

1. **REPORT TITLE** **Delegation of Authority to the Public Protection Committee**
- Submitted by:** (Chief Executive)
- Portfolio:** Communications, Policy and Partnerships
- Ward(s) affected:** (All)

Purpose of the Report

To put appropriate delegations in place for the Public Protection Committee to formulate, implement and amend licensing policy relating to private hire vehicles and drivers, hackney carriage vehicles and drivers and private hire operators.

To put appropriate delegations in place to allow the Public Protection Committee to attach conditions to private hire and hackney carriage driver and vehicle licences and to private hire operator licences.

Recommendations

- a) That the Council's constitution be amended at Part 3, Appendix 1, Annex 2 to read as follows:

Public Protection Committee

To exercise the duties and powers of the Council in relation to licensing and registration functions. To include the revision of existing policies relating to hackney carriage vehicle and hackney carriage driver licences, private hire vehicle, driver and operator licences and the formulation and implementation of all new taxi, private hire and private hire operator policies.

- b) That the Council's constitution be amended at Appendix 4 under Licensing Functions, paragraph (2) to include the power to impose conditions on hackney carriage licences and hackney carriage driver licences.
- c) That the Council's constitution be amended at Appendix 4 under Licensing Functions, paragraph (3) to include the power to impose conditions on private hire vehicle licences, private hire driver licences and private hire operator licences.

Reasons

The Public Protection Committee deals with matters relating to taxis and private hire licences at each meeting and it is thought best placed to make policy decisions relating to taxi and private hire matters.

1. **Background**

The Public Protection Committee is due to start work on the formulation of a new taxi and private hire policy for the Borough and the ability to make decisions in relation to policy would help to move this process along without the need to bring each policy amendment or each new policy to full council for approval. The final policy, once completed will be subject to a full consultation process which will include circulation to all elected members for comment.

2. **Issues**

At the moment only Full Council can make decisions in relation to taxi and private hire licensing policy.

3. **Options Considered**

Council could consider whether to leave the responsibility for taxi and private hire policy as a Council decision. However it is felt that this responsibility is best delegated to the Public Protection Committee where the experience and expertise for dealing with licensing matters lies.

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough
- transforming our Council to achieve excellence

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

In order for Public Protection Committee to legally deal with the proposals it is necessary for Council to delegate the relevant matters and for the Terms of Reference for the committee and the Scheme of Delegation within the Constitution to be amended.