

**South Cambridgeshire District Council
Record of Executive Decision**

This form should be used to record key and other decisions made by individual Lead Cabinet members. The contact officer will ensure that the signed and completed form is given to Democratic Services as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision has been taken.

A key decision shall not be taken unless notice of the item has been published at least 28 days before the decision is to be taken except where:

- a General Exception notice has been published under Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and the Chairman of Scrutiny and Overview Committee has been informed in writing; or
- a Special Urgency notice has been published under Rule 16 of those Rules and the Chairman of Scrutiny and Overview Committee has agreed the decision is urgent.

Unless permission has been obtained from the Chairman of Council and the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee that this decision may be treated as a matter of urgency under Rule 12.19 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules, this decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in under Rule 7 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules or Rule 12 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules. Where consent has been obtained to exempt the decision from call-in, this will be specified below.

Lead Cabinet Member	Lead Cabinet member for Environmental Services and Licensing
Subject Matter	Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy Review
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Date Taken	Tuesday, 14 September 2021
Contact Officer	Rachel Jackson, Principal Licensing Officer 01954 713397 (Rachel.Jackson@scambs.gov.uk)
Date Published	Tuesday, 14 September 2021
Call-In Expiry/Exempt from call-in	Tuesday, 21 September 2021
Key Decision?	No
In Forward Plan?	No
Urgent?	No

<p>Purpose / Background</p> <p>On 7 September the Licensing Committee met to discuss proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy. It was decided that only part of the amendments would be considered which were urgent or pressing (or mandatory), with a decision that other matters be discussed at a workshop prior to a further Committee in November.</p> <p>Recommendations for Consideration</p> <p>The following recommendations were agreed:</p> <p>1. Fixing of plates</p> <p>To amend paragraph 3.6 e and k in the policy (reference to bolting plates to vehicles) to be “securely fixed”.</p> <p>Rationale</p>

To allow officers to explore more cost effective and more sustainable solutions to plates. One option is to switch to an adhesive variant of the plate which avoids the need for brackets being bolted to vehicles. Agreeing to this proposal will allow officers to undertake a procurement exercise to enable alternatives to be considered.

2. CCTV

The current policy mandated that all vehicles were to have CCTV installed by no later than March 2021. The Licensing Committee agreed that this would be amended to “**no later than March 2023**”.

Rationale

As this date has now passed, and CCTV has not been installed into vehicles due the recent (and ongoing) effects of the pandemic upon staff resources, capacity and the taxi trade, this policy must be amended to extend the implementation date. The additional time would allow the sourcing of CCTV in line with the agreed specification and allow officers to consider best practice amongst other Authorities.

In addition, it should be noted that in July 2020, the Department for Transport’s (DfT) Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards were published, which included new and additional guidance on CCTV. In particular, it stated that the government is fully supportive of the use of overt surveillance cameras in a public place (taxis and private hire vehicles), whenever that use is:

- in pursuit of a legitimate aim;
- necessary to meet a pressing need;
- proportionate;
- effective, and;
- compliant with any relevant legal obligations.

The guidance also stated that: “The imposition of a blanket requirement to attach CCTV as a condition to a licence is likely to give rise to concerns about the proportionality of such an approach and will therefore require an appropriately strong justification and must be kept under regular review”.

The additional time scales will allow Officers to consider existing evidence and data, to ensure this aspect of the policy remain robust and meets the most recent guidance.

3 . Mandatory Amendment

The inclusion in the Policy relating to a new tax conditionality requirement for Drivers coming into effect in April 2022.

(The second aspect was no longer accepting an EU Passport as right to remain and work in the United Kingdom (this is not within the Policy))

Declaration(s) of Interest

Record below any relevant interest declared by any executive Member consulted or by an officer present in relation to the decision.

None

Dispensation(s)

In respect of any conflict(s) of interest declared above, record below any dispensation(s) granted by the Council’s Standards Committee.

None

Consultation <i>Record below all parties consulted in relation to the decision.</i>
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Trade, parish/town councils and public. Referral to Licensing Committee on 7 September 2021.
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Other Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection

The changes to the Policy are necessary as detailed above.
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Final decision	Reason(s)
To amend the Policy at the three points detailed above.	Necessary to reflect changes.

Signed	Name (CAPITALS)	Signature	Date
Lead Cabinet Member	Signed copy available upon request from Democratic Services (democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk)		
Chief Officer			

Further Information

Licensing Committee agenda 7 September 2021. Scrutiny and Overview Committee.
