses that wish to apply for an operators' licence, there is a prescribed process in place that needs to be followed and this information is available on the Council's website for prospective applicants. Please use the following link to access this information <http://www.derby.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/taxis-and-minicabs/licensed-operator/>

To ensure all individual applicants are 'fit and proper' to hold a private hire operators' licence, we require a completed application form, an enhanced criminal record check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for each individual applicant, or individuals that form a partnership for new and renewal applications and a check on the applicants' immigration status, including their right to work for individual applicants, and individuals that form a partnership for new and renewal applications. For applications for an operators' licence from a company, a DBS or an immigration check is not required.

A3 What checks are made by UBER when recruiting taxi drivers?

Like any other private hire vehicle operator licensed here in Derby or across the country, the checks made by Uber Derby Ltd when recruiting drivers into their business are bespoke to them.

A4 Do we have powers to cancel the licence in the light of what has happened in London?

We do not have any powers to cancel the licence in the light of what has happened recently in London.

A5 Was the licence granted for a specified period, what is this period?

All private hire operators' licences are issued for a period of five years.

A6 Is the licence renewable?

Yes, see the answer to question A5 above.

A7 How are we monitoring UBER and its drivers especially in this initial period of them being in Derby?

We do not undertake any active monitoring of any new licensed operator. All the initial necessary checks required are made as part of their application process. We do of course investigate any complaints that may be subsequently received.

## Appendix 3

### Disclosure and Barring Service relating to taxi driving school contracts

B1 How many school's taxi driving contracts are there?

The Transport Procurement & Operations Team (TPOT), based in the Council's Traffic & Transportation Department manages home to school transport provision for eligible children. At the time of writing, there were 345 contracts being managed by the team.

B2 Who is operating the taxi driving school contracts?

Transport contracts are awarded using procurement frameworks. This is a standard procurement mechanism, where transport providers are invited to be registered on a transport framework and to be bound by its rules. When transport is subsequently required, a tender for that particular run is offered to all those on the framework, who are invited to bid for the work. At present, there are 108 transport providers; consisting of individual hackney carriage and private hire drivers, together with companies and groups providing drivers who work on contracts.

B3 Are taxi drivers who are licenced by Councils other than Derby City Council allowed to drive for the school contracts?

Yes; procurement rules require that as long as providers are correctly licensed and abide by their home authority licensing conditions and our contract conditions, they will be eligible for consideration to enter the transport framework when it is let. We are unable to restrict the framework to drivers licensed only by this authority.

B4 Are the taxi driver's DBS checks undertaken by DCC or the Council they're licenced by?

At present, Enhanced DBS disclosures can be accepted from any source, providing that they bear the correct wording relating to the proposed activity; this consists of the job description ('contract driver' or 'escort/passenger assistant') and the level of check required ('child & adult workforce') The team have an officer whose specific function is to check contract compliance – this includes an ongoing review of all DBS disclosures and ensuring that all contract drivers/escorts are registered on the DBS Update Service, which provides a continuous check on the status of providers and flags if there have been any changes to their disclosure.