



Walsall Council

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

5TH DECEMBER 2007

REPORT OF HEAD OF PUBLIC PROTECTION

COLOUR, DESIGN AND LIVERY OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 On 24th October 2007, Licensing and Safety Committee received a report to review the colour, design and livery requirements for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles. The report had been produced at the request of the Taxi Liaison Group.

1.2 At that meeting committee resolved:

“That the current requirement that hackney carriages of the “London cab” type must be black, be removed provided the vehicles used are clearly identified as taxis by the illuminated roof signs.

With regard to private hire vehicles it was **moved** by the Chairman and duly **seconded**: -

That subject to the livery of such vehicles being agreed by the committee: -

1. The current requirements that private hire vehicles of the “euro conversion” type must be white, be removed;
2. That a high visibility signage/livery be imposed as an alternative or addition to colour requirements”.

1.3 The purpose of the report is to deal with the outstanding issue relating to the livery for private hire vehicles and to clarify other matters discussed at the Taxi Liaison Group meeting on 21st November 2007.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Taxi and Liaison Group have requested that Licensing and Safety Committee consider the report and recommend appropriate high visibility signage for Euro style Private Hire Vehicles, as an alternative to colour requirements.

- 2.2 That "Euro Style" Private Hire Vehicles shall not be black in colour.
- 2.3 That "Euro Style" Hackney Carriage Vehicles shall be black in colour.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of the current plates are: -
£3.50 each from our current supplier V.I.P.

The cost of the new larger side identifying plates are: -
£5.39 from our current supplier, V.I.P.
£6.88 from MOGO, including an added security hologram.

- 3.2 Considering the small number of vehicles that are expected to require the new signage the costs can be absorbed within existing budgetary provision. We currently have 22 euro style conversion vehicles licensed as private hire vehicles out of a total fleet of 644.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Accords with council policy to protect residents against crime and disorder.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Legal Services to be consulted before recommending any changes to Licensing and Safety Committee.

- 5.2 Section 47, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976 provides that a district council may attach to the grant of a hackney carriage licence such conditions as it may consider reasonably necessary.

- 5.3 Section 48, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976 provides that a district council may attach to the grant of a private hire vehicle licence such conditions as it may consider reasonably necessary including:

Subsection (i) that a private hire vehicle shall not be of such a design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a hackney carriage.

6.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7.0 WARDS AFFECTED

- 7.1 All.

8.0 CONSULTEES

Walsall Taxi Liaison Group.

9.0 BACKGROUND

- 9.1** It is important that both hackney carriages and private hire vehicles are readily identifiable as public service vehicles.
- 9.2** It is equally important that private hire vehicles are readily distinguishable from hackney carriages since their respective use is governed by different rules. The main difference is that private hire vehicles must be pre-booked whereas hackney carriages may ply for hire.
- 9.3** The various signage to afford this prominent high visibility will be available to members at the meeting including that favoured by members of the Liaison Group.

10.0 CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1** A number of matters were discussed at the Taxi Liaison Group meeting on 21st November 2007.

Hackney Carriages Euro Style Conversions

- a) There is no suggestion that euro style conversion Hackney Carriages should be any colour, other than black.

Private Hire Vehicle Euro Style Conversions

- a) It has been resolved that an effective alternative to colour requirements, would be the introduction of prominent, high visibility vehicle livery/signage. Taxi Liaison Group have **also** requested that the vehicle should not be black and therefore even more easily distinguished from similar hackney carriages.

11.0 CONTACT OFFICER

- 11.1** John Beavon – Trading Standards Manager ext. 2214.