

Date of meeting:	20 May 2022
Title of Report:	<b>Correction to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor John Riley
Lead Strategic Director:	Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health)
Author:	Rachael Hind
Contact Email:	Rachael.hind@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Taxi Policy amendment 2022
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

### **Purpose of Report**

The Council approved the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (Taxi Policy) on 21 March 2022.

Unfortunately, there was an error within the Taxi Policy that was brought to officers' attention after 21 March 2022.

The City Council report dated 21 March, which can be found in Appendix B, advises in section 3.5.1, that after considering the responses, the requirement for all drivers to complete this pre-requisite will remain in the Taxi Policy. The wording was however left in the policy in error. Therefore Chapter 2 paragraph 4.1 (c) of the Taxi Policy needs to be amended to ensure that the Policy requires the Knowledge Test to be completed by private hire and hackney carriage applicants.

If approved by Council, the amended policy at Appendix A will come into force as amended on the 21 May 2022 and all pending applications still to be determined will fall to be considered under the amended policy.

The policy forms part of the Policy Framework, a matter that is reserved to Council and which officers must comply with when exercising their delegated functions. As such a clear date on which the policy, and therefore the Policy Framework, is amended and effective from is required.

### **Recommendations and Reasons**

It is recommended that the Council resolves to:

- I. Adopt the corrected Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy attached at Appendix A of this report with effect from 21 May 2022.

Reason – to ensure the policy reflects the intentions of the report to Council of the 21 March 2022 which was based upon the outcome of extensive consultation.

**Alternative options considered and rejected**

The consultation responses were considered and it was decided that the Knowledge Test should remain for both Hackney Carriage and Private hire applicants. Therefore this error needs to be corrected.

**Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan**

This report links to the delivery of the City and Council priorities. In particular:

**Unlocking the city's potential:** By ensuring Plymouth: is a clean and tidy city and a green and sustainable city that cares for its environment; has a vibrant economy offering quality jobs and skills; and has a varied, efficient and sustainable transport network.

**Caring for people and communities:** By ensuring Plymouth is a friendly, welcoming city, making sure people feel safe in the city, protecting children, young people and adults.

**Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

None

**Financial Risks**

None. Any amendments to the Taxi Policy should have no financial impact to the general account.

**Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

The amendment has no impact on the carbon footprint.

**Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:**

*\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

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**Appendices**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

**Background papers:**

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)
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	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

**Sign off:**

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Rob Nelder											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 10/05/2022											
Cabinet Member approval: <i>[electronic signature (or typed name and statement of 'approved by email/verbally')]</i>											
Date approved: Date.											

## Appendix A: Briefing Note

### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (Taxi Policy) and associated guidance documents and conditions were approved by the City Council on 21 March 2022.
- 1.2 Unfortunately there was an error within the Taxi Policy that was brought to officers' attention after 21 March 2022. This paragraph is reproduced below and the amendment that is required is to delete the words "for Hackney Carriage applications only":

#### Chapter 2 Drivers

##### 4.1 Pre-requisites

Before an application for a drivers licence can be approved, the individual must have passed the:

- a) Medical (see 5.0)
- b) Submit an Enhanced DBS and Certificate of Good Conduct (if required) (see 6.0)
- c) Topographical Knowledge of Plymouth (KOP) test (~~for Hackney Carriage applications only~~),
- d) Driving Standard's Test (DST),
- e) Spoken English Test (if applicable)
- f) Safeguarding training
- g) Plymouth Ambassador training

- 1.3 The City Council report dated 21 March, which can be found in Appendix B, advises in section 3.5.1, that after considering the responses, the requirement for all drivers to complete the pre-requisite will remain in the Taxi Policy. Therefore the Policy needs to be amended to ensure the Knowledge Test is required for private hire driver and hackney carriage driver applicants.

### 2.0 Amendment required

2.1 It is therefore recommended that the City Council resolves to:

- I. Adopt the corrected Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy attached in Appendix A of this report with effect from 21 May 2022