

REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

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PORTFOLIO	Resources
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Minor Amendment to Taxi Licensing – Policy Guidelines to Fitness and Propriety Including Convictions and Other Relevant Information.**PURPOSE**

1. To consider a minor amendment to the existing policy guidelines..

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Licensing Committee approves the amendment as set out in this report

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3 To set a tariff for those instances where applicants make false declarations on application forms.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- 4 The current policy provides guidance to any person with an interest in public and private hire licensing including:
 - Applicants for new licenses
 - Existing licensed holders whose licences are being reviewed or renewed
 - Licensing officers
 - Members of the licensing committee (or other relevant decision making body)
 - Magistrates hearing appeals against local authority decisions.

The convictions policy particularly helps Members and officers to be consistent when considering whether or not an applicant or an existing licence holder is a fit and proper person to hold a licence, and sets tariffs for particular offences and circumstances

5. Paragraph 7 of the guidance to the current policy states, "When submitting an Application, Individuals are required to declare all previous Convictions they may have. Individuals are also required to declare all formal/simple cautions, any matters of restorative justice and all fixed penalties and all endorsable fixed penalties they have received and to provide details of all criminal matters of which they are currently the subject of criminal investigation or prosecution. It is an offence for any person knowingly or recklessly making a false declaration or to omit any material particular in giving information required by the Application for a Licence. Where an Applicant has made a false statement or a false declaration on their Application for the grant or renewal of a Licence, the Licence will normally be refused."

It is proposed that the following words be added to the end of the above paragraph in order to provide clarity to applicants and decision makers should further applications be made by those persons previously refused.

"Further applications from the same person will not normally be granted within 6 months of the date of the initial refusal."

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

- 6 None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7 Determination of hackney carriage and private hire driver's and operator's licences is the responsibility of the Licensing Committee

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

- 8 Members of the Taxi Task Group
David Talbot, Senior Solicitor.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9 None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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ALSO:

Karen Davies