

Members of the Licensing Committee -

Councilors R P Lillis (Chairman), H J W Davies (Vice Chairman), I Aldridge, T Hall, S Y Goss, B Leaker, J Parbrook, R Thomas, N Thwaites, K H Turner, D J Westcott

1 March 2016

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Dear Councillor

#### LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday 8 March 2016

Time: 4.30 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Council Offices, Williton

Please note that this meeting may be recorded. At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being recorded.

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Therefore unless you advise otherwise, by entering the Council Chamber and speaking during Public Participation you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of the sound recording for access via the website or for training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this please contact Committee Services on 01643 703704.

Yours sincerely

#### **BRUCE LANG**

**Proper Officer** 

#### **RISK SCORING MATRIX**

Report writers score risks in reports uses the scoring matrix below

# **Risk Scoring Matrix**

	5	Almost Certain	Low (5)	Medium (10)	High (15)	Very High (20)	Very High (25)
þ	4	Likely	Low (4)	Medium (8)	Medium (12)	High (16)	Very High (20)
Likelihood	3	Possible	Low (3)	Low (6)	Medium (9)	Medium (12)	High (15)
	2	Unlikely	Low (2)	Low (4)	Low (6)	Medium (8)	Medium (10)
	1	Rare	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Low (4)	Low (5)
		1	2	3	4	5	
		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic	
					Impact	:	

Likelihood of	Indicator	Description (chance		
risk occurring		of occurrence)		
1. Very Unlikely	May occur in exceptional circumstances	< 10%		
2. Slight	2. Slight Is unlikely to, but could occur at some time			
3. Feasible	Fairly likely to occur at same time	25 – 50%		
4. Likely	Likely to occur within the next 1-2 years, or	50 – 75%		
	occurs occasionally			
5. Very Likely	Regular occurrence (daily / weekly /	> 75%		
	monthly)			

- Mitigating actions for high ('High' or above) scoring risks are to be reflected in Service Plans, managed by the Group Manager and implemented by Service Lead Officers;
- Lower scoring risks will either be accepted with no mitigating actions or included in work plans with appropriate mitigating actions that are managed by Service Lead Officers.

# **LICENSING COMMITTEE - AGENDA**

#### 8 March at 4.30 pm

## **Council Chamber, Williton**

### 1. Apologies for Absence

#### 2. <u>Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2015</u>

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 24 November 2015 – **SEE ATTACHED** – to be confirmed.

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

To receive and record any declarations of interest in respect of any matters included the Agenda for consideration at this Meeting.

#### 4. Public Participation

The Chairman to advise the Committee of any items on which members of the public have requested to speak and advise those members of the public present of the details of the Council's public participation scheme.

For those members of the public wishing to speak at this meeting there are a few points you might like to note.

A three-minute time limit applies to each speaker and you will be asked to speak before Councillors debate the issue. There will be no further opportunity for comment at a later stage. Your comments should be addressed to the Chairman and any ruling made by the Chair is not open to discussion. If a response is needed it will be given either orally at the meeting or a written reply made within five working days of the meeting.

## 5. <u>Licensing Update Report</u>

To consider Report No. WSC 36/16. Report to keep the Council's statutory committee up to date with current arrangements and statistics relating to the Licensing Service. To be presented by the Councillor Turner. Report Author is Acting Licensing Manager – SEE ATTACHED.

#### 6. Licensing Regime for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers

To consider Report No. WSC 37/16. Report to keep the Council's licensing requirements for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers and Private Hire Operators within West Somerset and the recommendations set out at section 3.1 of the report with regard to the introduction of new policies in respect of out of area applicants and cross-border hiring. To be presented by the Councillor Turner. Report Author is Acting Licensing Manager – **SEE ATTACHED.** 

#### COUNCILLORS ARE REMINDED TO CHECK THEIR POST TRAYS

#### The Council's Vision:

To enable people to live, work and prosper in West Somerset

#### The Council's Corporate Priorities:

<u>Local Democracy</u>:

Securing local democracy and accountability in West Somerset, based in West Somerset, elected by the people of West Somerset and responsible to the people of West Somerset.

