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**Report of:** Corporate Director of Place & Community

**Relevant Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder for Planning & Community Safety

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**SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY 2022**

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Wards affected: (All Wards);

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To consider proposed changes to the Hackney and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2022 v2.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO LICENSING & APPEALS COMMITTEE**

2.1 That proposed changes to the Hackney and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2022 v2. are approved.

## **3.0 Proposed Amendments**

3.1 A draft version 3 of the Hackney and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2022 can be found attached to this report as Appendix 1. Tracked changes demonstrate where amendments have been made.

3.2 A summary of the changes are as follows:

- a) Changes to the medical examination procedure to provide greater flexibilities within the current system, but still maintain appropriate safeguards.
- b) That if a taxi vehicle fails the vehicle examination at application, the applicant has 2 weeks to make the repairs and re-submit for retest. After 2 weeks a full new test is required.

- c) Change of job titles to reflect current job titles.
- d) Minor grammar and layout changes have also been made with tracked changes as attached.

#### *In relation to 3.2 a) Medical Examinations*

- 3.3 For greater context, the changes in relation to medical examination have been triggered recently due to feedback from drivers, local GP services, third party medical examiners and Licensing staff. Local GP services are struggling to process taxi driver medical examinations in a timely way due to resource demands. This is delaying the processing and issue of licences (new and renewal). Drivers also have the option under the Policy to fulfil the medical examination requirement by a third party medical practitioner where their GP cannot. Where this is the case, the current Policy requires the medical practitioner to have access to the driver's full medical history. Local GP services typically provide a detailed summary of the drivers medical history to drivers, where a third party medical is required and not the full medical history, which is leading to further delays. The proposed amendments to the Policy aim to provide greater flexibility within the system, whilst not weakening the safeguards.
- 3.4 In addition, the Licensing section also proposes to adopt the DVLA Group 2 Medical Examination Report for a Group 2 Licence Form 'V4', for consistency and familiarity. The form and covering note is attached at Appendix 2 for reference.
- 3.5 It is proposed that this element will be reviewed in 12 months.

#### *In relation to 3.2 b) Retests following a failure*

- 3.6 This amendment has been made to set a reasonable time limit for applicants to make repairs and submit their vehicle for re-test.

### **4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder.

### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this report.

### **6.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

## **Appendices**

1. Appendix 1 – Draft Hackney and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2022 v3
2. Appendix 2 - DVLA Group 2 Medical Examination Report for a Group 2 Licence Form 'V4' with Covering Note.