

## NOTICE OF DECISION

### CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION PART 3 – DISCHARGE OF COUNCIL FUNCTIONS EXERCISE OF DELEGATED URGENT ACTION POWERS TAXI LICENSING

#### 1. Emergency Provision of the Constitution

- 1.1 “Each Director is authorised to act on behalf of the Executive or the Council (after consultation, if practicable with the relevant Executive Councillor or, in respect of non-executive functions, the relevant Chair or, in either case, the Chief Executive) in relation to matters within his/her area(s) of responsibility in cases of urgency or emergency. Any such action to be reported as soon as possible to the relevant Executive Councillor and Scrutiny Committee or, for non-executive functions, the relevant committee or sub-committee.”

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012 the Licensing Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution to revise the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy:

*i. A new vehicle licence will not be granted in respect of a vehicle unless it is less than 4 years old AND it meets the Euro 5 standard or higher.*

*ii. A vehicle licence will not be renewed unless the vehicle is less than 9 years old and meets Euro 4 standard or higher.*

*This will only affect those applying for a new vehicle license and those with a Euro 3 standard vehicle after 1 September 2012.*

- 2.2 At the Committee meeting officers advised that all vehicles registered after January 2005 would meet at least the Euro 4 standard and after September 2009 would meet at least the Euro 5 standard and consequently officers believed only six vehicles currently licensed, that were Euro 3 standard, would need to be replaced earlier than expected as a result of the proposed change in policy.
- 2.3 Since the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012 further work by officers on the exact Euro standards revealed that many more vehicles registered after January 2005 were Euro 3 standard than previously believed. This discrepancy arose because manufacturers had either not kept to the original deadlines set by EU legislation or because there had been a longer time delay between manufacture and registration. In terms of the taxi and private hire fleet in Cambridge it is now clear that there are between 80 to 90 vehicles classified as Euro 3, and therefore this new policy would require replacement of all these vehicles. Some of these replacements have not been planned for, as the majority of these

vehicles would not otherwise have needed to be replaced for another couple of years under the original policy.

### **3. Representations Received and Consultation with Chair and Spokespersons**

- 3.1 Due to the timeframe involved and the potential economic impact this could have on taxi and private hire businesses, the proprietors have made strong representations that it would be unreasonable for the City Council to impose this revision policy on the taxi and private hire trade as from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.
- 3.2 In the light of this new advice and the representations made I have consulted with Councillor Rosenstiel, Chair of Licensing Committee, Councillor Benstead, Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee and Labour Spokesperson and Councillor Meftah Independent and Conservative Spokesperson to defer part (ii) of the revision of the policy to allow full consideration by Licensing Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2012 when members will have the latest advice about the number of vehicles involved and also the views of the taxi and private hire trade.
- 3.3 The members set out above support my exercising of these urgency powers under these circumstances.

### **4. Urgent Decision Made**

- 4.1 In accordance with Section 3.6 of the Constitution I make the following urgent decisions:

1. To defer the implementation date for the revision to the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy made by Licensing Committee on 25 June 2012 that states: *A vehicle licence will not be renewed unless the vehicle is less than 9 years old and meets Euro 4 standard or higher.*

2. To report to the first available Licensing Committee on the revision to the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy so that members can consider a revised implementation date in relation to the part of the policy that deals with vehicles licence renewals.

Signed



Simon Payne  
Director of Environment  
Monday 6 August 2012