

LICENSING COMMITTEE
6 August 2020



Report sponsor: Tracey Blackwell, Interim
Director of Public Protection & Streetpride

ITEM 6

Report author: Michael Kay, Head of
Environmental Protection, Housing Standards,
Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business
Continuity

Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards

Purpose

- 1.1 The report provides an outline of the new documentation released by the Department of Transport (DfT) which is intended to improve safety for taxi and private hire vehicle passengers.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report.

Reasons

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

Supporting information

- 4.1 The Policing & Crime Act 2017 enabled the Secretary of State for Transport to issue statutory guidance on exercising taxi and private hire vehicle licensing functions to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm.
- 4.2 On 21 July 2020, the government introduced new standards for the taxi and private hire vehicle trades across England and Wales. This is the latest step to be taken by the government to reduce the risk of harm to passengers and to help improve consistency across local authorities and represents a significant step-change in the way in which local authorities will licence drivers, vehicles and operators.

The document sets out a framework of policies that licensing authorities “must have regard” to when exercising their functions. Licensing authorities are expected to implement the recommendations unless there is a compelling local reason not to.

4.3 The main highlights of the document include:

- Review of Taxi Licensing Policy and decision-making process
- Ensuring a robust, user friendly reporting system for passenger complaints
- Driver licensing - frequency of DBS checks to 6-monthly, safeguarding awareness training and language proficiency testing
- Vehicle licensing – CRB for vehicle proprietors, use of CCTV
- Private Hire Vehicle Operator licensing – DBS for operators, condition review
- Enforcement – joint authorisations of officers, expectation setting and sanctions.

4.4 Local authorities are expected to fully implement the measures as soon as possible and the DfT will monitor the progress being made.

4.5 The full document can be seen at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-standards>

4.6 Many of the recommendations set out will impact across a number of the Council's service areas. Officers from these services will work together to identify the measures required and what additional resources may be needed.

4.7 Where necessary, further reports will be prepared for the Committee to consider.

Public/stakeholder engagement

5.1 Not applicable.

Other options

6.1 Not applicable.

Financial and value for money issues

7.1 Not applicable.

Legal implications

8.1 Not applicable.

Other significant implications

9.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	-	
Finance	-	
Service Director(s)	-	
Report sponsor	Tracey Blackwell	27/07/20
Other(s)	-	

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	