New Nuclear Development at Hinkley Point

Maximising opportunities for West Somerset communities and businesses to benefit from the development whilst protecting local communities and the environment.

#### The Council's Core Values:

IntegrityFairness

Respect • Trust

#### LICENSING COMMITTEE

#### Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 November 2015 at 4:30pm

#### In The Council Chamber, West Somerset House, Williton

#### Present:

Councillor R P Lillis ...... Chairman

Councillor H Davies
Councillor S Goss
Councillor J Parbrook
Councillor N Thwaites

Councillor I Aldridge Councillor T Hall Councillor R Thomas

#### Officers in Attendance:

Acting Licensing Manager (J Rendell) Licensing Officer (L Fumagalli-Roberts) Democratic Services Officer (E Hill)

#### LEP6 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Westcott.

#### LEP7 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2015

(Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 10 March 2015 (as approved by Full Council on 10 March 2015) – circulated with the Agenda.)

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 10 March 2015 be noted.

#### **LEP8** Declarations of Interest

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a County, Parish or Town Council:

Name	Minute No.	Member of	Action Taken
Councillor S Goss	All	Stogursey	Spoke and voted
Councillor D Westcott	All	Watchet	Spoke and voted
Councillor N Thwaites	All	Dulverton Town	Spoke and voted
		Council	

#### LEP9 Public Participation

No members of the public had requested to speak on any item on the agenda.

#### **LEP10** Licensing Update Report

The purpose of the report was to keep the Council's statutory Committee up to date with current arrangements and statistics relating to the Licensing Service as well as any statutory updates that might be required.

The Acting Licensing Manager presented the report which contained details of the Licensing Service's activity since the last meeting of the Committee as well as updating Members on the backlog of applications and the subsequent temporary staff recruitment to support officers as plans were made for permanent recruitment in April 2016.

During the discussion the following pointed were raised:-

- There were 4/5 outstanding applications. Some of these applications were waiting for information from applicants.
- The Licensing Team had already sent updates to Members regarding licensing activity. For an example, Members would have been made aware of the request from Morrisons to extend their opening hours.
- The Acting Licensing Manager and Community and Client Services Manager would be dealing with the legislation changes mentioned in the report in the New Year.
- The data basis and search function of Premises Licenses on the Council
  website currently did not work but officers would inform Licensing Committee
  Members and relevant Ward Councillors of any changes to applications as
  well as any controversial applications within the West Somerset area via
  email as well as fixing the website issue.
- Even if a formal hearing for a premises application or variance was cancelled, an informal meeting would still be held to update Members on the application and the agreement reached.
- A review of the licensing system as well as any required changes would take place following permanent recruitment to the Licensing service.

**RESOLVED** that the update report be noted.

#### **LEP11 Licensing Regime for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers**

The purpose of the report was to consider the licensing requirements for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers and Private Hire Operators within West Somerset and the recommendations set out in the report with regard to the introduction of new policies in respect of out of area applicants and cross-border hiring.

The Acting Licensing Manager presented the report and advised Members of the proposed policy changes in relation to the licensing regime for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers. These changes would give the Council powers to deal with the growing number of issues surrounding out of area applicants and cross-border hiring.

During the discussion the following pointed were raised:

- Taxi drivers from outside of the area were picking work after dropping fares
  off at places like Butlins. This was taking business away from local firms. The
  Council should however be careful about excluding drivers who resided just
  over the district boundary.
- It was important to change our policies and keep up with other Local Authorities. The Council needed to protect the public but also the Council needed to protect our local taxi drivers.
- It was felt that the mandatory restrictions in force in other districts were pushing applicants to other districts who had more relaxed policies and less strict licensing conditions imposed.
- The legislation allowed for pre-booked fares from outside the area to travel into the West Somerset.
- The Council completed a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check as part of the application process and if the information did not stack up, the Council could look into the individual further.
- The other districts within Somerset had implemented these policies. Drivers exploiting the historic policy were not just limited to Somerset and if the Council did not have anything in place, it was not protecting or safeguarding the people of West Somerset.
- TDBC and WSC were part of the Somerset Licensing Group who could apply
  pressure for the legislation to be changed. There was a consultation paper
  regarding updating the legislation but officers had not heard any more about
  it. This would be looked into and officers would report back to Members.
- Each licence application was looked at individually and was based on its own merit before a decision was made. Officer assessed each application and asked questions of the applicant to gather the required information.
- The Council would have to be very careful about including any conditions on policies and licenses restricting people's business activity.

