

Public Consultation on Changes to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Convictions Policy

Mid Sussex District Council is currently considering updating the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Convictions policy. Recent recommendations from the Local Government Association regarding such policies and a national consultation regarding Convictions Policies have highlighted the need for the current policy to be updated. This will require an amendment to the Taxi Licensing policy.

The public consultation phase is open until the 27th August 2018.

The main changes to the policy are:

- The new policy provides better guidelines for officers and committee members when making decision
- It includes a wider range of specified offences and how they will be treated
- The relevant time that applicants are expected to remain conviction free for is extended
- It clarifies that the policy will apply to existing drivers in addition to new applicants although it will not be applied retrospectively
- It confirms that the Licensing Authority will only depart from the policy in exceptional circumstances
- There is clarification that Cautions and other sanctions will be dealt with in a similar way to convictions
- There is confirmation that the Licensing Authority makes its decisions on the balance of probability; consequently information concerning offences that did not lead to prosecution may still render the applicant not 'fit and proper'
- Although the policy sets out the minimum requirements before an application will be considered. This does not mean that an applicant will automatically be suitable once the applicable period has elapsed. It merely confirms that their application will be considered and still refused if the Licensing Authority is not satisfied that they are fit and proper to hold a licences.

Any comments on the Scheme should be received by the Licensing Team in writing no later than 27th August 2018.

Your comments about changes to the Convictions Policy can be provided by post to:

Taxi Licensing Team
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands Road
Haywards heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

Or by e mail to : taxilicensing@midsussex.gov.uk

All responses will be acknowledged but may not receive an individual reply.