

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Licensing Committee
DATE	7 January 2026
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Taxi & Private Hire Policy
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/26/004
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Jenni Lawson
REPORT AUTHOR	Sandy Munro
TERMS OF REFERENCE	16.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the current Taxi & Private Hire Policy for consideration by the Committee to determine whether a formal review process is required for all or parts thereof.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee :-

- 2.1 Agree that a formal review of the Taxi & Private Hire Policy is undertaken subject to a public consultation;
- 2.2 Determine which parts of the policy would warrant specific attention in the consultation exercise; and
- 2.3 Instruct the Chief Officer - Governance to report back to the Licensing Committee with the results of the public consultation on 20 May 2026.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The current Taxi & Private Hire Policy is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the policy is subject to a review exercise to consider amendments to a number of areas of the policy. In particular the Committee may wish to seek views from the public on the following areas:-
- 3.2.1 The licensing area is currently split into two zones, city and airport. It is suggested that views are sought on combining the zones so that all taxis are licensed for the whole of the council area.

- 3.2.2 Vehicles submitted for licensing are currently subject to an age of vehicle policy which states that all Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) require to be no more than 10 years old at first licensing and other vehicles no more than 5 years old. It is suggested that views are sought as to whether these limits remain appropriate.
- 3.2.3 Advertising is currently permitted with some exceptions on taxis but not on private hire vehicles. It is suggested that views are sought on those exceptions and the question of advertising on private hire vehicles.
- 3.2.4 Currently all applicants for taxi drivers licences and private hire drivers licences require to pass the Street Knowledge Test prior to application. It is suggested that views are sought on whether the test should remain for both, an amended test for private hire applicants is introduced or the test is removed for private hire applicants.
- 3.2.5 It is further recommended that a final question allows respondents to recommend any further areas of the policy that would warrant attention.
- 3.3 The consultation exercise would be conducted from February 2026 through March 2026 with the results being reported back to the Licensing Committee on 20 May 2026 for consideration.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
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Strategic Risk	N/A			Yes
Compliance	N/A			Yes
Operational	N/A			Yes
Financial	N/A			Yes
Reputational	N/A			Yes
Environment / Climate	N/A			Yes

8. OUTCOMES

8.1 The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Jenni Lawson, Chief Officer Governance on 9 December 2025.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 - Taxi & Private Hire Policy

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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