

**TO: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
11 OCTOBER 2012**

**CHAUFFEUR DRIVER LICENCES
Director of Environment, Culture and Communities**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is brought to this Committee to advise Members on the implementation of a Chauffeur Private Hire Driver Licence.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Committee note the success of the trial and approves the continuation of the Chauffeur Private Hire Driver Licence scheme under the agreed conditions.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 There is a proven demand for these licences and as yet no apparent problems identified through customer feedback.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The Committee could decide that after this period of operation the licence was not of benefit to the trade and users of their service, and remove it.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 At the Committee meeting on the 13 October 2011, Members received a report from officers recommending the introduction of a Chauffeur Licence for those drivers who drive vehicles that had been granted a private hire dispensation by the Council. This dispensation is for vehicles of a certain size and standard used exclusively for corporate/executive work where there is a prior business arrangement in place.

- 5.2 The Committee decided that:

- i) the applicant must take and pass the Private Hire Driver Knowledge test without a geographical element
- ii) the applicant must also pass all other elements of the Private Hire Driver conditions including DSA test, medical and first aid course and
- iii) that officers bring back a report in October 2012 on the implementation.

- 5.3 Within the past ten months we have received and issued eight applications for this new licence. These have been for new drivers wishing to enter the corporate market and six of the applicants applied in July 2012. It is probably too early to say how large the take up of this licence will be and much will depend upon the recovery and growth of confidence in the corporate centre. It was stated by local companies that there would be demand and it appears that initial data supports this. Additionally the Council has not received any negative feedback from users of these services regarding a lack of geographical knowledge of the Bracknell Forest area being

displayed by the Chauffeurs. It should be noted that the vast majority of the work carried out by these drivers commences and finishes outside of Borough.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The legal implications are dealt with within the report

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendation(s) in this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 There are no equality issues arising from the recommendation.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 None.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Taxi and Private Hire Trade.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Letter to licensed individuals and companies.

Representations Received

- 7.3 This was included within the report of 13 October 2011 and considered by the Committee at that time.

Background Papers

Licensing and Safety Committee Report – Chauffeur Badges 13 October 2011

Contact for further information

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