

Subject:	Hackney carriage & private hire driver badge length and community impact assessment	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Licensing Committee	Date:	Thursday 12 th July 2012
Report of:	Director of Business	Portfolio Holder:	Customers, Legal and Licensing
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Impact Assessment:	Required: Yes	Attached:	Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required: No	Attached:	No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That the deferred report at <u>Appendix A</u> of this report from 28 th February 2012 be determined.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 A community impact assessment has been carried out and is appended at Appendix B of this report; the matter is now being reported back to the Licensing Committee for their determination.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **A clean and green Rossendale** – creating a better environment for all.
 - **A healthy and successful Rossendale** – supporting vibrant communities and a strong economy.
 - **Responsive and value for money local services** – responding to and meeting the different needs of customers and improving the cost effectiveness of services.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:
- All known risks were previously reported to the Licensing Committee on 28th February 2012 – the report is appended at Appendix A

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 At a meeting of the Licensing Committee on 28th February 2012 it was resolved:
- That the duration of hackney carriage and private hire driver's licences remain at 12 months. With the amended request to explore the issue of such licences for 2 and 3 years.
 - A community impact assessment would be carried out and the matter brought back to the Licensing Committee for further consideration.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 There are no specific financial implications

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 The Council must make a decision based on all relevant information and following consideration of all relevant Council policies.

8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

8.1 There are no specific human resources implications.

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

9.1 Management Team

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 The rationale behind a licensing regime is to provide a service to the public that is accessible and safe and seen to be so. In issuing licences in respect of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles public safety is paramount and the regime is intended to prevent direct danger to the passenger from the driver of the vehicle and, perhaps slightly less danger to the passengers from the vehicle itself or the manner in which it is driven. Convictions, whether motoring offences or offences of dishonesty, assault, drug misuse or the like, bring into question whether a driver is 'a fit and proper person' to be transporting the public. In that respect those that are not fit should swiftly have their licences revoked and to extend the licence period to 3 years without checks on their convictions would pose a substantial increase in risk to the public. The significant reduction in the workload of the Licensing and Enforcement Unit and the reduction in licence fees that would result in a move to three year licences does not outweigh this.

There are no background papers

Appendices

Document	Appendix Number
Report to Licensing Committee 28/02/12	<i>Appendix A</i>
Community Impact Assessment	<i>Appendix B</i>