



## Appendix A

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

#### SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – Effectiveness of Enforcement of Licensing Policy in respect of Taxis and Private Hire

##### 1 Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To investigate the effectiveness of enforcement of licensing, for taxis and private hire vehicles

##### **Key lines of Inquiry:**

- To review the enforcement of policies and strategies for taxi and private hire vehicle licensing
- To assess the effectiveness of the legislation for taxi and private hire vehicle licensing
- To raise awareness of the licensing framework around the regulation of private hire and taxi licensing, inclusive of examining the root causes of flagging
- To assess what mechanisms are in place for the exchange of information between the Council, the Police and licence holders
- To examine what options are available and any best practice or solutions that other Local Authorities have successfully implemented
- To assess the provision and usage of taxi ranks in the borough

##### 2. Outcomes Required

To put forward informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the enforcement of Licensing Policy.

##### 3. Information Required

Background data, including:

- Presentation to set the scene: “Licensing Policy in the Borough”
- Relevant national and other background research papers, such as:

- [Department for Transport – Taxi statistics \(2013\)](#)
- [House of Commons Library – Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles \(2014\)](#)
- [Department of Transport Best Practice Guidance on Vehicle Licensing](#)
- Relevant Legislation:
  - The role of the Licensing Authority
  - Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
  - Town Police Clauses Act 1847
  - Licensing Policy and Practice
  - Licensing Enforcement practice guidelines
- Relevant data:
- Statistical data, such as the number of hackney carriage and private hire licences in the borough, number of taxi ranks in the borough and spaces on each rank
- Best practice and successful initiatives in both Northampton and elsewhere
- Witness evidence:

#### **Internal**

- Cabinet Member for Environment, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
- Cabinet Member for Community Safety, NBC
- Senior Licensing Officer, Northampton Borough Council

#### **External**

- Licensing Sergeant, Northants Police
- Chair, Taxi and Private Hire Association
- Chair, Northampton BID
- Private Hire Operators

## **4. Format of Information**

- Background data
- Background reports and presentation
- Best practice data
- Desktop research
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses

- Site visits

## **5. Methods Used to Gather Information**

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site visits
- Officer reports
- Statistical data
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-
  - Key witnesses as detailed in section 3 of this scope

## **6. Co-Options to the Review**

None suggested for this Review.

## **7 Considerations for Community Impact, such as health, equalities and human rights**

This Scrutiny Review will investigate the pattern of provision for licensing, including, taxis and private hire with a focus on the effectiveness of the enforcement of policies . It will seek to put forward informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the pattern of provision for licensing.

The Scrutiny Panel, in having regard to the general equality duty, will be mindful of the protected characteristics when undertaking this scrutiny activity; so that any recommendations that it made could identify disproportionate and unintended potential positive and negative impacts on any particular sector of the community, including any potential mitigation required. This will be borne in mind as the Scrutiny Panel progresses with the review and evidence is gathered.

In order that the Scrutiny Panel obtains a wide range of views, a number of key witnesses will provide evidence as detailed in section 3 of this report.

Any recommendations that explore ways of dealing with Licensing Policy will consider impact and potential mitigation as appropriate and relevant across all protected characteristics. Impact assessments will be integral to any reports including actions plans.

