

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

**TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976**

MEMBERS HANDBOOK – TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To introduce the Licensing Committee to the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Handbook produced by the Local Government Association.
- 1.2 To add the provision to the Taxi Licensing Policy that all members of the Licensing Committee must attend Safeguarding and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Training before being allowed to sit on the Committee.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles, drivers and operators are licensed in accordance with the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 2.2 Before issuing a licence to any person the Licensing Authority must be satisfied that a person is “fit and proper”. In order to determine if a person is fit and proper, we carry out a number of checks including an enhanced Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) check.
- 2.3 The Local Government Association Handbook highlights the role of councillors in the licensing function and deals with the fit and proper person test, points scheme and enforcement. It also recommends that members of the Licensing Committee should be trained on safeguarding and CSE issues. A copy of the Members Handbook is attached to the report as Appendix A.
- 2.4 Many aspects of the handbook are already in place, however following an audit of the taxi licensing function it has been recommended that Safeguarding and CSE training be made mandatory for all members of the Licensing Committee..

3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The options available to the Licensing Committee are:

Option 1 – To take note of the Members Handbook and to make Safeguarding and CSE awareness training mandatory for all members of the Licensing Committee and for new members before they sit on the committee.

Option 2 – To take note of the Members Handbook but not to make the training mandatory.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1 – To introduce mandatory training for all members of the Licensing Committee. This would further safeguard vulnerable people in North Lincolnshire and provide members of the committee with more knowledge of this sensitive area.

4.2 Option 2 – Should the training not be mandatory, then the Council could be open to criticism and could potentially fail in its responsibility to protect the public.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 There are no resource implications.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 Not applicable.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1. That Option 1 be approved and the revised Taxi Licensing Policy be submitted to a meeting of the Council for approval.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: -
None