

**DFT TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING – CONSULTATION ON REVISED
BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

Agenda Item 6

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Background Papers:- Draft revised Best Practice Guidance is at Appendix 1. The proposed revisions are in bold italic and are highlighted in grey. (See Item 5 page 75)

A summary of the questions on which the DFT are seeking feedback is at Appendix 2.

A pro-forma for responding is at Appendix 3.

Financial Implications:- None

Equalities Implications:- None

Legal Implications:- None

Options: To agree a response to the DTF Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing – Consultation of revised Best Practice Guidance.

Risks: None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department for Transport has reviewed the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice Guidance and has published a consultation, inviting comments and views in respect of the guidance and the proposed changes, a copy of this document is at Appendix 1.

DECISION

Members are requested to note the consultation document and agree a response to be submitted to Department for Transport prior to 28th July 2009.

DFT TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING – CONSULTATION ON REVISED BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE

1. Background

- 1.1 The department first published Best Guidance for taxi and private hire licensing authorities in October 2006. Publication of the Guidance was prompted by a recommendation by a recommendation from the Officer of Fair Trading as a result of its taxi/private hire vehicle market study in 2003.
- 1.2 Based on the feedback the DFT has received, it appears that the Guidance has been a valuable source of advice both in terms of promoting local authorities to look afresh at their licensing policies and providing a resource to assist trade representatives who want to approach their local authority with suggestions for change. Two and a half years on, the DFT thought it would be sensible to review the Guidance and this consultation invites comments about the usefulness of the original Guidance as well as seeking views on the changes we now propose it. Views on any other items that should be included and suggestions for change to the existing guidance are also invited.
- 1.3 The revised document was made available via e-mail and link on the 3rd June 2009. Members were invited to read the document prior to the Committee Meeting on the 15th July and make notes of any comments.

2. Matters for Consideration

- 2.1
- The draft revised Best Practice Guidance is at Appendix 1. The proposed revisions are in bold italic and are highlighted in grey.
 - A summary of the questions on which the DFT are seeking feedback is at Appendix 2.
 - A pro-forma for responding is at Appendix 3.
3. Braintree District Council has made some changes following the consultation of the Best Guidance for taxi and private hire licensing in October 2006, and a good example of this is the implementation of the new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Livery in September 2009.