

Title: Consultation on Local Transport Authorities and the Licensing of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles

Committee: Licensing Committee

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1.0 Issue

1.1 To finalise the Council's response to the Government's consultation on the transfer of responsibility for taxis and private hire licensing from District Councils and Metropolitan Borough Councils to Local Transport Authorities ("LTA's") in England, as part of an effort to curb "out of area" working.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 To agree on the wording of the answers to questions one to four and thirteen to fifteen contained in **Appendix 1**, and

2.2 To instruct officers to submit the agreed answers to the Government's LTA consultation prior to the 1 April 2026 deadline.

3.0 Background

3.1 Responsibility for licensing Hackney Carriage drivers and vehicles and Private Hire driver, vehicles and operators currently rests with approximately 263 District Councils and Metropolitan Borough Councils, each of which has their own licensing policy and conditions. Of these there are 164 District Councils, 62 Unitary Authorities, 36 Metropolitan Borough Councils and Transport for London.

3.2 Each authority has responsibility in respect of licences which it has issued, however, drivers and vehicles from outside an authority's area may quite legitimately be used for services in that authority's area.

3.3 Under the Transport Act 2000, LTA's are responsible for formulating transport policies and publishing them through a local transport plan. East Cambridgeshire District Council falls within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority LTA which includes the District Councils in the Greater Cambridgeshire area along with Peterborough's Unitary Authority and the County Council. There are 70 LTA's in England in total.

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3.4 On 8 January 2026 the Government launched a consultation exercise inviting comments on the correct level of regulating taxi and private hire licensing, namely, LTAs or Unitary Authorities (post Local Government Reorganisation).

4.0 Summary

4.1 On 11 February 2026 Members received report AA139 setting out the consultation's contents and noted its contents. Members also resolved to prepare draft responses to questions one to four and thirteen to fifteen of the LTA consultation to be discussed at the next Licensing Committee.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Members are asked to discuss the draft responses contained in **Appendix 1** and agree any amendments they wish to see.

6.0 Additional Implications Assessment

6.1 In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box:

Financial Implications No	Legal Implications No	Human Resources (HR) Implications No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

Background Documents

English Devolution White Paper - [English Devolution White Paper - GOV.UK](#)

Location

Room SF204
The Grange,
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