



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

## Environment & Overview Scrutiny Committee

10 May 2022

Report of: Councillor Linda Wootten

Cabinet Member for Corporate  
Governance and Licensing



# Government Consultation on Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice Guidance for Licensing Authorities

The Department for Transport have issued a consultation document reviewing the Best Practice Guidance for Licensing Authorities in England. A presentation has been produced to support the consideration of the response.

### Report Author

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Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
Healthy & Strong Communities	Regulatory	All Wards

Reviewed by:	Ayeisha Kirkham, Head of Public Protection	29 April 2022
Approved by:	Alan Robinson, Deputy Chief Executive	29 April 2022
Signed off by:	Councillor Linda Wootten, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing	29 April 2022

### Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

1. Agrees the response to the Department for Transport Consultation on the Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice Guidance for Licensing Authorities, with or without amendments.

## **1 The Background to the Report**

- 1.1 The Department for Transport (DfT) first issued best practice guidance to licensing authorities in 2006, which was refreshed in 2010.
- 1.2 Much has changed in the hackney carriage and private hire industry over the intervening years and the DfT has updated the guidance document to reflect new ways of working, new technology.
- 1.3 The DfT are seeking views via this consultation on a new best practice guidance for hackney carriage and private hire licensing authorities. It is a public consultation enabling all interested parties, including the public, operators, drivers and representative bodies such as the Disables Persons' Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) to respond.
- 1.4 The Consultation closes on 20 June 2022.
- 1.5 Appendix 1 provides a proposed response to the consultation based on the Council's current policy.
- 1.6 The presentation at Appendix 2 provides information taken from the consultation document and background to support the proposed answers.

## **2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny**

- 2.1 A presentation is attached providing both the consultation questions, background information and proposed response for consideration by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **3 Available Options Considered**

- 3.1 The Council is not obliged to submit a response. However, should a response be considered appropriate the proposed responses can be agreed as stated or amended by the committee.

## **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 That a response is submitted with or without amendments.

## **5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)**

- 5.1 Providing a response allows the Council the opportunity to feed into the best practice review. The proposed responses have been developed with consideration given to the Council's current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy which was adopted in 2021.

## **6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision**

- 6.1 A South Kesteven District Council response will be submitted electronically as directed by the DfT.

## **7 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

**Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Chief Finance Officer**

## **8 Legal and Governance Implications**

- 8.1 There is no statutory requirement to submit a response to the consultation.

**Legal Implications reviewed by: Alan Robinson, Monitoring Officer**

## **9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications**

- 9.1 This report provides a response to a Government Consultation. Any future changes to the Council's policy as a result of the revised best practice will consider the potential equality and safeguarding implications.

## **10 Risk and Mitigation**

- 10.1 No significant risks have been identified in relation to replying to this consultation.

## **11 Community Safety Implications**

- 11.1 No significant risks have been identified in relation to replying to this consultation.

## **12 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a climate emergency?**

- 12.1 This report provides a response to a Government Consultation. Any future changes to the Council's policy as a result of the revised best practice will consider the potential impacts on the declaration.

## **13 Other Implications (where significant)**

- 13.1 No other implications identified in relation to replying to this consultation.

## **14 Background Papers**

- 14.1 [Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy](#)

- 14.2 [Department for Transport Consultation document](#)

## **15 Appendices**

- 15.1 Appendix 1 – Consultation Questions & Proposed Response  
Appendix 2 – Presentation  
Appendix 3 – Daily Vehicle Inspection Log