
Report of Head of Elections, Licensing and Registration

Report to Licensing Committee

Date: 1 November 2016

Subject: Safeguarding in Taxi & Private Hire Licensing – 12 month review of progress (Draft Report to Executive Board)

Are specific electoral wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. In December 2014 and December 2015 the Executive Board considered issues around safeguarding in Taxi & Private Hire Licensing. They gave certain directions, noted updates and also required that Officers reported back to them in December 2016 with the progress made.
2. Attached behind this Information Report is the draft report to Executive Board in December 2016 for Licensing Committee to consider. Any views expressed by Licensing Committee may be reflected in an updated Executive Board Report

Recommendations

3. That Members consider the draft Executive Board report and make any appropriate comments

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To inform Licensing Committee Members of an Executive Board Report for consideration on 14 December 2016 around safeguarding issues and improvements around Taxi & Private Hire Licensing and to enable Members to consider and contribute to that report.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Following the Jay and Casey reports into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, Licensing Committee undertook a review of policy and procedures in 2014 which contributed to a report to the Executive Board in December 2014. The Executive gave some direction and required that Officers report back to the Executive Board in December 2015, at which point some further issues were raised for Officers to progress. An update report was required for Executive Board in December 2016.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The draft Executive Board report is attached and members are asked to consider the content of the report and contribute to it. (Key policies are available at www.Leeds.gov.uk/taxis).

4 Corporate considerations

4.2 Consultation and engagement

- 4.2.1 All of the safeguarding progress work undertaken on behalf of Licensing Committee and Executive Board has been the subject of public and trade consultation. As this is an update report with no new proposals at this point no further consultation has been required.
- 4.2.2 A report of the safeguarding measures which have been built into licensing policy and procedure and the progress which has been made on issues identified by Executive Board was presented to Citizens and Communities Scrutiny Board on 10 October 2016. There were no direction actions required by the Board other than an update in 6 months' time which may be in the form of a briefing note.

4.3 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.3.1 An Equality and Impact Screening assessment is not required on this information report.

4.4 Council policies and best council plan

- 4.3.1 The Taxi & Private Hire Licensing policies contribute to the following aims:

Best Council Plan 2013 -17

Towards being an Enterprising Council

Our Ambition and Approach

Our Ambition is for Leeds to be the best city and Leeds City Council to be the best council in the UK – fair, open and welcoming with an economy that is both prosperous and sustainable so all our communities are successful.

Our Approach is to adopt a new leadership style of civic enterprise, where the council becomes more enterprising, business and partners become more civic, and citizens become more actively engaged in the work of the city.

Our Best Council Outcomes

Make it easier for people to do business with us

Our Best Council Objectives

Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth – Improving the economic wellbeing of local people and businesses. With a focus on:

- Helping people into jobs,
- Boosting the local economy
- Generating income for the council

Ensuring high quality public services – improving quality, efficiency and involving people in shaping their city. With a focus on;

- Getting services right first time
- Improving customer satisfaction

4.4.2 The Taxi & Private Hire Licensing policies contribute to priorities:

- Reduce crime levels and their impact across Leeds
- Effectively tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour in communities

4.4.3 Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults:

4.4.4 Leeds City Council has both a moral and legal obligation to ensure the duty of care for both children and vulnerable adults across all of its services. This cannot be achieved by any single service or agency. Safeguarding is ultimately the responsibility of all of us and depends on the everyday vigilance of staff who play a part in the lives of children or vulnerable adults.

4.5 Resources and value for money

4.5.1 There are no cost implications for this information report.

4.6 Legal Implications, access to information and call In

4.6.1 All legal matters have been appropriately considered within the context of the individual reports connected to the draft Executive Board report.

4.7 Risk management

4.7.2 There are no implications within the context of this report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Any views expressed will be considered and contribute to the draft Executive Board report.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That Members consider the draft Executive Board report and make any appropriate comments

7 Background documents¹

7.2 Licensing Committee Report and minutes – 7 October 2014

7.3 Licensing Committee Report and minutes - 17 November 2015

7.4 Executive Board Report and minutes – 17 December 2014

7.5 Executive Board Report and minutes – 16 December 2015

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.