

HEADING

Taxi Policy Consultation

Submitted by:

**Head of Environmental Health Services & Licensing
Administration Team Manager.**

Portfolio:

Finance & Resources

Ward(s) affected:

All

Purpose of the Report

To update members on the consultation process for the Council's proposed Taxi Licensing Policy and to request an extension to the consultation period.

Recommendations

That members approve the extension of the consultation period until 14th February 2019.

Reasons

The current Council Taxi Licensing Policy was introduced on 1st May 2015 and is due for review. Members have reviewed the policy and approved a 12 week public consultation. Some members of the trade have requested an extension to the consultation period.

1. Background

- 1.1. On 18th September 2018 the Committee reviewed the draft Taxi Policy 2019-21 and approved that a 12 week consultation was undertaken.
- 1.2. The consultation closes on 21st December 2018.
- 1.3. Following the consultation it was proposed to bring a further report to Public Protection Committee on 22nd January 2019 and subject to approval for the policy to be reported to your February meeting.

2. Issues

- 2.1. A number of representations have been received from the Hackney Carriage Association and Private Hire Operators within Newcastle to extend the public consultation period for this policy.
- 2.2. To date, one meeting has been held with the trade whereby a substantial representation was provided. Officers need to review this and meet with the trade to respond to their representations.
- 2.3. The trade have suggested that their availability for meeting at this time of year is limited.

3. Options Considered

- 3.1 There are two options, which members could consider these are:
 - 3.1.1 That the current proposed timetable can be followed with the consultation period closing on 21st December 2018.

3.1.2 That the consultation period is extended to 19 weeks, closing on Friday 14th February 2019. Followed by a report being presented to Licensing & Public Protection Committee on 19th March 2019.

3.2 Your officer recommendation is that the consultation period is extended.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That members approve the extension of the consultation period until 14th February 2019.

5. Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities

5.1 In line with the Council's objectives –

- Promoting a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough
- Promoting a Borough of Opportunity

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

6.1. There are no statutory requirements on the Council to have a Taxi Licensing Policy, however once in place it can be used as the basis of administrative decisions that we are required to take under the relevant legislation.

7. Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 The function is set on a cost recovery basis, with the cost of the licenses set to recover the Council's costs.

8. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

8.1. Public Protection Committee – 20th April 2015.

8.2. Licensing & Public Protection Committee – 18th September 2018.