

TO: **REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 13th NOVEMBER 2006**

SUBJECT: **PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS CONDITIONS.**

FROM: **MEMBERS' SERVICES**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider a change to the documentation required by applicants when submitting applications and renewals for private hire operators licences.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At present, applications and renewals for private hire operators licences are issued without any background checks of any kind regarding the applicant themselves or their operating centre.
- 2.2 For example, an operator may start operating vehicles from his home address and also park their vehicles in a random manner wherever they choose, leading to numerous complaints.
- 2.3 It is proposed to require new applicants for private hire operators licences to submit a basic disclosure on themselves, to provide evidence of public liability insurance if their operating centre has public access, and to state where the vehicles will normally be parked.
- 2.4 The application and renewal forms will tell the applicants that their details will be passed to the Council's planning department to check for planning compliance.
- 2.5 This would be brought in for existing operators when they renew their operators licence in June 2008, giving them at least eighteen months notice to allow them to arrange compliance. On this date, it is proposed that the licence will be changed to run for three years as is suggested by the Department for Transport. The fee will probably be three times the fee in force at the time, but the Committee will be consulted on this point nearer to the implementation date.
- 2.6 Some operators may also have private hire driver's licences and so would already have had a CRB check. This would exempt from that part of the new proposal.

3. DECISION REQUIRED

- 3.1 Members are asked to consider whether they wish to change the current application system and make the changes listed in 2.3 and 2.4 above, in order to improve safety, heighten the public image of the Council, and to improve efficiency both to the operators and Council alike.

David Davies
Licensing Services Manager

BACKGROUND PAPERS
NIL

Areas and the District Affected: All
Key Decision: no
Included in Forward Plan: N/A

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