**RESOLVED** (1) to approve and adopt the new policy allowing the Authority the ability to refuse applications made by those persons residing (at the time of submission of their application) outside of the administrative boundaries of the Council, unless the applicant could prove to the satisfaction of the Authority, that they genuinely intended to work or did work entirely or predominately within the district.

**RESOLVED** (2) to approve and adopt the new policy allowing the Authority the ability to suspend or revoke a person's Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence together with any vehicle licence associated with that individual where the Authority believed that a licensed driver was not working entirely or predominately within the district.

#### **LEP12** Any Other Business

The Acting Licensing Manager informed the Committee that letters had been sent to all drivers licensed within the West Somerset area asking if they wished to attend and take part in a Taxi Forum. It was proposed that there should be he two forums ,one based in Minehead and the other based in Watchet. Officers would report back to the Committee in due course with more information regarding future Taxi Forum meetings.

The meeting closed at 5.39 pm.

Report Number: WSC 36/16

# **West Somerset Council**

# **Licensing Committee – 8 March 2016**

# **Licensing Update Report**

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Keith Turner

Report Author: Leigh-ann Fumagalli, Licensing Officer

## 1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report provides an update on the activities of the council's licensing service, changes to legislation, current consultations and other general licensing matters.

#### 2 Recommendations

2.1 That the report be noted.

## 3 Risk Assessment (if appropriate)

#### **Risk Matrix**

Description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall
If the Licensing function were not carried out in an efficient manner, complaints or legal challenges may be brought that could undermine the work being done to support the Council's Corporate Strategy	4	4	16
Demonstrating good governance of the licensing function through presentation of current arrangements and statistics relating to the licensing service.	3	4	12

#### Risk Scoring Matrix

	5	Almost Certain	Low (5)	Medium (10)	High (15)	Very High (20)	Very High (25)
p	4	Likely	Low (4)	Medium (8)	Medium (12)	High (16)	Very High (20)
Likelihood	3	Possible	Low (3)	Low (6)	Medium (9)	Medium (12)	High (15)
	2	Unlikely	Low (2)	Low (4)	Low (6)	Medium (8)	Medium (10)
	1	Rare	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Low (4)	Low (5)
		1	2	3	4	5	
		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic	
					Impact		

Likelihood of risk occurring	Indicator	Description (chance of occurrence)
1. Very Unlikely	May occur in exceptional circumstances	< 10%
2. Slight	Is unlikely to, but could occur at some time	10 – 25%
3. Feasible	Fairly likely to occur at same time	25 – 50%
4. Likely	Likely to occur within the next 1-2 years, or	50 – 75%
-	occurs occasionally	
5. Very Likely	Regular occurrence (daily / weekly / monthly)	> 75%

#### 4 Background and Full details of the Report

#### Staffing

- 4.1 Since the last meeting of the committee, John Rendell has been appointed as Licensing Manager, and Mark Banczyk-Gee as Licensing Officer.
- 4.2 At the time of writing this report, the West Somerset based licensing officer post is in the process of being recruited, an appointment will have been made by the time of the committee meeting. A verbal update on the appointment will be given at this meeting.
- 5 Applications received and licences in force
- 5.1 The numbers of applications received for each of the regimes administered by the Licensing Team between October and December are shown in comparison with those received for the period in the preceding two years at Appendix 1. The numbers of licenses in force and notices given at 15 February 2016 are shown at Appendix 2.
- 5.2 As the table in Appendix 1 shows, other than a slight increase in the number of Licensing Act 2003 applications, there has been no markable difference in the numbers of

applications that the Licensing service has received for the same period over the last three year.

