



LICENSING COMMITTEE
18 March 2021

ITEM 07

Report sponsor: Samantha Dennis, Director of
Public Protection & Streetpride
Report author: Angela Rawson, Team Leader,
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 with a further update in November of last year.
- 4.2 After reviewing the document in detail against our current practices, it is clear that as a Council, 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 Following the publication of the Jay Report in 2014 and Casey Review in 2016, the Council introduced safeguarding training for all licensed drivers, including existing drivers. The training delivers a wide range of subjects and is not just limited to Child Sexual Exploitation but also raises awareness of other types of vulnerabilities and forms of exploitation which drivers may become aware of in their day to day contact with the public. Drivers are also provided with information on signposting information where they can register any concerns.
- 4.4 A knowledge test is also undertaken by prospective drivers which in part evaluates their ability to understand the English language and converse with their charges – which are necessary to ensure the safety of both passenger and driver.

- 4.5 When a drivers licence is granted or renewed, an enhanced DBS check is carried out and by virtue of the conditions of the drivers licence, the person is required to sign up to the DBS online service so that further checks can be made at regular intervals throughout the term of their licence, usually 3 years.
- 4.6 Immigration checks are also carried out as well as Certificates of Good Conduct being required from those people who have been living or working outside the UK for an extended period.
- 4.7 Our driver conditions put a responsibility on the driver to report any change in circumstances to us within a determined period.
- 4.8 There is a corporate and a licensing route for customer complaints and each complaint is considered in a fair and open matter to seek a satisfactory resolution.
- 4.9 Reviews are regularly undertaken to ensure that the processes in place are still relevant in protecting the public and all persons involved with the private hire and hackney carriage trades. Any proposed changes in policy are sent out for a full and open consultation with the required persons for that particular theme.
- 4.10 In relation to the measures set out in the Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards, whilst we are ahead of other licensing authorities, further work is still required.
- 4.11 Appendix 1 sets out an outline of the work planned to be undertaken over the coming year. Some of the short-term work involves introducing new administrative processes which can be implemented relatively quickly with a timeline. Other themes, such as information sharing and enforcement policies/protocols, can be more protracted and will take longer to progress as engagement may be needed with other authorities and partners together with consultations.

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	Lucie Keeler, Solicitor	05/03/21
Finance		
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Samantha Dennis - Director	08/03/21
Other(s)	Michael Kay, Head of Service	05/03/21

Background papers:	Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Proposed Timeline for Review

Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards Work Plan – Timeline

SHORT Feb – May 2021	Implementation of administrative review and update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver licensing • Operator licensing • Vehicle licensing • Training
MEDIUM June – Dec 2021	Information Sharing & Enforcement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities • National Anti-Fraud Network – NR3 database • Multi Agency • Enforcement Policy Review
LONG Jan – Mar 2022	Overview Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are we now • Website Review