

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982**Taxi and Private Hire Cars – Review of Conditions****Report by Legal Services Manager****1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to seek authority to go out to consultation on a review of licensing conditions for the operation of taxi and private hire cars within Midlothian.

2. Background

It has become apparent from discussions both with representatives of the taxi and private hire car trade as well as staff at the Taxi Examination Centre and Police Scotland that the Council's licensing conditions for the operation of taxi and private hire cars would benefit from a review to reflect modern practices and to bring them more into line with other neighbouring Councils.

Accordingly, draft conditions have been prepared which contain a number of issues for further discussion. The draft conditions are attached as an appendix to this report and authority is hereby sought to put these conditions out for consultation.

It is intended that comments on the draft conditions will be invited from members of the public as well as from stakeholders through social media. It is also intended to form a short life working group involving representatives of the Midlothian Taxi Owners Association, the Private Hire Association and Police Scotland as well as the Council to consider any comments received and to make recommendations back to the Committee on proposed changes to the draft conditions.

Members are asked to decide if they would wish elected member involvement in the short life working group.

Members should note that the remit of the short life working group will only be to make recommendations and commentary on the draft conditions and report back to the General Purposes Committee and any decision on the terms of the conditions will rest solely with the Committee.

3. Report Implications**3.1 Resource**

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

3.2 Risk

There is no change to the Council's risk profile arising from this Report.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☒ None of the above

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Not applicable.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

There is intended to be consultation with the Midlothian community through social media whilst stakeholders will be invited to take part in meetings of the short life working group.

3.8 Ensuring Equalities

There are no equalities issues with regard to this report.

3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no sustainability issues with regard to this report.

3.10 IT Issues

There are no IT issues with regard to this report.

4. Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

- (a) approve the draft conditions be put out for public consultation; and
- (b) determine the composition of the short life working group

Date: 12 February 2020
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