#### 6 Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities

6.1 The licensing service is committed to helping businesses and individuals to comply with all relevant legislation in order to support new and existing businesses and enabling cultural and leisure activities, thereby supporting the Council's vision 'to enable people to live, work and prosper in West Somerset'.

#### 7 Finance / Resource Implications

- 7.1 None.
- 8 Legal Implications
- 8.1 None.

#### 9 Environmental Impact Implications

- 9.1 The four licensing objectives under the Licensing Act 2003 are:
  - Prevention of crime and disorder
  - Public safety
  - Prevention of public nuisance
  - Protection of children from harm

With the addition of securing the welfare of animals, these are the main aims of the Licensing Service. The continued work of the service to achieve and promote these aims, further supports the role of the Council in ensuring environmental and community safety.

#### 10 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications

10.1 No safeguarding or community safety implications were identified.

#### 11 Equality and Diversity Implications

11.1 No equality and diversity implications were identified.

#### 12 Social Value Implications

12.1 No social value implications were identified.

#### 13 Partnership Implications

13.1 No partnership implications were identified.

#### 14 Health and Wellbeing Implications

14.1 Through effective regulation, confidence in licensed premises and activities can be maintained, helping communities to thrive.

15 Asset Management Implication	วทร
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15.1 No asset management implications were identified.

## 16 Consultation Implications

16.1 No consultation implications were identified.

#### 17 Recommendation

1.1. That the report be noted

#### **Democratic Path:**

- Scrutiny / Corporate Governance or Audit Committees No
- Cabinet/Executive No
- Full Council No

Reporting Frequency : 

Once only 
Ad-hoc X Quarterly

Twice-yearly 
Annually

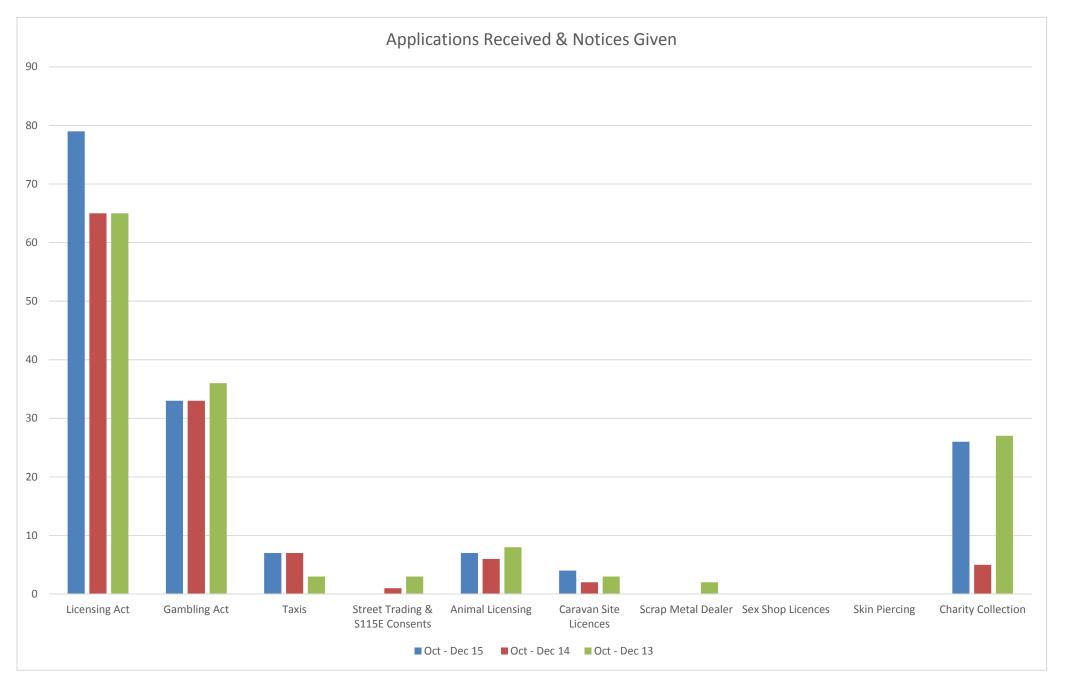
## List of Appendices (delete if not applicable)

