

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date of meeting: 13th March 2009

Report of: A C Lee, Principal Licensing Officer
Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council

Title: Private Hire Vehicle Operator licensing

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 On 14th January 2009 the Licensing Committee approved a set of licence conditions for private hire vehicle operators for the purpose of holding a consultation exercise with current holders of operator licences. The report recommends the approval of the licence conditions following the conclusion of the consultation period.
- 1.2 The proposed conditions are attached at the end of the report.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To approve the proposed licence conditions with effect from 1st April 2009.

3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs

- 3.1 None.

4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond

- 4.1 None

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 If the conditions for licensing private hire operators are not in place by 1st April 2009 Cheshire East will rely on the provisions of the Transitional Regulations¹ in order to perform its statutory function as the licensing authority from Day One.

6.0 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 No responses were received during the period of the consultation exercise. Any risk of a legal challenge to the validity of the conditions would therefore appear to be minimal.

¹ Local Government (Structure Changes)(Transitional Arrangements)(No.2) Regulations 2008

7.0 Background and Options

- 7.1 A private hire operator licence is required in order to permit bookings to be taken for journeys to be made in a licensed private hire vehicle.
- 7.2 The proposed private hire vehicle operator conditions were drawn from the conditions currently in force at either one or more of the three constituent authorities of Cheshire East. They were chosen to reflect the best of the current practices from those authorities.
- 7.3 A consultation exercise with the existing holders of private hire operator licences at Crewe and Nantwich, Congleton and Macclesfield was held over the period from 14th January to 27th February 2009. No responses were received.
- 7.4 In the absence of any comments, it is submitted that the conditions should be approved without amendment.

8.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

- 8.1 The requirement to have private hire vehicle operator licence conditions in place is a Year One requirement.

9.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 9.1 The recommendation to introduce the proposed Cheshire East private hire operator licence conditions without amendment is made in the light of the lack of any comments received during the recent consultation exercise.

For further information:

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Background Documents:

The current private hire vehicle operator licence conditions of Crewe and Nantwich BC, Congleton BC and Macclesfield BC.

Documents are available for inspection at the respective authorities.

Letter sent to holders of current licences