REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL AND AGENDA ITEM: 8

DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

COMMITTEE

DATE OF 17th AUGUST 2017 DELEGATED/

MEETING: RECOMMENDED

REPORT FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OPEN/EXEMPT

PARAGRAPH NO:

CATEGORY:

MEMBERS' DOC:

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SUBJECT: PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING REF:

MANDATORY TRAINING: CHILD

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

AWARENESS

WARD(S) TERMS OF AFFECTED: ALL REFERENCE:

1. Recommendations

1.1 Members to approve the addition of child sexual exploitation awareness mandatory training for all existing and new private hire drivers in the Private Hire Licensing Policy.

2. Purpose of Report

2.1 To provide Members with the necessary information to be able to give full consideration to the recommendation contained in paragraph 1.1 of this report.

3. Detail

- 3.1 Child sexual exploitation has received a lot of press attention recently particularly in relation to the taxi and private hire trade. In addition, the Policing and Crime Act 2017 introduced a section for the Secretary of State to issue guidance to licensing authorities detailing how their licensing functions under private hire legislation may be exercised so as to protect children, and vulnerable adults who are 18 or over, from harm.
- 3.2 The Private Hire Licensing Policy is currently under review as required every three years. As private hire drivers are in a unique position to be able to identify the signs of child sexual exploitation, it is proposed to make awareness training mandatory for all existing and new private hire drivers. It is proposed to add the following section to the Policy:

Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Training

The Council requires all drivers to undertake child sexual exploitation awareness training. The training will be arranged by the Council. No fee will be payable. If a driver has undertaken an equivalent training course, they will not need to complete the training as long as a certificate has been provided to the Council.

Existing drivers will have until 1st November 2019 to complete the child sexual exploitation training. If a driver has not completed the training by this date, their private hire driver's licence will be suspended until the training has been completed.

For all new applicants, the training must be completed prior to the grant of a private hire driver's licence.

3.3 As the reviewed Private Hire Licensing Policy is currently under consultation, if the mandatory training is approved, Officers will notify all the consultees of the proposed amendment to the Policy. The Private Hire Licensing Policy is due to come into force on 3rd November 2017.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications to the Council. Training will be provided by Officers using a training package approved by Derbyshire County Council.

5. Corporate Implications

5.1 These proposals will continue to demonstrate to members of the public that the Council takes the protection of local residents, children, and vulnerable adults from the potential harms of private hire licensing seriously, which contributes to the theme of safety and security.

6. <u>Background Papers</u>

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Policing and Crime Act 2017