
To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 12 December 2018

Subject: Taxi Licensing Matters

1. Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 The City Council has been reviewing the requirements and processes for licensing taxi drivers, vehicles and operators in Coventry in order to ensure that only “fit and proper” individuals hold a licence in Coventry; licensing processes are up to date and accessible and that taxi services in Coventry meet the needs of their customers. On 27 November 2018, Cabinet considered a report addressing a number of issues to support these aims, as well as proposals to allow Pedicabs and Tuk Tuks to be licensed within Coventry and to consult on a move away from age based vehicle licensing restrictions to a requirement based on emissions in support of Local Air Quality Management requirements.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee with the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the introduction of licensing measures to address emissions and air quality and to review arrangements for implementation and monitoring of the programme of changes.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:
- a) Review the proposals to move away from age based vehicle licensing restrictions to a requirement based on emissions as set out in paragraphs 1.3.1 to 1.3.6 of the attached report and make any recommendations to the Cabinet Member for City Services that should be considered as part of the consultation process;
 - b) Review the conditions set out in Appendix D of the attached report regarding Vehicle Conditions for licensing Pedicabs and Tuk Tuks and make any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for City Services on their implementation and review; and
 - c) Make any other recommendations to the Cabinet Member for City Services on taxi licensing.

3. Information/Background

- 3.1 The City Council keeps its arrangements for licensing taxi drivers, vehicles and operators in Coventry under regular review in order to ensure that only “fit and proper” individuals hold a licence in Coventry; licensing processes are up to date and accessible and that taxi services in Coventry meet the needs of their customers.

- 3.2 At their meeting on 27 November, Cabinet considered the report set out at Appendix 1. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report which focussed on 5 proposals:
- Part 1 – To update and replace the existing Private Hire Operator Conditions of Licence to incorporate requirements around the use of automated systems including the provision to grant licences to operators based outside of Coventry, subject to specific requirements.
 - Part 2 - To implement changes to current processes for new and existing driver and vehicle licence holders following consultation with key stakeholders
 - Part 3 – To consult on a move away from age based vehicle licensing restrictions to a requirement based on emissions
 - Part 4 - To implement new Conditions of Licence to allow Pedicabs and Tuk Tuks to be licensed
 - Part 5 - Approve the continuation of the existing limit on the number of traditional hackney carriage vehicle licences at 859 in accordance with the recommendations in the recent hackney carriage vehicle unmet demand survey.
- 3.3 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is particularly asked to consider the proposals to consult on a move away from age based vehicle licensing restrictions to a requirement based on emissions and the implementation of new Conditions of Licence to allow Pedicabs and Tuk Tuks to be licensed.
- 3.4 Scrutiny has regularly considered matters relating to air quality in the City, most recently at the meeting of the Business, Economy and Enterprise Scrutiny Board (3) on 11 July and 21 November 2018. At their meeting on 17 July, Cabinet accepted a number of recommendations from the Scrutiny Board including that the Council use its licensing powers to address pollution caused by diesel taxis. The role of electric powered taxis was raised at the November meeting of the Board.
- 3.5 On 20 December 2017, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee considered a strategic overview of the position in relation to taxi-licensing, including the context in which local authorities operate, the current legislative context and potential developments and recent market changes. The Committee made a number of recommendations including that support be given to the opportunities for innovation in the city e.g. the development of electric vehicles and opportunities be taken to develop and streamline requirements/ standards for taxi drivers and vehicles in Coventry while maintaining the highest level of standards.

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