

Southend-on-Sea City Council

Report of Executive Director (Strategy, Change and Governance)

To
Council

on
15 December 2022

Report prepared by: Colin Gamble
Head of Democratic Services

Agenda
Item No.

Change to the Constitution

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For the Council to agree a minor amendment to the terms of reference of the Licensing Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That a minor amendment be made to the terms of reference of the Licensing Committee as highlighted in **Appendix 1** to this report and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

3. Background

- 3.1 The terms of reference of the Licensing Committee enable it to consider and determine all applications relating to the Licensing, Certification and Registration functions of the Council. However, the remit of the committee does not cover the consideration and determination of matters of licensing policy and procedure.
- 3.2 The need to vary the terms of reference of the Committee has arisen following Government guidance concerning taxi and private hire vehicle standards. There is a clear expectation now that local authorities should use the National Anti-Fraud Network national register of taxi and private hire vehicle drivers (NR3) to record details of where a taxi or private hire vehicle driver's licence has been refused or revoked and allows councils to check new applicants against the register. The aim is to prevent individuals who have had a licence revoked by one authority from simply going to another area to secure a licence.

- 3.3 A small variation to the terms of reference of the Licensing Committee is proposed to enable it to determine all aspects of licensing policy/procedure which will allow consideration of the draft Southend policy that has been developed regarding the disclosure and use of information stored on the National Register of Licence Refusals and Revocations.

4. Background Papers

None

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed amendment to the terms of reference of the Licensing Committee.