

Law Commission Reform of Taxi and Private Hire Services

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Sub-Committee

Date: 22nd August 2012

Author: Head of Highways and Transport

Wards: All Wards

Locality Affected: All Localities

Parishes Affected: All Parishes

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The Law Commission for England and Wales, which advises the Government on law reform, has launched a public consultation seeking views on proposed changes to the way in which taxis and private hire vehicles (often referred to as minicabs) are regulated.
- 1.2 Officers have made recommendations on technical issues and the document as a whole through their National Association, see Appendix C.
- 1.3 This report is to give members the opportunity to comment on the consultation document proposals from the Law Commission, the consultation concludes on the 10th September 2012.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the recommendations made by officers in regard to the proposals as set out in Appendix C.
- 2.2 Consider the consultation document and make recommendations for inclusion in a Council response.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Law Commission is undertaking a review investigating the Reform of Taxi and Private Hire Services.
- 3.2 A copy of the consultation paper No 203 Reforming the Law of Taxi and Private Hire Services has been forwarded to the Council's three political groups and two copies have been placed in the Members Room
- 3.3 The Swindon Disability Coalition and contacts for the local Private Hire and Hackney Carriage trade have been advised of the consultation in July 2012. In addition officers have reminded these bodies that the consultation period ends on 10th September 2012 should they wish to submit separate responses.

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- 3.4 Members are asked to consider the consultation document and make recommendations on a Borough Council response.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Members may suggest alternatives to the proposals as set out in Appendix C

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

- 5.2 There are no procurement issues arising from this report

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.3 There are no legal or human rights implications arising from this report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.4 No assessment has been made as this is a Law Commission consultation document.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.5 This report relates to the Council's Licensing function.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.6 A copy of an Impact Assessment from the Law Commission has been appended to the report. No separate Diversity Impact Assessment has been made as this report relates to a consultation. The Swindon Disability Coalition has been advised of the consultation should they wish to make representations.

Risk Management

- 5.7 No Risk Management Assessment has been undertaken as this would be the subject of a report on any policy changes following the Law Commission review.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

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7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Consultation paper No 203 Reforming the Law of Taxi and Private Hire Services

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Summary of the Law Commission Review “Reforming the law of Taxi and Private Hire Services
- 8.2 The Impact Assessment carried out by the Law Commission regarding the review.
- 8.3 Appendix C List of Law Commission Proposals and answers