

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH
COUNCIL – 20 July 2020

ADDENDUM OFFICER REPORT

REVIEW OF THE STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR THE LICENSING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES

Summary

This Addendum report is submitted in order to bring to the attention of Council a letter from Mr Richard Bunday dated 7th July 2020 and an email communication received from the office of the Rt Hon Grant Shapps on 17th July.

RECOMMENDATION

3. In the event that Council agrees to adopt the revised standard conditions for the Licensing of Hackney Carriage Vehicles, that Council consider the date of 1st October 2020 for implementation of the revised Standard Conditions.

1. Paragraph 3.3 of the main report explains the actions which were taken during the consultation process.
2. At its meetings on 4th July 2019 and 2nd October 2019 the Taxi Terms and Conditions Sub-Group ("the Sub Group") gave full consideration to the representations and feedback received during the consultation process.
4. By a letter dated 7th July 2020, Mr Richard Bunday submitted further representations for consideration by Council within the context of its consideration of this report and the recommendations contained within it. Part A of the Appendix to this Addendum report sets out the representations submitted by Mr Bunday together with, where applicable, the equivalent representations which were considered by the Sub Group and the Sub Group's considerations of those representations. In the event of any new representation(s), the responses of Officers are included for the assistance of Council. Mr Bunday's letter appears as an Annex to the Appendix to this addendum report.
5. On 17th July 2020, the Head of Public Health and Public Protection received an email from the case-worker for the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP. The email informed that Grant Shapps MP *"has been contacted by another constituent who is a taxi driver concerned about the proposed changes ahead of the meeting concerning this matter on the 20th July. The constituent is particularly concerned about the financial implications of the changes on taxi drivers, especially given their financial struggles in light of the ongoing pandemic. Grant would greatly appreciate if the Council could clarify their understanding of the financial impact the changes to the Hackney Carriage Terms & Conditions will have on taxi drivers and how the already financially precarious position of many taxi drivers due to the current pandemic has been taken into account for any potential impact"*. Officers' responses to these points are set out in Part B of the Appendix to this report.
6. The Council has a duty to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and it is for this reason that the proposal to change the Standard Conditions has been brought forward.