



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Licensing Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2015
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Head of Planning and Public Protection
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Public Protection Manager <a href="mailto:licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk">licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk</a> 01824 706066
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Dress Code Update

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.2 To consider a report by Head of Planning and Public Protection presenting Members with representations received following their decision relating to the wearing of shorts at the previous meeting

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 For Members to consider whether there is need for any further actions following the decision to approve the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Dress Code at the previous meeting.

**3. POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION**

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

**4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Members will be aware that at Licensing Committee on 4 March 2015 the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Dress Code was considered. Members resolved to approve the proposed dress code with one amendment to paragraph 4.2.ii of the Dress Code to read “no shorts to be worn” and implement the Dress Code from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015.
- 4.2 All licence holders were informed of this decision in a Newsletter issued in April 2015.
- 4.3 Members will be aware that Officers consulted widely on the Dress Code while it was in draft stage. Consultation documents were sent to all

- 4.4 licence holders and a workshop was held for drivers to discuss issues. The consultation outlined a proposal to permit tailored shorts to the knee and reasons why it may be inappropriate for drivers to wear shorts above the knee.
- 4.5 Members will also be aware that all attendees at the workshop, albeit only six drivers, were in agreement with the proposal and one written response was received outside of the workshop and this was in support of an outright ban on the wearing of shorts.
- 4.6 At the end of April, just before implementation, significant media interest in the decision to prohibit the wearing of shorts arose as taxi drivers highlighted the existence of a petition.
- 4.7 The petition, entitled “Petition for Continued Wearing of Shorts by Taxi Drivers in Denbighshire”, was handed to the Council in May 2015 and contains approximately 500 signatures, some of which have also provided comment on the decision to ban shorts.

## 5. **CONSIDERATION**

- 5.1 Members may wish to consider whether, given the wording of the original proposed dress code outlining shorts to the knee, sufficient consultation or discussion was given to prohibiting shorts

## 6. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 Members may wish to take any of the following actions:
- Leave the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Dress Code as agreed on 4 March 2015
  - Ask Officers’ to amend the Dress Code to allow tailored shorts to the knee
  - Ask Officers to amend the Dress Code to allow tailored shorts to the knee but be a bit more prescriptive i.e. no denim or sports shorts
  - Ask Officers to conduct a short consultation with licence holders and report back with the findings for a decision at the next meeting of the Committee.