

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 The licensing of hackney carriages is a statutory function of the Council. Licensing of hackney carriages reduces the potential for illegal plying for hire by unlicensed vehicles and also private hire vehicles. It provides transport for the public who may not have any safe alternative means of transport available.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 No specific consultation has been undertaken as all matters associated with this method of issuing licences were previously subject to consultation as reported at the meeting held on 29 July 2008.

5 Options

- 5.1 There is in theory no alternative to the recommendation. It is considered that the interview would be an opportunity for members to ask further questions of applicants and hopefully enable members to assess which applicants should be recommended to receive a licence.

6 Resource Implications

- 6.1 The only direct implication of this report is that there is a need to appoint a panel of members which will meet and thus there will be officer and member time associated with this.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 This method of issuing licences is felt to be a fairer and more equitable way of granting licences and as such is less likely to lead to any criticism (and possibly legal action) from potential applicants.

8 Equality Issues

- 8.1 As this recommendation does not constitute a change in policy it does not require a full Equalities Impact Assessment to be undertaken. It is worth noting that national studies show that taxis are used significantly by some of the more vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community who do not have access to their own private transport and for whom taxis provide an essential safe from of transport.

9 Other Issues

- 9.1 Community Safety – none specific although see paragraph 3.1 above.
- 9.2 Environmental Health/Sustainability Issues – the provision of hackney carriages may lead to slightly less reliance upon private motor vehicles, although the effects are more difficult to quantify.
- 9.3 Property Issues – none specific.

9.4 Wards/Communities Affected – none directly but indirectly the whole Borough.

10 Conclusion

10.1 This Committee has agreed to make two further hackney carriage licences available for conventional (i.e. non-wheelchair accessible) vehicles. The method for issuing licences involves applicants being interviewed by a panel of members and it is now necessary to appoint a panel so that these licences can be re-issued. It is suggested that a minimum of three and a maximum of five members be appointed to the panel.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u> Reports to the Licensing Committee 29 July 2008 and 12 April 2012			
<u>Confidentiality</u> It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	None		
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