Appendix 1	Applications received and notices given
Appendix 2	Licences issued and notices given

#### **Contact Officers**

Name	Leigh-ann Fumagalli
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# **APPENDIX 1**



# **Licences Issued and Notices Given**

These figures show the number of licences in force at 15th February 2016 and the number of notices given since commencement of the releveant legislation

Licensing Act 2003 Premises Licences	270
Licensing Act 2003 Club Premises Certificates	22
Licensing Act 2003 Personal Licences	786
Licensing Act 2003 Temporary Event Notices	2370
Gambling Act 2005 Club Machine Permit	9
Gambling Act 2005 Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits	3
Gambling Act 2005 Occasional Use Notices	18
Gambling Act 2005 Premises Licences (Adult Gaming Centre)	6
Gambling Act 2005 Prize Gaming Permits	1
Gambling Act 2005 Society Lotteries (since 01/09/2007)	52
Gambling Act 2005 Temporary Use Notices	0
Gambling Act 2005 Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres	13
Gambling Act 2005 Notification of 2 or less Gaming Machines	32
Hackney Carriages	42
Private Hire Vehicles	23
Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers	71
Private Hire Operators	18
Street Trading Consents	13
Section 115E (Pavement Café) Permits	N/A
Zoo Licences	3
Pet Shop Licences	1
Dog Breeding Licence	0
Animal Boarding Licence	8
Riding Establishment Licences	5
Dangerous Wild Animal Licences	0
Caravan Site Licences	36
Scrap Metal Dealer licence	2
Sex Shop Licences	0
Skin Piercing Registrations	21
Street Collection Permits	438
On our Condenier i Girina	430
House to House Collection Permit	335

Report Number: WSC 37/16

# **West Somerset Council**

# **Licensing Committee – 8 March 2016**

Proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licensing Regime

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Keith Turner

Report Author: Leigh-ann Fumagalli, Licensing Officer

# 1 Executive Summary

1.1 Members are asked to consider the licensing requirements for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers and the recommendations set out at section 2 of the report with regard to the requirement of drivers to pass a practical driving test on renewal of their licence, to provide references for a grant application, and the fixed interval and renewal dates for hackney carriage and private hire driver licences.

#### 2 Recommendations

#### Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Practical Driving Test

2.1 That members approve a proposal to remove the existing requirement for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle drivers to undertake the DVSA taxi test or equivalent test upon applying for the renewal of a hackney carriage and private hire vehicle driver licence and replace it with a system whereby drivers must undertake the test should they accumulate seven or more penalty points on their DVLA driving licence within the three year licence period or where the Licensing Manager deems it necessary, following an evidenced complaint about the driving ability of the licence holder (be that from the Police, other agency or other interested party).

#### **Licence Duration**

2.2 That members approve a proposal to amend the West Somerset Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Regulations to remove the fixed interval expiry dates for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle driver licences.

#### **Providing References**

2.3 That members approve a proposal to remove the requirement for applicants to provide two references when making an application for the grant of a licence to act as the driver or a hackney carriage and private hire vehicle.

# 3 Risk Assessment

## **Risk Matrix**

Description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall
An unnecessary burden is placed on applicants due to the requirement of passing a practical taxi driving test prior to the renewal of their hackney carriage and private hire driver licence.	4	2	8
That those who are granted a licence do not receive the full benefit for which they have applied and paid for, leaving the authority open to legal challenge.	4	4	16
Unnecessary burden placed on both applicants and resources due to the requirement to provide references on application for the grant of a licence, potentially resulting in the issuing of the licence being delayed.	4	2	8

# **Risk Scoring Matrix**

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4. Likely	Likely to occur within the next 1-2 years, or	50 – 75%
	occurs occasionally	
5. Very Likely	Regular occurrence (daily / weekly /	> 75%
	monthly)	

