



PART A:	MATTERS DEALT WITH UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
REPORT TO:	LICENSING COMMITTEE
DATE:	27 NOVEMBER 2009
REPORT OF THE:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT PHIL LONG
TITLE OF REPORT:	TAXI LICENSING TASK GROUP PROGRESS REPORT
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update to Members on progress being made exploring potential future service delivery options for the taxi licensing service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) Members endorse the ongoing feasibility work examining service delivery options for the taxi licensing service.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It was resolved at the Licensing Committee on 23 July 2009 that “a review be undertaken to identify alternative options for delivering the taxi licensing service to ensure that economy, efficiency and effectiveness is secured for the future”.

3.2 Officers have been exploring a potential Environmental Health Partnership between Craven, Harrogate, York, Selby, North Yorkshire Trading Standards and Ryedale and the possibility of incorporating the licensing function including taxi licensing is an option.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 At this stage in the process there are no significant risks involved.

REPORT

5.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 A series of taxi licensing member task group meetings have taken place over the past 18 months particularly looking at the licence fees and the associated costs of providing the taxi licensing service. One key outcome from the work to date is the need to ensure value for money and efficient service delivery and the conclusion that alternative ways of delivering the taxi licensing service were to be explored as the way forward.
- 5.2 This report is a progress report for Members outlining the work that has been done since the July meeting.

6.0 POLICY CONTEXT

- 6.1 The policy objective of the taxi licensing service (revised during 2009/10) is to deliver an efficient and effective service at a minimal cost to the council taxpayer.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The work of the taxi licensing member task group has involved consultation with the taxi trade throughout which has informed the recommendations to date.

8.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 8.1 The discussions about the feasibility of an environmental health partnership between Craven, Harrogate, York, Selby, North Yorkshire Trading Standards and Ryedale are at a scoping stage and the development of a business case involving the use of external consultants would be the next stage and will be the subject of a separate report to Community Services Committee in the future.
- 8.2 Officers are also exploring the benefits of teaming up with another licensing function as an interim measure pending the outcome of the environment health partnership feasibility and progress reports will continue to be made to this Committee as appropriate.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial: None, as no income is generated by Ryedale District Council
 - b) Legal: None
 - c) Other: None

10.0 NEXT STEPS

- 10.1 This is an ongoing area of work and further details will be reported including timescales in due course.

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Background Papers:
None

Background Papers are available for inspection at:
Not applicable