

A meeting of the LICENSING AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE will be held in the CIVIC SUITE (LANCASTER / STIRLING ROOMS), PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN on WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2022 at 2:00 PM and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

#### **AGENDA**

#### **APOLOGIES**

**1. MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing and Protection Committee held on 29th June 2022.

Contact Officer: Democratic Services - (01480) 288169

#### 2. MEMBERS INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary, other registerable and non registerable interests in relation to any Agenda Item. See Notes below.

Contact Officer: Democratic Services - (01480) 388169

3. MONITORING REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF THE FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLANS (Pages 11 - 22)

To consider the monitoring report on the delivery of the Service Plans for the period 1st April to 30th June 2022.

Contact Officer: C Deeth - (01480) 388233

4. SCHEME OF DELEGATION UPDATE - PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCES (Pages 23 - 26)

To consider a report by the Interim Licensing Manager regarding Private Hire Driver licences.

Appendix A – To FOLLOW.

Contact Officer: M Bishop - (01480) 388785

#### 5. BUSINESS AND PLANNING ACT 2020 - PAVEMENT LICENCES

To consider a report by the Interim Licensing Manager providing an update on the extension of the Business and Planning Act 2023 with regard to Pavement Licences. (TO FOLLOW).

Contact Officer: M Bishop - (01480) 388785

# 6. SUSPENSION & REVOCATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES (Pages 27 - 28)

To consider a report summarising the actions which have taken place since the last meeting.

Contact Officer: Licensing - (01480) 387075

20th day of September 2022

Head of Paid Service

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests.

Further information on <u>Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and</u> Non-Registerable Interests is available in the Council's Constitution

# Filming, Photography and Recording (including Live Streaming) at Council Meetings

This meeting will be filmed for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's YouTube site. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items. If you make a representation to the meeting you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed. By entering the meeting you are also consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you have any queries regarding the streaming of Council meetings, please contact Democratic Services on 01480 388169.

The District Council also permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with <u>guidelines</u> agreed by the Council.

Please contact Democratic Services, Tel: 01480 388234 / email: Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website.

# **Emergency Procedure**

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.



# Agenda Item 1

### **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the meeting of the LICENSING AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE held in the Civic Suite (Lancaster/Stirling Rooms), Pathfinder House, St Marys Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 29 June 2022.

PRESENT: Councillor B S Banks – Chairman.

Councillors J Clarke, S J Criswell, S A Howell, A R Jennings, P A Jordan, P Kadewere, B M Pitt, D Terry and C H Tevlin.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on

behalf of Councillors M L Beuttell and A E Costello.

#### 5 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 10th November 2021 and 18th May 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### 6 MEMBERS INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

Prior to the start of the next item and for the benefit of those newly elected to the Council, the Interim Community Service Manager gave a brief overview of the specific services within the Community Division.

# 7 MONITORING REPORT ON THE DELIVERY OF THE FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLANS

With the assistance of a report by the Interim Community Services Manager, the Committee received an update on progress made against the delivery of work on the Council's Food Law Enforcement and Health and Safety Plans during the period 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022. The report also included cumulative data for the year – 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

By way of introduction, the Committee were reminded that the Service Plan for 2021-22 had been approved at a time during the pandemic when it was not known what restrictions would be in place for food businesses and officers undertaking inspections during the course of that year.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the lower than anticipated number of completed food hygiene inspections in 2021/22. In doing so, the Committee were reminded that this was a consequence of inspections only being permitted to resume from June 2021 and staff shortages within the team. Members were reminded that since the resumption of inspections, the focus of the team has been on those categorised as 'high risk' and recently opened businesses in line with the Food Standards Agency Recovery Plan. Members were also advised

that the absence of any Alternative Enforcement Strategy Inspections was not an immediate concern given their low-risk status which could be assessed by alternative means.

In reviewing the monitoring information, officers commended the team for their activities during the pandemic and acknowledged that it was unavoidable that the targets were not met within this period. However, moving forward into the 'new normal', it was incumbent on the Council to ensure that the routine food inspections returned as they were important to ensure that food businesses were operating at the standard required.

