

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 31 OCTOBER 2011

HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES – REGULATORY ACTIVITY REPORT APRIL/SEPTEMBER 2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the regulatory activity undertaken by Council officers in the period between April and September 2011 with regard to Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF DECISION

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.

3.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, Sunderland City Council has responsibility for licensing Hackney Carriages operating within its area. This encompasses the determination, grant, administration and enforcement of drivers' licences and vehicle licences.
- 3.2 Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Sunderland City Council has responsibility for licensing Private Hire Vehicles operating within its area. This encompasses the determination, grant, administration and enforcement of drivers' licences, vehicle licences and operators' licences.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences

- 4.1 The Licensing Section processed thirty nine applications for the grant of a new drivers' licence and one hundred and five applications for the renewal of drivers' licences.
- 4.2 Additionally, six applications were referred to the Regulatory Committee for consideration.

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences

- 4.3 The Licensing Section processed one hundred and seventy one applications for the renewal of vehicle licences and eleven applications to replace licensed vehicles.
- 4.4 Additionally, applications to renew the licences of four vehicles were referred to the Regulatory Committee for consideration.

Private Hire Drivers' Licences

- 4.5 The Licensing Section processed seventeen applications for the grant of new drivers' licences and one hundred and seven applications for the renewal of drivers' licences.
- 4.6 Additionally, five applications for new or renewed licences were referred to the Regulatory Committee for consideration.

Private Hire Vehicle Licences

- 4.7 The Licensing Section processed thirty two new applications for vehicle licences, two hundred and twenty seven applications for the renewal of vehicle licences and twelve applications to replace licensed vehicles.
- 4.8 Additionally, applications for new or renewed licences in respect of six vehicles were referred to the Regulatory Committee for consideration.

Private Hire Operators Licences

- 4.9 The Licensing Section processed three new applications for operators licences, ten applications for the renewal of operators licences and one application to vary a licence with regard to the operating address.

Inspections

- 4.10 Officers from the Licensing Section have carried out eight joint enforcement exercises with colleagues from Children's Services and Northumbria Police to ensure that vehicles carrying out contracts to transport children to and from school meet the required standards.
- 4.11 Officers from the Licensing Section have also undertaken three illegal plying for hire exercises which could result in six private hire drivers being reported for prosecution in the courts.

5.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 5.1 To advise the Committee of the regulatory activity of Council officers with regard to Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles in the period from 1 April to 30 September 2011.

6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 None.

7.0 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8.0 GLOSSARY

8.1 None.

9.0 LIST OF APPENDICIES

9.1 None.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None.