

Information/Discussion Paper

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28 March 2018

Call in – Review of taxi and private hire licensing policy

This note contains information to assist Members in dealing with this call in request.

1. Why has this come to scrutiny?

- 1.1** A call-in request was received from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 March 2018 relating to the decision made at Cabinet on 6 March 2018 regarding the review of taxi and private hire licensing policy. The request (attached as Appendix 1) was received within the call in period. The request was received by the Proper Officer, in accordance with the procedures set out in Part 4D – Overview and Scrutiny Rules – Rule 14 (attached as Appendix 2). The Proper Officer agreed that it was a valid call in request.
- 1.2** Under the rules of call-in, the request must be considered at a meeting of the O&S committee within 10 working days. After consultation with the chair of O&S and the Leader and Cabinet Member, a date of 28 March was agreed.
- 1.3** Having considered the facts of the call-in and having received any representations from the member(s) who submitted the request and the decision maker, the options for O&S are set out in paragraphs 14.13 of the Rule 14 in the Constitution (attached as Appendix 2)

2. Summary of the Issue

- 2.1** Members are referred to the Cabinet report on the review of taxi and private hire licensing policy which went to Cabinet on 6 March 2018 together with the (draft) minutes of that meeting and the decision made. These are attached as Appendices 3 and 4.
- 2.2** Members are also referred to the call in request attached as Appendix 1.

3. Summary of evidence/information

- 3.1** The Chair will outline the reasons why he felt a call in was appropriate.

Members of O&S have requested the following witnesses to attend:

Cabinet Member Development and Safety – Councillor McKinlay
Business Support and Licensing Team Leader – Louis Krog
A representative of The National Private Hire and Taxi Association
Chairman of the Licensing Committee – Councillor Willingham

- 3.2** The witnesses have been advised of the potential line of questioning and this is attached as Appendix 5. These are intended to provide the broad line of questioning

to assist the witnesses in their preparation but members may wish to ask additional questions on the night.

4. **Next Steps**

- 4.1** The possible next steps for the committee are set out in detail in Appendix 2 of the Overview and Scrutiny rules 14.13.

In summary the options are to:

1. Support the decision
2. Make adverse comments on the process but not the decision itself in which case the decision can be implemented.
3. Propose an alternative decision or modifications and delay the implementation until those have been considered by Cabinet.
4. In exceptional circumstances refer the decision to Council for review or scrutiny

Appendices	1 – Call in request (including letter of representation from The National Private Hire and Taxi Association) 2 – Rule 14 of the Council’s Constitution 3 – Cabinet report – 6 March 2018 4 – Extract from the minutes of Cabinet (6 March 2018) 5. – Line of questioning for the meeting (to follow)
Background Papers	Cabinet report appendices (6 March 2018)
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Accountability	Cabinet Member Development and Safety