

LICENSING COMMITTEE (NON LICENSING ACT 2003 FUNCTIONS)

Agenda Item 17

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Terms of Reference and Constitution for the Brighton & Hove Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Consultation Forum		
Date of Meeting:	17 November 2011		
Report of:	Head of Planning and Public Protection		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Martin Seymour	Tel: 29-6659
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 That committee approve the updated terms of reference and constitution for the Brighton & Hove Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Consultation Forum.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Committee approve the amended Terms of Reference and Constitution for the Brighton & Hove Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Consultation Forum. (Appendix 1).

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Brighton & Hove Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Consultation Forum has been operating for over 14 years following local government reorganisation. Licensing Committee agreed the forum's previous terms of reference in April 2007. The current terms of reference are appended (appendix 2). The Forum meets regularly (approximately every 6 weeks) to discuss proposals to change policy and procedures or practice in the licensing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and drivers in Brighton and Hove or which could benefit passengers.
- 3.2 Members of the trade and stakeholders have met on several occasions and agreed the proposed Terms of Reference before bringing to the forum. The terms of reference need to accommodate changing local authority structures and changes to trade representation. The forum's constitution must be consistent with the Council's constitution. Licensing Committee has responsibility for all licensing functions not covered by the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005. Licensing Committee has delegated power to set taxi licensing policy.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The matter has been discussed at the council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Consultation Forum.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

Revenue: The costs of holding the Forum meetings and making amendments to the Terms of Reference and Constitution are met from within the Taxi Licensing revenue budget.

Finance Officer Consulted: Name Karen Brookshaw Date: 26/09/11

5.2 Legal Implications:

There is no legal requirement in the Council's constitution or otherwise to have such a Forum but once operating, its terms of reference and constitution should be consistent with those of the Council.

Lawyer Consulted: Rebecca Sidell Date: 04/11/11

5.3 Equalities Implications:

Members of the forum should include as many driver groups as possible so that all categories of driver are represented and able to give their view to the council via the forum.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

None

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

None

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

None

5.7 Public Health Implications:

None

5.8 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

Taxi drivers are often the first point of contact for visitors to Brighton & Hove and are in a position to make a positive contribution to visitor experience and providing information visitors need. Greater involvement from the trade and other stakeholders in policy decision making will improve visitor satisfaction.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 The only other options are is to retain the existing Terms of Reference or not to have a consultative forum and allow members of the trade to speak at committee meetings.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The terms of reference have been updated and require support from members.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Proposed Terms of Reference

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. None