

Date of meeting:	29 January 2024
Title of Report:	Proposed amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2022 in relation to Livery and Topographical Knowledge of Plymouth test.
Lead Member:	Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries & Crematoria)
Lead Strategic Director:	Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health)
Author:	Nicola Horne
Contact Email:	Nicola.horne@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Taxi Policy NH/ODPH
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The Council adopted its third Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in May 2022 which updated and set out a licensing framework required to regulate hackney carriage and private hire (taxi) services within Plymouth.

In response to various economic and operational changes that have arisen since policy implementation in May 2022, Plymouth City Council consulted on proposed amendments to the Taxi Policy 2022, between 24 October and 23 November 2023. All drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators were sent an email and letter in the post explaining the consultation and asking for their feedback using the online form or alternatively in writing. Letters and emails were also sent to a variety of agencies, departments and Councillors including disability groups, resident's associations and businesses. A total of 386 responses to the public consultation were received.

A summary of the results and recommendations are included in the Briefing Report in Appendix A for livery and Knowledge of Plymouth test, with the remaining matters being delegated to Taxi Licensing Committee.

The Executive Decision is contained in Appendix B, a copy of the consultation in Appendix C and comments received can be found in Appendix D.

Recommendations and Reasons

That Council agree the amendments to the Taxi Policy to =

- a. Remove livery requirements for vehicles;
- b. the removal of requirements for the Knowledge of Plymouth test for private hire drivers.

Subject to approval, this will be implemented on 1st April 2024 and it is considered that this will enable an increase in overall taxi provision across the city.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Do nothing- this would mean that the Policy would remain the same, presenting some operational issues, and exacerbating some economic considerations for the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Taxi Policy has relevance to the priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan by keeping children, adults and communities safe in the provision of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire service within Plymouth. The policy ensures that any person within the hackney carriage and private hire trade works within the realms of policy to ensure safety is paramount.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None

Financial Risks

The costs of implementation will be met, proportionately, through the existing hackney carriage and private hire trade budgets which are funded through the vehicle, driver and operator licence fee income.

Any amendments to the licensing policy should have no financial impact to the general account.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

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.*

An equality Impact Assessment has been completed and attached.

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 Note							
B	Authorisation to Consult							
C	Taxi Licensing Consultation (October 23)							
D	Consultation Responses							
E	EIA							

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)						
	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.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	HLSI 5122 3	Leg	IW 18 Dec 23 TCS 1760	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 15/12/2023											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Cemeteries & Crematoria)											
Date approved: 15/12/2023											