

Dear Sirs,

At our meeting on Tuesday 5th March the trade as a group proposed four questions that you requested Officers ask of Members. I've met with the Chair of the Public Protection Committee, and our Portfolio Holder to discuss the proposals. Please see below for their response:

Proposal 1 – That representatives of the trade meet with the Officers and Members of the Public Protection Committee to discuss the policy:

Members do not consider that meeting with the trade during the consultation period or prior to the Committee meeting is appropriate. The purpose of the Committee is to authorise the draft policy to go out to consultation in the first place and to determine the final policy once the consultation period has concluded taking account of all representations and proposals that have been made. It is the role of the Officers to carry out the consultation and report the results to Members.

Proposal 2 – To put the Council policy consultation and implementation on hold until the Department for Transport (DfT) Statutory Guidance has been finalised, and to extend the current policy until that time:

Members understand the reasoning behind this proposal, however the taxi licensing policy will be a live document and if the implementation of the DfT guidance or changes to legislation occur during the lifetime of the policy then the Council will undertake a review at that time.

Proposal 3 – To extend the current consultation to allow for a 12 month period in which the trade can consider the proposals in full:

Members have already extended the consultation period twice at the request of the trade representatives, which has resulted in an increase from the original 12 week time period to 23 weeks (approximately 5 months). We consider this to be a long enough time period for a full consultation to be undertaken and it will not be extended any further.

Proposal 4 – To allow a representative/s of the trade to speak at the Committee meeting:

This request has been considered previously. The standard Council procedures for Committee meetings are that members of the public in attendance are not permitted to speak, unless the Chair of the Committee allows it. It is unusual for this to occur. As such the Chair does not think that it is appropriate for a representative, or multiple representatives of the trade to speak at the Committee meeting. You are invited and encouraged to submit written representations to the proposals before the end of consultation. Every written representation received will be considered by the Committee during the meeting so it is important that any concerns and/or counter proposals are submitted to the Council in writing before 14th March 2019."

Thanks,
Matt

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