

# Cheltenham Borough Council

## Licensing Committee – 2 September 2020

### Amendment to Policy Allowing Partition Screens in Licensed Vehicles

#### Report of the Licensing Team Leader

#### 1. Summary

- 1.1 On 7 July 2020, Cabinet approved a policy and standards for partition screens in licensed vehicles. This policy was implemented fully on 3 August 2020 requiring all vehicle proprietors who have partition screens to apply for permission.
- 1.2 Since the adoption of this policy, the quality of partition screens have improved and for this reason, an amendment to the original policy is sought to broaden the scope of acceptable types of screens.
- 1.3 **The Committee is recommended to:**
- 1.3.1 **Approve the minor amendment to the adopted Partition Screens in Licensed Vehicles policy as outlined in the amended policy attached at Appendix A.**

#### 1.6 Summary of implications

Legal As outlined in the report.

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#### 2. Partition Screens in Licensed Vehicles Policy

- 2.1 The policy adopted by Cabinet in July was adopted to provide drivers with physical protection against transmission of COVID-19 in their workplace, to provide protection for passengers, and more generally, to provide public confidence and assurance.
- 2.2 Officers were not supportive of non-rigid partition screens over fears that the design of these, at the time, were generally of poor and flimsy design, very difficult to keep clean and impeded the rear view of drivers.
- 2.3 Since then however, officers have inspected non-rigid partition screens manufactured from transparent polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or polycarbonate and found these to be adequate.
- 2.4 The current adopted standards for partition screens limit acceptable designs to those that are of firm or solid design. An amendment to this aspect in the policy is sought to broaden the scope of acceptable types of partition screens.
- 2.5 For the avoidance of doubt, the amendment requested is limited to paragraph 3 of the adopted standards as follows (i.e. removal of the "solid" specification):

*3. should be constructed with a transparent polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or polycarbonate and be of firm ~~or solid~~ design.*

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**Background Papers**

Cabinet, 7 July 2020: Officer's report and minutes of the meeting.

**Contact Officer**

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