

10 January 2013		ITEM: 6
Licensing Committee		
HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE PLATES		
Report of: Paul Adams, Principal Licensing Officer		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non key	
Accountable Head of Service: Gavin Dennett, Acting Head of Public Protection		
Accountable Director: Jo Olsson – Director of People Services		
This report is Public		
<i>If the report, or a part of this, has been classified as being either confidential or exempt by reference to the descriptions in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, it is hereby marked as being not for publication. The press and public are likely to be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any confidential or exempt items of business to which the report relates.</i>		
Date of notice given of exempt or confidential report: not applicable		
Purpose of Report: Approve a revised design for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Plates and Door Stickers.		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Authorities have a power to set conditions that it wishes to attach to its Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licences. Such conditions on licences issued by Thurrock Council require that a Licence Plate and Door Stickers be displayed. This report seeks approval of the licensing committee for a reviewed design to be used.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1.1 That the Committee -

Approves the proposed design of Licence Plates, Door Stickers and Window Cards.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 Local Authorities have the power to set conditions when granting Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licences.
- 2.2 Thurrock Council's Standard Conditions require that a licence plate and door stickers be permanently displayed at all times, unless an exemption certificate has been issued.
- 2.3 The current colour theme for Hackney Carriage Vehicles is Yellow for both the plates and stickers. See Appendix 1 for copies of each.
- 2.4 The current colour theme for Private Hire Vehicles is Green for both the plates and stickers. See Appendix 1 for copies of each.
- 2.5 The revision of the look and style of plates and door stickers does not require any amendment of the conditions attached to the licence.
- 2.6 Legislation prescribes certain information is displayed on a Licence plate. The information displayed on Thurrock Councils licence plates meets this requirement.

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The colour themes have been kept the same for both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles as they are already well known around the Borough.
- 3.2 The revision to the plates and door stickers included the following changes or additions.
 - The Thurrock Council logo has been replaced with the most recent version.
 - The wheelchair accessible logo has been incorporated on both the door stickers and the licence plate.
 - The licence number is now displayed on the door stickers.
- 3.3 The wheelchair accessible logo has been incorporated on both the door stickers and the licence plate to make it readably visible that the vehicle is wheelchair accessible. This will enable the easier identification of wheelchair accessible vehicles for wheelchair users, and allowing easier reporting of drivers that may refuse to take a wheelchair passenger.
- 3.4 The licence number has been incorporated into the door stickers to enhance the awareness that the vehicle is licensed, and to aid in the reporting of drivers and or vehicles to the licensing department. Most people approach the vehicle from the side, having the licence number displayed on the side, as well as at the rear makes it more visible for all.

- 3.5 A window card which displays inside the vehicle details of the licence and where to go if passengers wish to make comment regarding the driver or vehicle, has been reintroduced which will reassure passengers that the vehicle is properly licensed and to provide details on how to make comment should they wish to do so.
- 3.6 Attached as appendix 2 is the revised Hackney Carriage Vehicle licence plate, door stickers and window card.
- 3.7 Attached as appendix 3 is the revised Private Hire licence plate, door stickers and window card.
- 3.8 It is intended to switch from using hard plastic plates currently used to a “flexi plate” system for the provision of the revised licence plates. The “flexi plate” system is more environmentally friendly with the disposal of the used plates. There will be no real visible difference with the use of the new flexi plate system.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- 4.1 The plate, door stickers and window cards are conditions of the licence for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles. Approval of the design will allow for the additional features to be incorporated and for the current Thurrock Council logo to be used.

5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 There is no consultation required for these changes.
- 5.2 Thurrock’s Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade representatives have been shown the proposed changes and have raised no objection to the changes.

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 6.1 None.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Michael Jones**
Telephone and email: **01375 652277**
mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk

There are no financial implications for Thurrock Council.

7.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Telephone and email: **01375 652087**
david.lawson@bdtlegal.org.uk

There is no requirement within the legislation for committee approval for the change of design of the plates; the proposed design contains all the information that is required by legislation for the plate to display.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
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sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk

The equality duty places a requirement on public bodies to promote access to services. The promotion of wheelchair accessible vehicles through the signage should be supported to ensure licensed vehicles are accessible for all.

7.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Thurrock Council's Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions.

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- Appendix 1 – examples of existing licence plates and door stickers
- Appendix 2 – Proposed Hackney Carriage Vehicle, licence plate, door stickers and window card.
- Appendix 3 – Proposed Private Hire Vehicle, licence plate, door stickers and window card.

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