In response to a question regarding the anticipated timescale by which the status for programmed inspections was likely to return to target, the Committee were advised that the authority was working in line with the Food Standards Agency Recovery Plan and was scheduled to meet the first target imminently. It was anticipated that the status of the programme would be back to 'green' by June 2022. Comment was also made with regards to the general impact of the pandemic on the hospitality industry over the course of the past two years.

The Committee were pleased to note that the food safety and hygiene enforcement function was now fully resourced as this had been a continuing challenge for the service over the previous two years.

Comment was also made with regards to the important role for the team in providing support and guidance to local businesses, community groups and agency partners and as such the Committee was pleased to note that the service would be investigating the viability and demand for, the reinstatement of classroom training courses in 2022-23.

Whereupon it was

**RESOLVED** 

that progress on the delivery of the two Service Plans for the period 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022 be noted.

#### 8 SERVICE PLAN FOR FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT 2022-23

Consideration was given to a report by the Interim Community Services Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached a draft Service Plan for Food Law Enforcement for 2022-23.

The Committee were reminded that the District Council has responsibility for most food safety and hygiene enforcement functions within the District. As such, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) requires every local authority to outline how it will fulfil its duty to deliver food controls in the form of a Service Plan, specifying how and at what level the official controls with be delivered.

Having been reminded of the impact of Covid 19 on the service during the previous two years, the Committees' attention was drawn to the objectives which contribute to the overall aim of the proposed Plan for 2022-23. Members were pleased to note that a balanced programme of work was proposed which incorporated a full range of official controls, together with the recovery plan

implemented to address the backlog of food inspections created by Covid 19. Attention was also drawn to the planned developments for the service over the course of the coming year.

In reviewing the information provided, clarification was sought with regard to the fluctuations in the numbers of food businesses by type operating within Huntingdonshire in comparison to the previous year and the Environmental Health Team Leader undertook to circulate a further breakdown to Committee members outside of the meeting. Comments and questions were also raised and answered with regards to the hybrid working practices and the monitoring of officers' ability to work efficiently and agilely.

With regards to the proposed Development Plan for 2022/23, the Committee noted that it was hoped to investigate the viability and demand for the reinstatement of classroom-based training courses to help businesses comply with food hygiene requirements during the course of the year. It may also be possible to deliver these within local communities. Members noted that the delivery of such courses provided a possible income stream for the Council.

Comment was also made with regards to the ongoing issues with reporting and accuracy with data being migrated to the new Environmental Health and Licensing Management system and the Committee were advised that work was ongoing to embed the system more fully into everyday work and to get more from the system.

In response to a question regarding the impact of Brexit on food producers within the District, the Committee were advised that as yet there had been no increased demand for export certificates to the EU since Brexit. This was a result of the low number of manufacturers and the absence of any businesses which fall under the remit of the local authority for the export of meat / meat products. In addition, some of the controls due to be implemented have been postponed.

Whereupon it was

#### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that the Service Plan for Food Law Enforcement 2022-23 be approved in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- (b) that the Interim Community Service Manager be authorised to update the 2021-22 performance data within the Service Plan prior to publication.
- (c) that quarterly reports be requested to monitor progress against the Service Plan.

#### 9 SERVICE PLAN FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATION 2022-23

Consideration was given to a report by the Interim Community Services Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached the 2022-23 Draft Service Plan for Health and Safety Regulation.

The Committee were advised that Health and Safety Executive (HSE) as the National Regulator for Health and Safety requires every local authority to outline how it will fulfil its duty to make adequate arrangements for the enforcement of the relevant statutory provisions within its area.

With regard to the content of the Draft Plan for 2022-23, Members' attention was drawn to the key priorities identified for the coming year as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report and specifically the local authority projects which had been identified. Following a number of recent incidents reported in the national press, Members were pleased to note the inclusion of a project relating to inflatable amusement devices.

In reviewing the proposed Plan and in response to questions from individual members, the Committee were advised that there was no longer a requirement to maintain a register of premises for which the Council has enforcement responsibility. However, the Council would continue to retain its historic records. Members were also pleased to note that the issues with reporting from the new Environmental Health and Licensing Management system were not the same for health and safety as for food hygiene.

