



Walsall Council

REPORT OF THE INTERIM REGULATORY MANAGER

TAXI LIAISON GROUP

9 NOVEMBER 2011

DRESS CODE FOR LICENSED DRIVERS

1.0 Summary of report

- 1.1 That the group give further consideration to an improved defined dress code policy for all licensed drivers.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The group is asked to consider the report and make any further recommendations in respect of a more formal dress code.

- 2.2 A general dress code may be worded as;

‘All drivers shall be clean, presentable and smartly dressed. Clothing must be freshly laundered. Shoulders and upper arms must be covered. This could include for example salwar kameez, a shirt, polo shirt or t-shirt and single colour trousers or for female drivers a blouse or t-shirt and single colour trousers or skirt or alternatively a dress’.

- 2.3 Alternatively to put forward a more defined dress code as determined by the group following discussion, which could include the requirement to wear clothing of a prescribed colour, shirt and tie, taxi company logo, etc etc.

3.0 Background information

- 3.1 A request has been made for the possible introduction of a more formal dress code for all licensed drivers.

- 3.2 Following a meeting of the Taxi Liaison Group on the 14 September 2011 it was resolved that ‘ Officers continue to investigate the introduction of a dress code for Licensed Drivers and report back to a future meeting of the group.

- 3.3 Currently the only guidance issued to drivers is that drivers should be clean and smartly dressed. (Vests, torn or dirty garments are not acceptable).
- 3.4 Of the neighbouring authorities Cannock, Sandwell and Wolverhampton have some form of dress code that are also conditions attached to their drivers licence.
- 3.5 Wolverhampton state that the holder of the licence shall maintain a high standard of personal hygiene and he/she shall wear freshly laundered respectable clothing, with the upper part of the arms being covered. This could include for example, a shirt, polo shirt or t-shirt and single colour trousers or for female drivers a blouse or t-shirt and single colour trousers or skirt or alternatively a dress.
- 3.6 Cannock has a more defined code.
- (i) Male drivers shall, as a minimum, wear a shirt or "T" shirt and tailored shorts, trousers or denim jeans. The shirt or "T" shirt shall cover the shoulders and be capable of being worn inside the shorts or trousers. Shirts worn as open neck shirts shall have no more buttons open than the collar button and the next button. "T" shirts, sweat tops, jumpers, shall not carry any words or pictures except for any name (including any logo) of any: -
- i) Manufacturer and/or
 - ii) Private Hire Operator and/or the name of the
 - iii) Driver

"Tailored" in respect of shorts and trousers shall be defined as having a fly fastening and capable of being worn with a belt on the waist. In addition, shorts and trousers shall be of one colour with the exception of contrasting detail and piping which will be allowed. To avoid any doubt, tracksuits, denim shorts and denim jackets shall not be permitted.

The dress code for female drivers shall be as for male drivers with a substitution of "blouse" for "shirt" and the addition of "skirt" to "tailored shorts or trousers".

(iv) For safety reasons footwear for all drivers shall fit around the heel by an enclosed or sling back. To avoid any doubt, mules or beach "flipflops" shall not be permitted.

(iv) All clothing shall be free from holes, rips and snags and fastenings

shall be in good order.

- (v) The person responsible for maintenance shall carry in the relevant vehicle an overall or similar item of protective clothing which shall be worn over clothing in the event of any vehicle maintenance being undertaken whilst away from the base.

3.7 Sandwell MBC offer just general guidance in respect of trousers and a polo shirt.

4.0 Resource considerations

4.1 **Financial:** None.

4.2 **Legal:** Anyone aggrieved by a condition attached to their drivers licence would have right of appeal against that imposition to Magistrates Court.

4.3 **Staffing:** None

5.0 Citizen impact

5.1 None

6.0 Community safety

6.1 Licensed drivers would be more readily identifiable to members of the public if there was a defined dress code.

7.0 Environmental impact

7.1 None.

8.0 Performance and risk management issues

8.1 None.

9.0 Equality implications

9.1 None

10.0 Consultees

10.1 Neighbouring Authorities...

11.0 Contact Officer

11.1. Steven Knapper – Principal Licensing Officer. Ext. 2221