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| REPORT TO: | Licensing Committee |
| DATE: | 10 th June 2015 |
| LEAD OFFICER: | Head of Planning and Public Protection |
| CONTACT OFFICER: | Senior Technical Officer (Licensing) licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk 01824 706451 |
| SUBJECT: | Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy Review |

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.2 To update Members of the work carried out so far in respect of the review of the existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle policy.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 In line with the Forward Work Programme, agreed in March 2014, a full review of the existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy was requested.

3. POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

3.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and Town Police Clauses Act 1847

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 The last review of the existing policy (The Blue Book) was made in 2011. The review only related to Private Hire Vehicles. No review of the Hackney Carriage Vehicle policy and conditions have been made for a number of years.

4.2 Due to increased requests from licence holders to licence vehicles that could not meet the existing vehicle specification (as a result of seating configuration), Members will recall that at the December 2014 meeting, Officers presented one proposed amendment to the existing private Hire Vehicle policy, being the removal of condition 2.1(h) relating to tipping of seats and direct access. Following consultation this condition was removed as of March this year. It was also agreed that Officers would review the hackney carriage seating conditions when a full review of the

Blue Book was carried out.

- 4.3 Officers have met with colleagues from Fleet Services to discuss the future needs for vehicle specification and testing requirements, for both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles.
- 4.4 Officers from Fleet Services would like to come along to a future meeting of the Committee, to provide Members with up to date advice and guidance on vehicle safety and regulations, in particular to the testing of vehicles. If Members were in favour of this taking place, it is suggested that Officers from Fleet Services attend the next scheduled Committee Meeting in September.
- 4.5 The review will need to investigate the suitability of all vehicles, to meet the different demands of the travelling public, to include the existing age policy, and upper age policy, also consideration whether a vehicle colour policy is necessary and appropriate.
- 4.6 Serious consideration is needed as to whether hackney carriage vehicles should all be fully accessible, or whether purpose built vehicles would be more suited to the demands of the County.
- 4.7 When drafting the proposed amended policy, consideration should be given to applicants and existing licence holder regarding any potential financial burdens that may occur as a result of the proposals, but in doing so it should not be the overriding concern, which is the protection and safety of the travelling public.
- 4.8 The Corporate Plan should also be referred to when drafting the policy to ensure that the proposed policy makes it easier for businesses to operate, wherever possible reducing bureaucracy, streamlining processes and providing high quality advice and support.
- 4.9 Officers have prepared an Action Plan to follow, which is attached to the Forward Work Programme report. Members will see that there are a number of scheduled workshop sessions planned, and it is suggested that, if Members are minded, to nominate one or two Committee Members to attend the workshop sessions.

5. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 That Members note the contents of the report and invite Fleet Services to the September Committee to provide a presentation on vehicle specification and testing.

5.2 To nominate one or two Licensing Committee Members to attend the scheduled workshop sessions.