Whereupon, it was

#### **RESOLVED**

- a) that the Service Plan for Health and Safety Regulation 2022-2023 be approved in accordance with the Council's Constitution;
- b) that the Interim Community Services Manager be authorised to update the 2021-22 performance data within the Service Plan prior to publication if required;
- c) that quarterly reporting figures on progress against the annual Service Plan for Health and Safety Regulation 2022-2023 be requested.

#### 10 REPRESENTATIONS ON EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

With the assistance of a report by the Elections and Democratic Services Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Committee were invited to review the Council's representation on those organisations to which it appoints.

Members were advised that a full review of all of the organisations to which the Council appoints was undertaken in March / April 2022. As a result of which it had been proposed to discontinue the appointments to two of those organisations to which the Licensing and Protection Committee appoints. However subsequent to the publication of the report, it had been established that the liaison committee for the Little Barford Power Station was still in existence and it was now proposed to appoint the Chair, Councillor B S Banks as the Council's representative to this organisation.

Whereupon and having noted that local ward councillors had been proposed for the three appointments and were all content to fulfil these positions, it was

**RESOLVED** 

a) that nominations be made to the following organisations for the period 30th June to 7th May 2026 –

Organisation	Representative
Little Barford Power Station Liaison Committee	Councillor B S Banks
Needingworth Quarry Local Liaison Committee	Councillors P Hodgson- Jones and J Neish
Warboys Landfill Local Liaison Committee	Councillor C Lowe

b) that in the event that new appointments are required to the District Council's representation during the course of the four-year term, the Elections and Democratic Services Manager by delegated after consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Protection Committee to nominate and authorise alternative representatives as necessary.

#### 11 HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE REVIEW

The Committee received a verbal update on a review of Hackney Carriage fares which had recently been the subject of a public consultation exercise.

Having noted that the public consultation had concluded on 27th June 2022, the Committee were advised that the adoption and approval of a table of fares for hackney carriages was considered to be an Executive function. Accordingly, a report on the outcome of the consultation would be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 19th July 2022. Members were advised that as part of the report, a comparison would be included with the fares charged by other authorities.

# 12 SUSPENSION & REVOCATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES

With the aid of a report by the Licensing Team (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Committee noted the details of actions which had been taken since the last meeting under delegated authority. There were currently no outstanding issues awaiting a decision from the Magistrates Court.

In reviewing the specific cases outlined within the report, Members sought clarification as to the process by which the Authority receives a notification should a licensed Private Hire vehicle be involved in an accident.

Chairman

Page	10	of	28
------	----	----	----

Public Key Decision - No

# **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Title/Subject Matter: Monitoring Report on the Delivery of the Food

Law Enforcement and Health and Safety Service

Plans.

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee - 28

September 2022

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Customer Services – Cllr

S Ferguson

Report by: Claudia Deeth – Interim Community Service

Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

## **Executive Summary:**

The Food Law Enforcement Service Plan and Health and Safety Service Plan 2022-23 were approved by committee on 29 June 2022.

The report provides information about the delivery of the two Service Plans for Quarter 1.

Programmed work is delivered alongside reactive work, the volume of which by definition is impossible to predict. This work is carried out according to risk. Complaints and accident investigations are prioritised using risk-based selection criteria, and the volume of work is reported here to attempt to identify any emerging risks in terms of resource provision.

The Food Standards Agency permitted all planned food safety inspections to resume mid-June 2021 and activities are being completed in line with the Food Standards Agency Recovery Plan.

Appendices 1 and 2 contain detailed information about the delivery of the Food Law Enforcement Service Plan. Appendix 3 contains detailed information about the delivery of the Health and Safety Service Plan.

### Recommendation:

The Committee is asked to review progress and provide any comments considered appropriate on the delivery of the two Service Plans for Q1.

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report provides information about the delivery of the two Service Plans for Q1 of 2022-23, the period 1 April 2022 - 30 June 2022.

