

**GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
17 JUNE 2025**

ITEM NO.

TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY REVIEW

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval from Members to undertake a public consultation on Darlington Borough Council's Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy.
2. The main report and attached appendices give details of the request for consideration.

Human Rights Act

3. When considering matters relating to the grant of a licence and the placing of conditions on licences, the Committee must consider whether the decision affects an individual, group, or Company's Human Rights as set out in the Convention and if it does, whether the interference with those rights is permissible by reason of the justifications set out in the Convention. In addition, consideration must be given to whether the interference is proportionate.

Legal Implications

4. There are no issues that the Assistant Director, Law and Governance, considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Section 17

6. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty of the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

Recommendation

7. Members are requested to authorise the public consultation of this policy.

Trevor Watson
Executive Director, Economy and Public Protection

Background Papers

- 1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- 2 Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy 2021

<https://www.darlington.gov.uk/media/12723/dbc-private-hire-hackney-carriage-licensing-policy-2021.pdf>

- 3 Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Best Practice Guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-licensing-best-practice-guidance/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-licensing-best-practice-guidance-for-licensing-authorities-in-england>

- 4 Institute of Licensing Suitability Guidance 2024

Council Plan	This policy will maintain the legal framework when dealing with taxi and private hire related activities
Addressing inequalities	The proposals will have no additional impact on equality of opportunity for the disabled public. Equality Act screening assessment has been carried out and considered throughout this document
Tackling Climate Change	This report has taken into consideration the impact of licensed vehicles on the Council's carbon impact through vehicle standards.
Efficient and effective use of resources	This report has no impact on the Council's Efficiency Programme.

Health and Wellbeing	This policy will address health and safety issues throughout the document
S17 Crime and Disorder	This policy will address issues specifically relating to the prevention of crime and disorder
Wards Affected	The proposals affects all areas of the Borough
Groups affected	The policy does not have a direct impact on any particular group
Budget and Policy Framework	This report represents no major change to Policy
Key Decision	The proposals do not represent a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on the Council's impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers

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