



**Report Reference Number: L/19/9**

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**To:** Licensing Committee  
**Date:** 4 November 2019  
**Status:** Non Key Decision  
**Ward (s) Affected:** Whole District  
**Author:** Sharon Cousins, Licensing Manager  
**Lead Executive Member:** Councillor Pearson, Lead Member for Housing, Health and Culture  
**Lead Officer:** Alison Hartley, Solicitor to the Council

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**Title:** Proposal to suspend Section 6 of the Taxi Licensing Policy.

**Summary:**

A report has been submitted to the Executive to make a decision in respect of suspending section 6 of the Taxi Licensing Policy (“the Policy”).

**Recommendations:**

To note the content of the Executive report attached at Appendix A and provide any comments to be considered by the Executive.

**1. Introduction and background**

1.1 Section 6 of the Policy sets out how the Council manages its Hackney Carriage Fleet by upholding a ratio of 70% wheelchair accessible vehicles and 30% non wheelchair accessible vehicles.

1.2 Some concerns have been raised regarding section 6 of the Policy, in particular:

- The safety standard wheelchair accessible vehicles (“WAV”) in the current Policy (which has led to officers proposing that the new Policy includes a new definition of a “wheelchair accessible vehicle” to comply with Equalities Act legislation); and
- The requirement to join a waiting list to change from a hackney carriage WAV to a non-WAV , and its administration, including the time frame and assessment (section 6.2 and Appendix D of the Policy).

- 1.3 The present Policy has been reviewed. The draft 2019 Taxi Licensing Policy version has been consulted upon and is proposed to be put before Licensing Committee and then Executive in December 2019.
- 1.4 The 2019 Taxi Licensing Policy, if approved, would update wheelchair accessibility standards to comply with the Equalities Act legislation. The effect of this would be that those wheelchair accessible vehicles currently licensed as Hackney Carriage vehicles (HC) would no longer meet the requirements to be officially recognised as “Wheelchair Accessible” in the 2019 Taxi Licensing Policy, and would instead become and be treated as non-wheelchair accessible HC Vehicles. Consequently this would render the waiting list in 6.2 obsolete and consequently the administrative work involved in applying the waiting list criteria at that time would be a disproportionate use of resource.
- 1.5 After the implementation of the 2019 Taxi Licensing Policy, the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles would gradually be built up over time and in accordance with the new standards of wheelchair accessible, which would comply with the Equalities Act legislation.
- 1.6 Therefore an Executive decision is required in respect of suspending Section 6 of the current Taxi Licensing Policy pending implementation of the new Taxi Licensing Policy.

## **2. Legal/Financial Controls and other Policy matters**

- 2.1 As set out in the Executive report.

## **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to consider the report and to provide comments.

## **4. Background Documents**

None.

### **Contact Officer:**

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### **Appendices:**

*A – Executive Report – Proposal to suspend Section 6 of the Taxi Licensing Policy.*