

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Regulatory Committee

10 November 2021

Report title	Update on Requirement for Face Coverings in Licensed Vehicles	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Ross Cook, Director for City Housing and Environment	
Originating service	Licensing Services	
Accountable employee	Amitabh Singh	Section Leader - Licensing
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Report to be/has been considered by	None	

Recommendation for decision:

The Regulatory Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the removal of the current requirement regarding the use of face coverings in licensed vehicles and have this as a recommendation only.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the removal of the requirement of face coverings and put it forward as a recommendation of good practice.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 15 June 2020, the Government made the wearing of face coverings while using public transport in England mandatory to reduce the spread of COVID-19. It was unanimously agreed by the Non-Statutory Licensing Committee on 8 July 2020 to implement a policy regarding the use of face coverings in licensed vehicles.
- 2.2 The advice given after this decision, following specialist opinion from Public Health, is that drivers licensed with City of Wolverhampton Council should wear a face-covering at all times when passengers are inside their vehicle. Passengers travelling within the vehicle must use a face-covering unless they have a medical condition preventing the use of face coverings. City of Wolverhampton drivers are currently authorised to refuse carriage to people who do not have a medical exemption and who refuse to wear a face covering.
- 2.3 From 19 July 2021, there is no longer a legal requirement to wear face coverings in indoor settings or on public transport.

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1 It is proposed that the passengers and drivers no longer be required to use a face covering in licensed vehicles, but that they be recommended to do so.
- 3.2 It is also proposed to revoke the authorisation for drivers to refuse to carry passengers who are not wearing a face covering.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.
[SB/02112021/E]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
[JB/02112021/B]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report. People with a medical condition which prevents them from using a face covering are already exempt from the current requirement.

7.0 All other implications

7.1 There are no other implications.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

8.1 Non-Statutory Licensing Committee Minutes - 8 July 2020