



# Northumberland

## County Council

COMMITTEE : LICENSING & REGULATORY

DATE: 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

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### TITLE OF REPORT

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy – Fire Extinguishers and First Aid Kits

**Report of Philip Soderquest, Head of Housing & Public Protection**

**Cabinet Member: Cllr Colin Horncastle, Portfolio Holder, Community Service**

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### **Purpose of report**

To update Members and seek approval for consultation in respect of the removal of the requirements for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles to carry fire extinguishers and first aid kits.

### **Recommendations**

Members note the contents of the report and agree consultation with the relevant bodies and stakeholders in respect of removing conditions that hackney carriage and private hire vehicles must carry fire extinguishers and first aid kits.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the Living and Enjoying priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021.

### **Key issues**

The Council has a policy in relation to Hackney carriage and Private hire licensing.

The current policy stipulates conditions are attached to all licensed vehicles. The standard conditions for both type of licences contain the following:

- A suitable and appropriate fully charged fire extinguisher shall be kept in all licensed vehicles in a secure position all times. All fire extinguishers must be checked every 12 months, prior to vehicle testing. Such a check shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of BS5306 Part 3 and Part 8 by a registered competent company. The date of the test and signatures must be clearly visible on a sticker attached to the extinguisher, along with the vehicle registration number.
- Suitable and sufficient first-aid facilities must be carried at all times in the vehicle having regard to the maximum number of passengers that the vehicle has been licensed to carry.

Although the conditions require the licence holder to ensure the equipment is within the vehicle there has never been any requirement for them to be used or training to be undertaken.

The restriction on smoking in vehicles have reduced the need for the equipment and many local authorities are now removing such conditions.

Northumberland is now one of the only local authorities in the area to continue to stipulate these conditions.

Any changes to the policy should be subject to consultation and it is proposed this commences on 1<sup>st</sup> November for 12 weeks.

### **Background**

The principal legislation associated with Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing and associated matters is contained within the:

- Town Police Clauses Act 1847
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- Transport Act 1985

Whilst the law provides a framework for licensing and sets out in general terms the standards to met before a licence may be approved, it is not prescriptive and allows local authorities to develop local arrangements and to attach conditions to licences which are considered “reasonably necessary”.

The licences administered by the Council under the above legislation are:

- Hackney Carriage Proprietors licence
- Hackney Carriage Drivers licence
- Private Hire Vehicle Proprietors Licence
- Private Hire Drivers Licence
- Private Hire Operators Licence

## Implications

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Policy</b>   | Changes to Policy                    |
| <b>Finance and value for money</b>  | None at present                      |
| <b>Legal</b>  |                                      |
| <b>Procurement</b>  |                                      |
| <b>Human Resources</b>  | None                                 |
| <b>Property</b>   | None                                 |
| <b>Equalities</b><br>(Impact Assessment attached)<br>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/><br>N/A <input type="checkbox"/> | Not applicable                       |
| <b>Risk Assessment</b>  | Not applicable                       |
| <b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>   | No immediate or direct implications. |
| <b>Customer Consideration</b>   | Not at present                       |
| <b>Carbon reduction</b>   | Not applicable                       |
| <b>Health and Wellbeing</b>   | None                                 |
| <b>Wards</b>  | All                                  |

## Background papers:

**Report sign off.**

***Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

|  | Full Name of Officer |
|--|----------------------|
| Monitoring Officer/Legal                     |                      |
| Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer |                      |
| Relevant Executive Director                  |                      |
| Chief Executive                              |                      |
| Portfolio Holder(s)                          | Colin<br>Horncastle  |

**Author and Contact Details**

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