#### 4 Background and Full details of the Report

#### **DVSA Taxi Test**

- 4.1 The Council currently grants hackney carriage and private hire vehicle driver licences for a duration of three years.
- 4.2 Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that a district council shall not grant a licence to drive private hire vehicles unless they are satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person. Section 59 of the same Act requires that district councils make the same consideration when deciding whether to grant a licence to act as the driver of a hackney carriage. The term 'fit and proper' is not further defined in the legislation, nor are there any statutory requirements or tests that a local authority must apply, other than that the applicant must have held a DVLA issued driving licence for a period of not less than a year, prior to making an application. The Council currently has a multi-faceted approach to determining the fitness and propriety of an applicant and this includes a requirement that the applicant must successfully complete a practical driving test which is provided by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA). This is currently the only practical taxi driver test available to hackney carriage and private hire drivers licensed in West Somerset. The test can only be conducted at DVSA Test Centres and the nearest centre is located in Taunton.
- 4.3 Officers put forward a proposal at the meeting of the Licensing Committee meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 to introduce a requirement for licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers to complete the DVSA taxi test upon applying to renew their licence. To reduce the impact this might have on licensed drivers, particularly financially, officers put forward a second proposal whereby practical driving tests equivalent to the DVSA taxi test would be considered acceptable. To support this specific proposal, officers presented to members work that had been carried out in partnership with Somerset Road Safety Partnership (SRSP) to deliver an equivalent to the DVSA test, but at a lower cost and made available within the West Somerset boundary to avoid drivers having to travel to Taunton or further afield. It was anticipated that this equivalent would be available to drivers in 2016. Both of the aforementioned proposals were resolved at the meeting of the Licensing Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015 but due to upheaval within the Licensing service, work to implement the SRSP alternative stalled and the proposed equivalent test has not since been implemented.
- 4.4 Since hackney carriage and private hire drivers had not been consulted on the proposal to introduce the requirement to complete a practical driving test prior to applying to renew a driver licence, a letter with details of the change to policy was sent to all licensed drivers in November 2015. This prompted many drivers to contact the Licensing Team and Licensing Committee Chairman to express concerns, many of which centred around the disruption to business in having to travel to DVSA test centres outside of the district. Some drivers also reported that there could be a wait of up to three months to take a test at a DVSA test centre, which would result in their licences expiring before the test has even been taken. Were these concerns realised, drivers would be unable to work unless extensions to licences were authorised by the licensing service but this would undoubtedly result in additional duties being placed on the service.
- 4.5 Officers have met with representatives of SRSP to revive the development of a DVSA taxi test equivalent which could be taken within West Somerset and whilst officers are

confident such work can be completed, it may not be until later in the year that it is fully available.

4.6 Officers acknowledge that, whilst regular testing of a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle driver's driving ability has value, the current arrangements and services available to both licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers and officers alike provide significant obstacles in the smooth running of the licensing regime. Following discussions with the Licensing Committee Chair, officers have devised the proposal shown at paragraph 2.1 of this report. It is recommended that the Licensing Committee revisit this policy when the SRSP equivalent test becomes available.

