

Title of Report:	Taxi/Private Hire Legislation Update
Report to be considered by:	Licensing
Date of Meeting:	3 June 2014
Forward Plan Ref:	n/a

Purpose of Report: To update Members on the release of draft legislation intended to supercede current taxi and private hire legislation

Recommended Action: To acknowledge the detail of the report

Reason for decision to be taken: No decision required

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation: None

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strategy priorities:

- CSP1 – Caring for and protecting the vulnerable**
- CSP2 – Promoting a vibrant district**

The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Strategy principle:

- CSP7 - Empowering people and communities**

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Strategy priorities and principle by:

CSP1 - There are elements of the policy which aim to recognise vulnerable groups and ensure that they are protected from the impacts of excessive alcohol consumption.

CSP2 - There are elements of this policy which aim to encourage good business practices and ensure that there is reliable decision making when considering regulated entertainment.

CSP7 - The policy will protect the rights of the local community through their ability to keep the licensing trade accountable for their actions using representations.

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Dominic Boeck - Tel (07956) 546506
E-mail Address:	dboeck@westberks.gov.uk
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	Emailed on 21 May 2014

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Brian Leahy
Job Title:	Team Manager Licensing
Tel. No.:	01635 519494
E-mail Address:	bleahy@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:	The draft legislation will be consulted upon nationally with a view to gaining Royal Assent in 2015/16
Financial:	None
Personnel:	N/A
Legal/Procurement:	None at this time
Property:	None
Risk Management:	None

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes		Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:				
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)				
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia				<input type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Taxi and Private Hire Legislation is administrated and controlled by the Local Authority through the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 1.2 In 2012, the Government tasked the Law Commission to consult with all interested parties on updating legislation governing the provision of taxi and private hire services. Initial consultation closed on 10 September 2012. Responses were published together with an interim statement in spring 2013. Members have been kept aware of the Governments proposals at each stage of the process.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 The first draft of the Bill together with the Commissions final report is due to be published on the 23rd May 2014. The aim of the Commission is to publish their review of the existing framework of taxi and private hire regulation with a view to preparing recommendations for reform. The publication of this document falls between the submission of reports for the Licensing Committee and the Committee Meeting itself.
3. It is intended that the Principal Licensing Officer will deliver a synopsis of the draft Act and outline any of the proposals which may later come to the Committee for either information or addition's/ amendments to conditions attached to licences.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 This draft Act is seen as an important and perhaps radical change to existing taxi/private hire legislation and it as important that Members are fully briefed at each stage of the legislative process.

Consultees

Local Stakeholders: N/A

Officers Consulted: Paul Anstey, Joint Service Delivery Manager, Julia O'Brien, Principal Licensing Officer