



Ryedale District Council

REPORT TO: Community Services & Licensing Committee

DATE: 24 July 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Commercial Services Finance Manager
Beckie Bennett

SUBJECT: **TAXI LICENSING**
AMENDMENT TO DRIVER LICENSING POLICY
(Drivers Who Reside Out Of The Licensing
Authority Area)

WARDS AFFECTED: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Member's approval of a revision to the current driver licensing policy, covering drivers who do not reside within 5 miles of Ryedale's boundary.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that

- a. Members approve the updated Taxi Licensing Policy covering driver licenses to include
"Where there are exceptional circumstances i.e. family commitments, and at officers discretion, upon receipt of appropriate supporting evidence, existing licenses will be honoured for drivers who are already licensed to work in the district but reside outside of the 5 mile boundary".

3.0 REASONS SUPPORTING DECISION/REPORT

The current taxi licensing policy requires all new applicants, for all types of driver licence, to live within 5 miles of the Council's boundary and work within the district.

A situation has arisen where one of our licensed hackney carriage drivers has moved outside of the boundary due to family commitments however he is still employed by a Norton based company.

The law requires drivers to operate in the area covered by the licensing authority yet there is no legal reason for licensed drivers to live in the area. It is considered reasonable to retain the 5 mile restriction for new drivers for administrative and enforcement control purposes between different licensing authorities.

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4.0 OPTIONS

Members have the option to adopt the amendment to the taxi licensing policy in respect of licensed drivers or not.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the Council however if the policy was not changed there would be financial implications for the licensed driver either through loss of earnings, the costs associated with moving home or applying to another authority for a license.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

It is essential that policies adopted by the Council are fair and reasonable to the people affected without being unnecessarily inflexible. In adopting the revised policy the Council is demonstrating its flexibility and responsiveness to changing circumstances.

7.0 CONCLUSION

A situation has arisen which has brought into question the existing policy covering licensed drivers who work in the district however due to exceptional circumstances are no longer living in the area. In order to apply a fair yet managed approach to our licensing procedures it is therefore considered appropriate to adopt the recommended revised policy.

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Beckie Bennett, Commercial Services Finance Manager if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Malton Depot Telephone No 01653-600666 ext 483 and e-mail: beckie.bennett@ryedale.gov.uk