#### 2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

2.1 Members have asked to be kept informed about the delivery of the work in the approved plans.

#### 3. SERVICE AREAS COVERED BY THE REPORT AND ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Food Law Enforcement consists of the following areas of work:
  - Planned activities such as routine inspections of food businesses, food and environmental sampling and the provision of food hygiene training courses;
  - Unplanned (reactive) work such as the investigation of customer complaints, dealing with requests for compliance advice and following up notifications of food poisoning;
  - Liaison with other departments in the interests of coordinated service delivery: in particular licensing and planning;
  - Supporting national strategies and the wider public health agenda.
- 3.2 Appendices 1 and 2 provide details of the number of proactive and reactive activities that have taken place throughout the year compared to the number of activities predicted.
- 3.3 Health and Safety regulation consists of these areas of work:
  - Planned activities such as unannounced inspections of high-risk businesses and targeted interventions in line with the HSE's strategic aims.
  - Unplanned (reactive) work such as the investigation of notifiable accidents, prescribed diseases, complaints and dealing with serious risks that are identified during other activities (Matters of Evident Concern).
  - The provision of compliance advice to businesses.
- 3.4 Appendix 3 provide details of the number of activities that have taken place throughout the year compared to the number of activities predicted.

#### 4. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 4.1 The failure to monitor the delivery of the approved Service Plans could invite criticism from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in their capacities as the national regulators.
- 4.2 Members have asked to be kept informed about the delivery of the approved Service Plans in order that they can comment on the way in which the service is provided as well as the available resources.

# 5. ACTIONS TAKEN AND PROGRESS AGAINST THE APPROVED PLANS

- 5.1 Food Safety Service Plan
- 5.1.1 The inspection programme for 2022-23 is being completed in line the FSA Recovery Plan which determined new business and highest risk businesses must be inspected first. A 'temperature check' was submitted to the FSA at the end of June and we were able to report that the expectations set out in Phase 2 of the Recovery Plan were met.
- 5.1.2 It is noted that due to the inspection programme being suspended during the pandemic there are more inspections than usual due this year. There are also a large number of new businesses continuing to register. As the inspection programme has restarted and is being achieved in line with the FSA Recovery Plan it is shown at Amber status. There currently remains a backlog of inspections.
- 5.1.3 It is also of note that Officers are finding standards have declined where businesses have gone a number of years without inspection due to the pandemic, this is leading to longer inspection times. Therefore, the drive towards the most efficient inspection process remains a high priority.
- 5.1.4 Appendix 1 shows that the alternative enforcement strategy is currently at red; this is not however an immediate concern as these are the very low risk premises therefore considered appropriate to be assessed by other means than visits.
- 5.1.5 Appendix 2 refers to the number of unplanned, reactive activities undertaken. The number of customer complaints and service requests is driven by demand which can be unpredictable. In Q1, 95 service requests were received which is slightly less than anticipated based on previous years.
- 5.1.6 Officers have been participating in the UK Health Security Agency's sampling study which is why a higher number of samples have been taken than previously anticipated. In Q1 the topic was 'Hygiene in Takeaway Sandwich and Salad bars' and covered swabs from ready to eat contact surfaces and cleaning cloths used in ready to eat areas.
- 5.1.7 The food hygiene training programme was suspended during the pandemic but there have been requests for an in person classroom training course and one has been arranged for 20 October 2022 at Pathfinder House.

- 5.2 Health and Safety
- 5.2.1 In Q1 the health and safety activity has been concentrated around health and safety advice given to event organisers through the Safety Advisory Group (SAG). This is an advisory body comprising key representatives from relevant organisations. Its purpose is to offer advice to event organisers to promote public safety at events within the district. This advice from officers can be written or it can be given during SAG meetings or site visits. Of note are the events such as Secret Garden Party where SAG meetings and associated document reviews can take a considerable amount of officer time.
- 5.2.2 During Q1 there has also been 10 accidents investigated and a number of other service requests responded too, these comprise both complaints from members of the public and businesses requesting advice as well as skin piercing registrations and notifications of defective lifting equipment.
- 5.2.3 As we now approach the end of Q2 it is anticipated more targeted activities including those on the work plan set out in the Service Plan can begin.

# 6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 These reporting arrangements support the wider corporate objectives to
  - Create, protect and enhance our safe built environment
  - Support people to improve their health and wellbeing
  - Accelerate business growth and remove barriers to growth

#### 7. CONSULTATION

7.1 No consultations are required as part of this report.

#### 8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

#### 9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The failure to report the delivery of the approved Service Plans may prejudice the Council's ability to provide the necessary resources.

