

## **URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION**

### **Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency**

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Given the current emergency in respect of the Covid 19 pandemic and the decision taken to suspend committee meetings while social distancing measures continue, the urgency decision provision under Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution has been widened to extend the consultation to include the Leaders of all the political groups on the Council.

### **Subject:**

**Measures to Support Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers and Operators**

### **Appropriate Committee:**

**General Purposes**

### **Details of Item**

### **Purpose**

To seek approval for a number of measures to lessen the financial hardship to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers and operators during the Corona virus lockdown period.

### **Background**

The restrictions imposed by the Corona virus controls have hit the licensed taxi trade very hard. The requirement to make only essential journeys has reduced the daytime trade for taxis to a minimum, with only a few operating to provide prearranged shopping trips. There is very little passing trade and the town centre ranks are empty. Taxi operating from the station have seen virtually no passengers for number of weeks.

The closure of pub, bars and restaurants has removed any night time economy work in both town and rural locations.

### **Decision**

In order to support the taxi trade the following measures are to be implemented:

- **Remove the requirement to have an interim 6 month vehicle inspections check (subject to a valid MOT being in place).**
- **Extend drivers licences by 6 months (subject to DBS check and DVLA check)**
- **Extend annual vehicle renewal by 6 months (subject to valid MOT)**

### **Financial Implications**

With the exception of the interim vehicle inspections the remaining proposals defer payment of a fee for 6 months. This means that the income will still be received this financial year. The removal of the requirement of for an interim 6 month vehicle inspections will reduce income. This is estimated to be approximately £7,000 for a six month period.

### **Members Consulted:**

**Cllr Mrs R Crowe - Chairman of General Purposes**

**Cllr Miss Ronnie White - Vice Chair of General Purposes**

**Cllr David Lloyd – Leader of the Council**

**Cllr Paul Peacock – Leader of the Labour Group**

**Cllr Peter Harris - Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group**

**Cllr Mrs Gill Dawn – Leader of the Independent Group**

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M.P.L.', written in a cursive style.

Date: 22 April 2020