#### Licence Duration

- 4.7 Hackney carriage and private hire vehicle driver licences are currently issued for a maximum period of three years. The Council has the ability to issue a licence for a lesser period but only if it thinks it is appropriate in the circumstances of the case. Current policy (paragraph 1.8 of the West Somerset Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Regulations) dictates that all drivers licences expire on either the 30<sup>th</sup> of April or 30<sup>th</sup> of June, regardless of when the application is made or when the decision is taken to grant a licence. In addition, Council policy currently dictates that all three year licences are issued at fixed three yearly intervals (2015, 2018 etc.), again regardless of when the application is made or when the decision is taken to grant a licence.
- 4.8 The effects of the above arrangements are substantial peaks in pressure and demand for the service at times that are often busy with other applications; for example Temporary Event Notices for Spring and Summer time events. The demand upon the service at this time has the potential to disrupt the performance of the service which can in turn lead to delays in processing applications.
- 4.9 In addition to the effects on service and performance, under the current arrangements, applicants rarely receive the full benefit of a three year licence. For example, those that might be granted what should be a three year licence in February 2017, will only receive a licence that runs until April 2018. Officers are wary that the current system is liable to legal challenge on the basis that it does not deliver an equal level of service to all customers.
- 4.10 Officers propose that the current arrangement of fixed renewal dates is removed, as per the recommendation at paragraph 2.2 of this report, so that hackney carriage and private hire vehicle driver licences can be issued for a full three years from the date of issue. In is anticipated that, were members to approve this recommendation, there is still likely to be peaks in demand on the service due to the existing patterns of licence expiry dates but that this will lessen naturally over time.

#### **Providing References**

4.11 As per current arrangements, those that apply for the grant of a licence to act as the driver of a hackney carriage and private hire vehicle must provide the details of two referees to allow the Council to obtain references. This is part of the Council's current determination of whether an applicant is a 'fit and proper person'. Of the two references required, one must include a previous employer and the other from a person that is not connected with the hackney carriage or private hire trade. This can present a real

problem to applicants that have, for a significant period of time, been self employed.

- 4.12 Other existing arrangements such as the requirement to obtain a Disclosure and Barring Service certificate (formerly Criminal Records Bureau or 'CRB'), which reveals any past criminal convictions or the knowledge and suitability interview; where an officer meets with an applicant to determine, amongst other things, their suitability in terms of demeanour and attitude, offer a greater insight into the applicants character and suitability. It is the opinion of Officers that the references carry very little weight and do not add value to the current application process, instead serving only to increase administration and the potential to delay the determination of the application.
- 4.13 It is the recommendation of officers, as per paragraph 2.3, that the requirement for references is removed from the application process due to the lack of value they provide.

#### 5 Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities

5.1 The licensing service is committed to helping businesses and individuals to comply with all relevant legislation and reduce unnecessary burdens in order to support new and existing businesses and enabling cultural and leisure activities, thereby supporting the Council's vision 'to enable people to live, work and prosper in West Somerset'.

#### 6 Finance / Resource Implications

6.1 The proposals set out within this report would reduce the demands made on the service, which may in turn reduce costs to the trade through the fees that are levied.

#### 7 Legal Implications

7.1 The recommendation at 2.2 of the report, in relation to the duration of hackney carriage and private hire driver licences, reduces the risk of legal challenge against the Council.

#### 8 Environmental Impact Implications

8.1 No environmental impact implications were identified.

#### 9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications

9.1 No safeguarding or community safety implications were identified. It is not believed that the change to policy will have a negative effect as the recommendation at 2.1 sets out criteria for the undertaking of the DVSA practical taxi driving test in particular circumstances, such as where there are evidenced complaints about the driving standards of a hackney carriage and private hire driver.

#### 10 Equality and Diversity Implications

10.1 There are a number of protected characteristics identified in the Equality Act 2010, which are; age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and members need to demonstrate that they have consciously thought about the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty as part of the decision making process. The three aims the authority must have due regard for are:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation;
- Advance quality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 10.2 No equality and diversity implications have been identified within this report.
- 11 Social Value Implications
- 11.1 No social value implications were identified.
- 12 Partnership Implications
- 12.1 No partnership implications were identified.
- 13 Health and Wellbeing Implications
- 13.1 Through effective regulation, confidence in licensed premises and activities can be maintained, helping communities to thrive.
- 14 Asset Management Implications
- 14.1 No asset management implications were identified.
- 15 Consultation Implications
- 15.1 No consultation implications were identified.

#### **Democratic Path:**

- Scrutiny / Corporate Governance or Audit Committees No
- \_
- Cabinet/Executive No
- Full Council No

Reporting Frequency:	□ Once only	☐ Ad-hoc	X Quarterly
	□ Twice-yearl	y 🗆 Aı	nnually

#### **Contact Officers**

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