LEEDS HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS

SUITABILITY POLICY OBJECTION PETITION

The signatories to this petition would like Leeds City Council to consider the following two options;

OPTION 1 - suspend the Suitability Policy and have a proper consultation with the drivers through seminars and consultation with the Trade representatives via a working group.

OPTION 2 - The second option is that the new proposed Suitability policy is discarded and the previous convictions criteria policy remains in force

The reasons for our request are as follows;

- 1. The recommendations by DFT and Institute of Licensing are statutory guidelines ONLY and not the Law!!
- 2. The Road Traffic Act allows drivers to use their occupation to plead for an extension should they reach 12 points this policy over rules the Road Traffic Act!!
- 3. A PSV driver can carry 73 passengers on a double decker bus and will only lose his/her licence on accruing 12 or more points and will only be banned for 12 months but a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage driver who can only carry a maximum of 8 passengers, accruing a mere 7 points is denied his livelihood for 3 years!!
- 4. Taxi and Private Hire drivers have had to or will be buying vehicles costing anything from £15k up to £70k on finance to meet the upcoming CAZ requirements just two motoring convictions will mean immediate suspension for 3 years. Drivers will lose their only source of income immediately meaning they will not be able to pay their finance instalments and any other financial commitments this will make many drivers and their families homeless or destitute!!
- 5. The consultation carried out was for Driver Training and the Suitability Policy and the drivers that did receive the emails on 5/11/2018 state that questions were mainly relating to driver training and that the questions were very vague. We believe that the Regulators Code has not been followed as specific questions relating to this policy were never asked or consulted upon!!
- 6. The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 states that convictions are classed as spent after one year for offences where a community order has been given and 2 years for custodial sentences of 6 months or less, based on these principals how is a 3-year suspension justified for 7 points on a driving licence!!

