

**Meeting: EXECUTIVE**

**Council Agenda  
Item:**

**13**

Portfolio Area: Safer and Stronger

**Date: 4 NOVEMBER 2013**

**CONVICTIONS POLICY: HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING**

NON-KEY DECISION

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**1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the proposed changes to the current Convictions Policy for the licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers and Private Hire operators.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the proposed Stevenage Borough Council Convictions Policy for the licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers and Private Hire operators set out at Appendix A, be noted and recommended to Council for approval.

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The existing policy on convictions was last approved by Council in October 2006.
- 3.2 In line with the template as provided by the Local Government Regulation Office (LGR), officers have completed a review of the existing policy on convictions.
- 3.3 Cabinet Office guidance suggests a consultation is undertaken on the proposed policy, this took place between 24 June and the 16 September 2013.
- 3.4 Following consultation, the Licensing Authority received no comments from whom they consulted with. Therefore no further amendments have been made to the proposed policy.
- 3.5 The attached policy remains the same as presented to the General Purposes Committee in June 2013 and was agreed by that Committee on 22 October 2013.

## **4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The draft Convictions Policy for the Licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers and Private Hire Operators Policy is submitted for noting and recommendation to Council on 4 December 2013. Subject to Council's approval the policy will come into effect on 2 January 2014.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

- 5.1.1 As the majority of the applications are dealt with administratively, there is not expected to be an increase in either financial or human resources.

### **5.2 Legal Implications**

- 5.2.1 It is not anticipated that there will be an increase in the number of applications being referred to the General Purposes Committee as a result of this policy being revised and published.
- 5.2.2 This policy has been drafted taking into consideration the Human Rights Act and allows for persons who may have previous relevant convictions to make a presentation to the Licensing Authority when determining or reviewing an application for a licence.

### **5.3 Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 5.3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of Environmental Health (including licensing) has been carried out. The EIA did not identify any adverse or discriminatory impacts on the grounds of age, disability, gender ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs or by way of financial exclusion.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- BD1 - LGR Template: Taxi and PHV Licensing and Criminal Convictions Policy (Sept 2010)
- BD2 - Disclosure and Barring Service – Relevant Offences Factsheet (Dec 2012)
- BD3 - Stevenage Borough Council: Policy on Convictions (October 2006)

## **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A: Stevenage Borough Council Convictions Policy for the licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers and Private Hire operators