



Walsall Council

REPORT OF THE INTERIM REGULATORY MANAGER

TAXI/PRIVATE HIRE LIAISON GROUP

3 JULY 2013

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847

REFORMING THE LAW OF TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE SERVICES

1.0 Summary of report

- 1.1 To advise the group of the interim report produced by the Law Commission following consultation in respect of reforming the law of taxi and private hire services in England and Wales.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the group note the contents of the report and recommend referral of the report to the Licensing and Safety Committee for information purposes only.

3.0 Background information

- 3.1 In July 2011, the Law Commission announced an eleventh programme of law reform; this related to taxi and private hire services throughout England and Wales.
- 3.2 The project had originally been proposed by the Department for Transport.
- 3.3 The terms of reference for the Commission were:

'To review the law relating to the regulation of taxis and private hire vehicles, with a view to its modernisation and simplification, having due regard to the potential advantages of deregulation in reducing the burdens on business and increasing economic efficiency'.
- 3.4 The consultation period ran from the 10 May 2012 to 10 September 2012.

- 3.5 On the 9 April 2013 the Law Commission published an interim statement following consideration of responses. Their recommendations are given as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.6 A summary of the proposed recommendations are given as **Appendix 2**.
- 3.7 The commission has indicated that a final report and full recommendations will be published by late 2013. It should be noted that there will not be any further consultation on this issue, prior to consideration by central government of the full commission report.

4.0 Resource considerations

- 4.1 **Financial:** Not known at this stage due to the limited information contained in the interim report.
- 4.2 **Legal:** The decision as to whether to accept any of the recommendations made by the Law Commission, will rest with central government.
- 4.3 **Staffing issues:** Not known at this time.

5.0 Citizen impact

- 5.1 Non arising from this report.

6.0 Community safety

- 6.1 None arising from this report.

7.0 Environmental impact

- 7.1 Nothing arising from this report.

8.0 Performance and risk management issues

- 8.1 Nothing arising from this report.

9.0 Equality implications

- 9.1 None arising from this report.

10.0 Consultation

- 10.1 Carried out by the Law Commission.

11.0 Contact Officer:

- 11.1 Steve Knapper, Principal Licensing Officer. 01922 653073.

