

## **Agreed Actions - Licensing & Regulatory Committee 13**

### **January 2020**

Having considered the report, the Committee

1. RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that:

#### **Joint Warranting (See draft policy pg 8)**

i. the Hackney Carriage (Taxi) and Private Hire enforcement functions under the legislation of the report be delegated to the Surrey Local Licensing Authorities, in addition to these functions being retained within the Borough; and, to similarly receive the same delegated Taxi and Private Hire enforcement functions of the Surrey Local Licensing Authorities.

And,

ii. the responsibility for relevant Taxi and Private Hire licensing legislation in accordance with Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution, which confirms an existing delegated power to the Head of Environmental & Regulatory Services at part I.3 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation (authorisation to enforce all relevant Hackney Carriage (Taxi) and Private Hire licensing legislation), be extended to include the authorisation of officers of other Surrey authorities participating in a Joint Warranting Scheme.

2. RESOLVED to ask the Head of Environmental & Regulatory Services to write to the neighbouring licensing authorities in other counties to explore development of similar reciprocal joint warranting arrangements.

**(PLEASE NOTE THIS WAS APPROVED BY FULL COUNCIL ON 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020)**

#### **TAXI POLICY COVERING REPORT RE PROPOSED CHANGES FOR CONSULTATION 2020.**

- Window Tinting - for the purposes of consultation the policy would propose the same approach as Spelthorne (Regulatory minimum light transmission for the windscreen (75%) and front side windows (70%); at least 22% light transmission for rear side windows; and no minimum transmission requirement for the rear windscreen). **(See draft policy pg 43 & 47)**
- Ultra Low Emission's - It was agreed that offering a reduction in the licensing fee for ULE vehicles would send a positive signal, up until the point when all vehicles would have to be ULE. To align with the Council's Climate Change Emergency declaration, the Committee felt that all Waverley licensed vehicles

should be ULE by 2030. A maximum age of 7 years for licensed vehicles would mean that from 2023 all newly licensed vehicles would need to be ULE. **(See draft policy pg 21 & 24)**

The Committee agreed with Officer's recommendations on other matters to include in the draft revised policy for consultation, and RESOLVED:

i. To note the Department for Transport's report on taxi and private hire licensing; the Government's response to the report; and Officer comments on the report in relation to the National Anti-Fraud Network project, English language testing for drivers, matters in relation to disability and accessibility, and employment matters relevant to the 'fit and proper' test; and:

ii. That the following areas of policy be incorporated within the Council's Taxi and Private Hire Policy to be consulted upon:

- a reduced vehicle licence rate (50% of the full rate) for ULE vehicles, until such time as all vehicles are ULE under the vehicle age policy (DfT recommendation).
- a condition requiring licensees to co-operate with appropriate Officers from other licensing areas (DfT recommendation). **(See draft policy pg 35)**
- a requirement for door signs on Private Hire Vehicles (DfT recommendation). **(See draft policy pg 45)**
- a requirement that all drivers subscribe to the DBS update service (DfT recommendation). **(See draft policy pg 14)**
- a Privacy Notice covering Waverley's use of driver and operator information, to comply with Data Protection legislation and GDPR. **(See draft policy pg 8)**
- requirements for Private Hire Operators to: **(See draft policy pg 28)**
  - a. Hold and maintain a register of all staff that have contact with the public, etc.
  - b. Be able to evidence that a basic DBS check is in place for staff listed on their register, and
  - c. Prohibition on use of Passenger Carrying Vehicle (PCV) licensed drivers.
- a vehicle age policy – from 1 April 2020, newly licensed vehicles must be under 3 years old at the date of first registration; from 1 January 2023, licensed vehicles to be no more than 7 years old. **(See draft policy pg 21 & 24)**
- refusal to licence vehicles that have been written-off for insurance purposes, for safety reasons. **(See draft policy pg 21)**

- prohibition on the use of second-hand tyres or tyres that are 10 years old or more, for safety reasons. **(See draft policy pg 42 & 47)**
- Policy on window tinting to be amended to permit Regulatory minimum light transmission for the windscreen (75%) and front side windows (70%); at least 22% light transmission for rear side windows; and no minimum transmission requirement for the rear windscreen. **(See draft policy pg 25, 43 & 47)**