



Walsall Council

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PUBLIC SAFETY
TO A MEETING OF THE TAXI LIAISON GROUP
WEDNESDAY 28TH JULY 2010 @ 6.00PM

COLOUR, DESIGN AND LIVERY OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For members of the group to consider the report and to determine whether any amendments are required to be made to the private hire vehicle licence conditions.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The group is asked to consider the report, and recommend any changes of the private hire vehicle licence conditions.
- 2.2 Any changes that are proposed, to be consulted upon with Legal Services

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On the 24th October 2007 the Licensing and Safety Committee resolved that;

‘The current requirements that private hire vehicles of the euro conversion type must be white be removed’.

‘That a high visibility signage/livery be imposed as an alternative or addition to colour requirements’.

- 3.2 As a result private hire vehicles of the euro conversion type maybe any colour providing they display this high visibility signage.
- 3.3 These euro style converted vehicles are predominantly manufactured by Mercedes, Peugeot, Citroen and Ford

- 3.4 These converted vehicles may also be licensed as hackney carriage vehicles but with the condition of licence that they must be black in colour.
- 3.5 Although all euro converted private hire vehicles must display this larger livery it is felt that in order to avoid any possible confusion to members of the public such vehicles should be any colour other than black or shades of.
- 3.6 Licensing Enforcement has received a number of complaints from both the licensed trade and members of the public that the vehicles are causing confusion. Although the larger livery is apparent from a side view, it is not apparent from the front or rear of the vehicle. As private hire companies may also use illuminated roof signs, this leads to further confusion
- 3.7 It is further recommended that for the benefit of doubt of the travelling public any vehicle type which may give the appearance of being a hackney carriage through its design or appearance should be any colour other than black or shades of.
- 3.8 Existing private hire vehicles will continue to be licensed upto there age restriction criteria, and will continue to display the larger livery.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None. If there was a change in policy existing vehicle proprietors would be able to operate such vehicles up to prescribed age limits.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any changes made to the private hire conditions of licence will need to be amended accordingly.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Legal Services to be consulted before recommending any changes to the Licensing and Safety Committee:
- 6.2 Section 48, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 in part states that the Council shall grant a licence in respect of a private hire vehicle unless they are satisfied it is not of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a hackney carriage.
- 6.3 A person aggrieved by any conditions attached to their private hire vehicle licence has right of appeal to magistrates court.

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

8.1 None.

9.0 WARD(S) AFFECTED

9.1 All.

10.0 CONSULTEES

10.1 None.

11.0 CONTACT OFFICER

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