

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 27 FEBRUARY 2012

UPDATING OF A POLICY RELATING TO THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE OR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to request the Regulatory Committee to update one of the Council's policies relating to the grant of a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licence.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF DECISION (RECOMMENDATIONS)

- 2.1** The Committee is recommended to update the policy relating to the grant of a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licence as set out at paragraph 4.1 below.

3.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 3.1** In 2001 the Licensing Committee (which was then responsible for taxi licensing) adopted a policy with regard to the safety of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles. Because some vehicles presented for licensing have been modified since leaving their manufacturer, e.g. vans converted to carry passengers in wheelchairs, applicants are presently required to demonstrate that the vehicle is certified by the Department for Transport's Vehicle Certification Agency or Vehicle and Operator Services Agency as meeting the requirements of one of three approval schemes:

- a) European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval;
- b) United Kingdom Low Volume Approval; or
- c) Enhanced Single Vehicle Approval.

- 3.2** One of these schemes, United Kingdom Low Volume Approval, has now been replaced by European Community Small Series Type Approval and National Small Series Type Approval.

- 3.3** Another scheme, Enhanced Single Vehicle Approval (which relates to vehicles which have been modified after registration), is being replaced progressively by an equivalent scheme known as Individual Vehicle Approval. On 29 April 2012 the new scheme becomes applicable to special purpose vehicles e.g. a vehicle adapted to carry a wheelchair.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1** In order that our policy accurately reflects the terminology used by the Department for Transport it requires updating to read:

No vehicle will be accepted for licensing by the Council as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle unless it has been certified by either the Vehicle Certification Agency or the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency as meeting the requirements of:

- a) European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval;
- b) European Community Small Series Type Approval;
- c) National Small Series Type Approval;
- d) Individual Single Vehicle Approval; or
- e) any relevant predecessor scheme.

- 4.2** The changes described above are not expected to present any practical problems for the taxi trade in the City.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 5.1** None.

6.0 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS/CONSULTATION

- 6.1** None.

7.0 GLOSSARY

- 7.1** None.

10.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

- 10.1** None.

11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1** None.