# 10. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None.

# 11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

11.1 To keep Members informed about the delivery of the approved Service Plans.

#### 12. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 - Food Safety Service Plan: programmed (proactive) Activity

Appendix 2 - Food Safety Service Plan: Reactive Activity

Appendix 3 - Health and Safety Activity

#### **CONTACT OFFICER**

Name/Job Title: Claudia Deeth – Interim Community Service Manager

Tel No: 01480 388233

Email: Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk



Appendix 1 – Food Safety Service Plan: Programmed (proactive) Activity

Proactive Tasks	Progress			
	Predicted activity 2022-23	Recorded activity Q1	Total activity 2023-23	RAG Status
Programmed food hygiene inspections (risk group A-D, new food businesses, FHRS scoring, ceased trading and closed premises inspections)	864 A-D 100 new	124	124	Amber
Alternative Enforcement Strategy (AES) (e.g. cake makers and childminders)	300	0	0	Red
Revisits	20	7	7	Green
Primary Authority Partnership Activity – includes requests for advice, attendance at meetings and provision of training	2 hrs	0 hrs	0 hrs	Amber
Other proactive visits (food, water and environmental samples/advisory)	100	8	8	Red
Prosecutions and cautions	2	0	0	Green
Formal action (service of notices, closures)	10	0	0	Green



# Appendix 2 – Food Safety Service Plan: Reactive Activity

Reactive Tasks	Risk Monitoring			
	Predicted Activity 2022-23	Recorded activity Q1	Total activity 2022-23	RAG Status
Complaints and service requests about food and about/from food businesses	550	95	95	Green
FHRS re-score requests (low is good)	30	5	5	Green
Food, water and environmental samples taken	25	44	44	Green
Infectious disease control - notifications of food- borne/food poisoning illnesses (low is good)	80	0	0	Green
FSA food alerts for action	2	3	1	Green



Appendix 3 – Health and Safety Activity 2022-23

	Level of Activity			
Activity	Predicted activity 2022-23	Recorded activity Q1	Total activity 2022-23	
Premises inspections and interventions (including activities identified in Work Plan)	40	12	12	
Health and safety complaints and requests for service (including advice to business/enquiries) *	100	23	23	
Accident and dangerous occurrence investigations commenced **	30	10	10	
Specific smoke free enforcement visits***	0	0	0	
Matters of Evident Concern (MEC)****	3	6	6	
Health and safety promotional activity	3	0	0	
Liaison with other organisations	4	1	1	

<sup>\*</sup> This figure includes statutory notifications about working with asbestos, Adverse Insurance Reports (AIR) about unsafe work equipment and requests for advice and information. The diversity of work illustrates the importance of maintaining resources in order that effective investigations can be carried out.

<sup>\*\*</sup>The selection of accidents for investigation is founded upon the risk-based criteria in Local Authority Circular (LAC) 22/13.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> This figure is driven by the number of relevant complaints received by the service.

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> Matters of Evident Concern are significant health and safety problems that officers have noted during non-health and safety activities. (The fewer the better)



#### **Public**

### **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Title/Subject Matter: Scheme of Delegation Update - Private Hire

**Driver Licences** 

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee - 28

September 2022 – Date

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Customer Services – Cllr

Stephen Ferguson

**Report by:** Michelle Bishop – Interim Licensing Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All or list individual Ward(s)

### **Executive Summary:**

At the current time we issue Dual driver licences, however following numerous requests from the taxi trade we have been asked to consider issuing separate Private Hire Driver licenses as well as dual licenses.

Although within the legislation we are permitted to administer and grant the licence for a Private Hire Driver, the current scheme of delegation approved in 2019, does not make it clear whether Officers can do this.

The issuing of separate Private Hire driver licences is important to not only support the Private Hire Operators to attract new drivers, but to also undertake contract and pre-booked work whilst encouraging new businesses to the district.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Licensing & Protection Committee is

#### RECOMMENDED

 To approve an updated scheme of delegation (Appendix A) to include the granting of a separate Private Hire Driver Licence.

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The Council Constitution details the Responsibility for Functions, and specifically the responsibilities of the Licensing & Protection Committee, the Licensing & Protection Sub-Committee and delegated officers. This report is to clearly define the issuing of a Private Hire Driver licence.

