

Name of meeting: Licensing & Safety Committee
Date: 19th September 2011

Title of report: Private Hire Operators

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Yes / No or “not applicable” If yes give reason why
Is it in the Council’s Forward Plan ?	Yes/ No or “not applicable” If yes give date it first went in
Is it eligible for “call in” by Scrutiny ?	Yes/ No or “not applicable” If no give reason why not
Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name	
Is it signed off by the Director of Resources?	Yes/ No financial implications If yes give date
Is it signed off by the Acting Assistant Director - Legal & Governance?	Yes/ No legal implications If yes give date
Cabinet member portfolio	

Electoral [wards](#) affected:
Ward councillors consulted: ALL

Public or private:

1. Purpose of report

To inform Members of the current position in relation to proposed actions.

2. Key points

Currently, Private Hire Operators are required to adhere to the conditions a copy of which is attached.

In some circumstances dependent on the premises and location of an Operator base, the conditions may be amended by adding extra conditions pertinent to the individual application.

It has become clear that over time a number of Operators breach the conditions of their licence and in some cases do not appear to be aware of them at all.

Examples of breaches are a failure to keep records of drivers and vehicles licences and continuing to despatch these drivers/vehicles on jobs where they are not fully compliant with their licence or the licence has expired. This has a

potential to nullify insurance as most insurance companies make it a condition of the motor insurance that the vehicle and driver must be fully compliant with the licensing regime for the district in which the vehicle and driver is based.

Officers have on occasion difficulty accessing booking records when it is a legal requirement to disclose that information when requested to do so by an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer.

Many Operators do not appear to be aware the legal responsibilities they have when licensed as a Private Hire Operator.

To address this concern, officers propose to design and implement a Private Hire Training Course which would be a compulsory requirement before being granted an Operator Licence in Kirklees. The course could also be used with existing Operators where they are found to be breach of their Operator Licence. An outline of the course modules is attached.

3. Implications for the Council

Improved public confidence and safety in Private Hire Operators Services

4. Next steps

To design the full training course and consult with the trade and other relevant stake holders.

5. Officer recommendations

To approve officers developing a full training course and carrying out consultation with a view to bringing it back to the full Licensing and Safety Committee for approval for implementation

6. Contact officer and relevant papers

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