

REPORT: Regulatory Committee

DATE: 27 November 2024

REPORTING OFFICER: Director – Legal and Democratic Services

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Taxi Enforcement Policy

WARDS: Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To seek approval from the Committee for authorisation of officers from the City of Wolverhampton Council to undertake compliance functions on behalf of Halton Borough Council under Section 68 and 73 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, as amended.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee:

- 1) approve the proposed formal arrangement between the City of Wolverhampton Council and Halton Borough Council in relation to officer authorisation concerning Taxi and Private Hire licensing functions; and**
- 2) delegate the powers to the City of Wolverhampton Council under section 101 Local Government Act 1972 accordingly.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. On 9 October 2024, Members will recall a report was presented regarding accepting the formal arrangement between the City of Wolverhampton Council and Halton Borough Council.
- 3.2. This report is to provide the City of Wolverhampton Council the same powers under the formal arrangement.
- 3.3. Providing the City of Wolverhampton, Enforcement Team the same powers, encourages partnership working with other Authorities, and provides a strengthened enforcement function generally, which should be of benefit to the people of Halton.
- 3.4. Section 5.3 of the Department for Transport's 'Taxi and private hire vehicle licensing best practice guidance for licensing authorities in England' states, "Licensing authorities should, where the need arises, jointly authorise officers from other authorities so that compliance and enforcement action can be taken against licensees from outside their area. An agreement between licensing authorities to jointly authorise

officers enables the use of compliance and enforcement powers regardless of which authority within the agreement employs the officer and which issued the licence. This will mitigate the opportunities for licensees to evade regulation. Such an agreement will enable those authorities to take action against vehicles and drivers that are licensed by the other authority when they cross over boundaries. A model for agreeing joint authorisation is contained in the LGA Councillors' handbook."

- 3.5. In the event this report is approved, a letter of authorisation for each of the named officers at Wolverhampton City Council will be provided, and this can be shown to the licensees. Copies of the licence conditions and relevant policies will be exchanged, as well as information on reporting enforcement action. enabling officers at Wolverhampton City Council to enforce licensing requirements for vehicles carrying a plate licensed with Halton Borough Council.
- 3.6. All licence holders which are licensed by Wolverhampton will be made aware of the joint authorisation.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no other implications arising out of this report.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES

6.1. Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

None

6.2. Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

None

6.3. Supporting Children, Young People and Families

None

6.4. Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

None

6.5. Working Towards a Greener Future

None

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

None

7. RISK ANALYSIS

7.1. None identified.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1. There are no equality and diversity issues to highlight.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are no climate change implications since the decision will have no effect on the environment.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.