#### 2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 We currently issue Dual Driver Licenses which allow the driver to undertake Hackney Carriage and Private Hire work.
- 2.2 A high percentage (approx. 80%) of our Taxi trade is made up of Private Hire and although they can employ Dual drivers it is more beneficial and safer for us an authority for the driver to be licensed for the work that they undertake.
- 2.3 To be licensed as a Private Hire Driver, an applicant is required to undertake all of the safety and security checks that are required to become a Dual Driver, for example the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS), a DVLA check, medical.
- 2.4 The main difference is the level of Knowledge test that is required because as a Dual Driver they are permitted to undertake the Hackney Carriage role and can therefore sit on a taxi rank.
- 2.5 In comparison to a Private Hire driver, the driver is working for a Private Hire Operator and undertakes pre-booked work, which is directed by the Operator.

# 3. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Councils Corporate Plan prioritises supporting local businesses. There has been suggestion from the Trade that the extended knowledge test is affecting operators being able to recruit to the role and ultimately having a negative impact on businesses. If the scheme of delegation were to include the issuing of Private Hire Driver licenses, this would help address this issue.

#### 4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Without a formalised scheme of delegation for licensing and registration functions, the Council may be exposed to legal challenge in the decisions that it makes regarding these functions. This report reduces the risk of being challenged by demonstrating 'an approved scheme of delegation'.

#### 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no resource implications to be considered.

### 6. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

6.1 The recommendation fulfils the corporate aim of supporting businesses and our residents by providing job opportunities as well as addressing concerns raised by the Trade.

### 7. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix A – Updated Scheme of Delegation

### **CONTACT OFFICER**

Name/Job Title: Michelle Bishop – Interim Licensing Manager Email: michelle.bishop@huntingdonshire.gov.uk



#### **Public**

#### **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Title: Suspension & Revocation of Hackney Carriage

& Private Hire Licences.

Meeting/Date: Licensing and Protection Committee - 28

September 2022

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Customer Services -

Cllr Stephen Ferguson

**Report by:** Michelle Bishop, Interim Licensing Manager

Ward(s) affected: All.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Interim Community Services Manager has delegated authority to refuse, suspend or revoke private hire and hackney carriage driver and vehicle licences under the powers delegated by or on the recommendation of the Licensing and Protection Committee.

1.2 Below is a summary of the actions that have taken place over the last 3 months.

#### 2. REPORT

14.07.2022 to 08.09.2022

Date	Licence type	Decision	Reason	Outcome
14/07/2022	Private Hire	Suspended	Vehicle involved in an accident	Suspension removed on 26/07/2022
07/07/2022	Dual Driver	Suspended	9 DVLA points - failed to inform the Authority at the time of receiving the motoring offences.	2 Months Suspension, which ended on 07.09.2022

14/07/2022	Dual Driver	Revoked	Disqualified from driving - DVLA licence	Not appealed
14/07/2022	Private Hire	Revoked	Disqualified from driving -	Not appealed
10/08/2022	New Dual Driver	Refused	List on convictions of DBS	Not appealed
10/08/2022	Private Hire	Suspended	Vehicle involved in an accident	
10/05/2022	Dual Driver	Suspended	CLPD from Police	Suspension removed 18/08/2022
22/08/2022	Private Hire	Revoked	Vehicle not fixed within the 60 days as per section 68 of the LGMP Act 1976	
31/08/2022	Private Hire	Suspended	Vehicle involved in an accident	
01/09/2022	Private Hire	Revoked	Vehicle not fixed within the 60 days as per section 68 of the LGMP Act 1976	
31/08/2022	Private Hire	Suspended	Vehicle involved in an accident	
06/09/2022	Hackney Carriage	Suspended	Vehicle involved in an accident	
06/09/2022	Private Hire	Suspended	Vehicle involved in an accident	
08/09/2022	Hackney Carriage	Suspended	Vehicle involved in an accident	

### 3. MATTERS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

3.1 We currently have no outstanding licensing decisions that are awaiting a court date.

# 4. **RECOMMENDATION**

4.1 Members are requested to note and consider the above information

Contact Officer: Michelle Bishop, Interim Licensing Manager Email: michelle.bishop@huntingdonshire.gov.uk