



## LICENSING COMMITTEE

Monday, 20 July 2020

### INTRODUCTION OF A DRUG TESTING POLICY FOR NEW AND EXISTING LICENSED DRIVERS

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 20 January 2020 **ES/0216** proposed a draft Drug Testing Policy for consultation.

It was agreed that any responses to the consultation would be reported to the Licensing Committee at a future meeting in order that the policy can be considered for approval and implementation.

This report documents the responses received during the consultation period.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Mary Rudd, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health
<b>Supporting Officer:</b>	Chris Bing Legal and Licensing Services Manager 01394 444408 <a href="mailto:chris.bing@eastssuffolk.gov.uk">chris.bing@eastssuffolk.gov.uk</a>

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 20 January 2020 the Licensing Committee approved the draft Policy for Detecting Use of Illegal Drugs for consultation with existing licensed private hire and hackney carriage drivers and private hire operators.

This consultation is now complete.

## **2 CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 The draft Policy for Detecting Use of Illegal Drugs, agreed at the January meeting, was sent out for consultation for a six week period ending 4 March 2020.
- 2.2 All existing licensed private hire and hackney carriage drivers and private hire operators were notified of the draft policy by way of a letter.

## **3. RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 During the consultation period the Licensing Team received no comments on the draft policy.
- 3.2 The draft policy, as approved by the Licensing Committee on 20 January 2020, is attached as **Appendix A**.

## **4 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?**

- 4.1 Licensing plays an important role in the building of a strong, sustainable, and dynamic local economy and in ensuring East Suffolk remains a safe place for our communities.

## **5 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 The licensing authority is responsible for ensuring that only fit and proper persons who are suitable to be licensed drivers are granted licences and remain licensed. An applicant, or licensed driver, who uses illegal drugs would risk compromising the safety of those they transport, other drivers and themselves and so would not be a fit and proper person. The licensing authority needs a policy which provides for the mandatory drug testing of applicants with a known history of illegal drug use and existing drivers who the licensing authority has reason to believe may be using drugs or where the licensing authority understands a driver is under investigation by the police, and/or has been arrested and/or cautioned and/or charged and/or prosecuted and/or convicted for misuse of drugs.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the draft Policy for Detecting Use of Illegal Drugs be adopted.

### **APPENDICES**

#### **Appendix A**

Draft Policy for Detecting Use of Illegal Drugs

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS – None**