

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

meeting date: TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2023
title: TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES (DISABLED PERSONS) ACT 2022
submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: STEPHEN BARKER – SOLICITOR

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of the outcome of consultation on proposed amendments to conditions of licences for drivers and operators, to infringement schemes and the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy, to reflect the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, as amended by the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Act 2022 (“the Act”), and to seek Committee’s formal approval of such amendments.

1.2 Relevance to the Council’s ambitions and priorities:

- Community Objectives - }
- Corporate Priorities - } The Council aims to be a well-managed authority; these proposals support that objective.
- Other Considerations - }

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Act had come into force on 28 June 2022, amending the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that disabled people received help, could travel with confidence and dignity, and were protected against extra charges and fares. A report had been taken to the meeting of this Committee on 1 November 2022, putting forward proposed amendments to conditions, schemes and the policy which reflected the requirements of the Act. Committee approved the proposed amendments and authorised the Head of Legal and Democratic Service to consult on proposed amendment of:

- Private Hire Operators Licence Conditions;
- Private Hire Drivers Licence Conditions;
- Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence Conditions;
- Infringement Points Scheme – Private Hire;
- Infringement Points Scheme – Hackney Carriages;
- Policy for Licencing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers, vehicles and operators.

2.2 Committee also approved consultation on the introduction of training on equality duties as a requirement for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle drivers, with such training to be provided by the Blue Lamp Trust.

2.3 Pursuant to this authorisation, the Council’s Head of Legal and Democratic Services wrote to all Private Hire drivers, Private Hire operators and Hackney Carriage drivers. A copy of the consultation documents is appended to this report as Appendix 1.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The Council received no responses to this aspect of the consultation.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – None.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – No implications identified.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – The Council’s reputation will be enhanced by ensuring that disabled people are treated equally.
- Equality and Diversity – Implementation of these amendments will ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and enhance the service provided by licenced drivers to the public.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Approve amendment of the conditions, schemes and policy as identified in paragraph 2.1 of this report.

5.2 Approve the introduction of the requirement for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers to undergo training on the equality duties provided by the Blue Lamp Trust.

STEPHEN BARKER
SOLICITOR

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Stephen Barker, extension 3216.

REF: SB/CMS/LICENSING/31 JAN 2023