

Report to Licensing Committee

Report Reference: LSC-002-2011/12.

Date of meeting: 12 October 2011.



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Subject: Licensing Consultation

Responsible Officer: Kim Tuckey (01992 564034).

Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- 1. To review the results of the licensing consultation;**
- 2. To adopt any changes to conditions which the Committee consider desirable;
and**
- 3. To consult on any major changes to the licensing conditions.**

Report:

1. At its last meeting on 13 April 2011 the Licensing Committee considered a report requesting that the licensing conditions be changed. The following suggestions were made:

(a) The following conditions be added for Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence and Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence:

- (i) a prohibition against using the central door locking system whilst carrying only Adults;
- (ii) the driver must not drive a vehicle unless the licence plate is displayed and is legible;
- (iii) the driver must not drive a vehicle unless he/she is satisfied that there is a current insurance policy;
- (iv) the driver must take reasonable precautions for the safety of passengers entering and leaving the vehicle and ensure that seat belts and child restraints are used;
- (v) if requested the driver must provide a receipt for a fare; and
- (vi) a driver must notify the Council of any medical condition that arises during the term of the licence which affects his/her ability to drive.

(b) The main changes for Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietors Licence and Private Hire Vehicle Licence would be:

- (i) a condition that the driver must submit his/her vehicle for inspection before the grant and renewal of the licence (this would happen in any event but it is included for the information of the applicants);
- (ii) the Advertising condition changed to allow advertising on the headrests as well as the side of the cars and to expand on the categories of advertising that the Council can ask to be removed; and

(iii) a requirement that the licence holder must notify the Council of any change of address.

(c) There were no substantive changes made to the Private Hire Vehicles Operators Licence.

2. The Licensing Committee resolved:

(1) That the proposed changes to the Taxi Licensing Conditions be agreed; and

(2) That a consultation exercise be carried out with members of the trade and interested parties.

3. A consultation exercise was carried out and a number of replies were received including suggestions for a more comprehensive change to the licensing conditions. Replies, copies of which are attached, were received from:

- Loughton Town Council;
- Andrew James of the Quality Taxi Partnership;
- Mr Sanu of the Epping Forest Taxi Association dated 6 July 2011 and 9 September 2011;
- Feedback from members - Members have indicated that they would like the condition requiring a driver to notify the Council of any offences especially driving offences made clearer;
- David Betteridge – a licensed taxi driver; and
- Mike Hobbs – Facilities Manager.

4. A copy of the current licence which incorporates the amendments agreed at the April Licensing Committee are attached together with a schedule which outlines the changes to the Licensing conditions suggested as a result of the consultation. Members are asked to consider and agree any changes suggested which they would consider would improve the licensing conditions.