

16 July 2013		ITEM: 6
Licensing Committee		
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Specification and Licence Conditions		
Report of: Paul Adams, Principal Licensing Officer		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non key	
Accountable Head of Service: Gavin Dennett, Head of Public Protection		
Accountable Director: Lucy Magill – Director of Environment and Public Protection		
This report is Public		
Purpose of Report: Seek approval of proposed changes to Thurrock Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle specifications and Licence Conditions following public consultation.		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Authorities through legislation have powers to set policy and conditions which it requires its Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles to meet. This report sets out the proposals for changes to the current conditions and vehicle specification, following public consultation.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1.1 That the Committee -

- a) **Considers the comments received from the public consultation and refers the vehicle specification and licence conditions for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles as set out in appendix B without further changes to Full Council for adoption. Or;**
- b) **Considers the comments received from the public consultation and refers the vehicle specification and licence conditions for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles (appendix B) with changes arising out from the consideration to Full Council for adoption.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 Local Authorities have the power to set conditions and policy in relation to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licences.
- 2.2 The current Vehicle Specification and Licence Conditions sets out the type of vehicles that are considered suitable for licensing and the conditions that they must adhere to once the licence has been granted.
- 2.3 The vehicle specification is now dated and requires reviewing to ensure that it remains fit for purpose. The changes suggested are intended to enhance public safety, provide licence holders with the opportunity to keep well maintained vehicles for a longer period of time, and will allow for easier enforcement of the licence conditions by clarifying some areas of the specification.
- 2.4 These documents will eventually form one taxi licensing policy which will incorporate all taxi related policy, conditions and specifications.
- 2.5 A revised document was brought before this committee on 10 January 2013 where the proposed amendments were agreed to go forward to public consultation with the trade and other interested parties, and the public consultation on the website.

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The reviewed document was sent out for public consultation between the 20 May 2013 and 30 June 2013.
- 3.2 A letter was sent to all existing private hire and hackney carriage vehicle licence holders along with disability access groups and others locally with an interest in the taxi trade outlining the changes and inviting them to view the full document and make comments.
- 3.3 Detailed in appendix A are all the responses, with comments from the Licensing Department for each one including where it has been amended to incorporate the suggestions.
- 3.4 Following the comments received from the consultation the Vehicle Specification and Licence Conditions have been amended, a copy is attached as Appendix B.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- 4.1 The committee may amend the revised document further to incorporate comments made during the consultation.
- 4.2 This document exists primarily to ensure that the public using these vehicles are protected and that the vehicles used are fit for purpose and are safe at all

times. Any changes to the proposed document further must be made with this in mind.

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

5.1 This revised document has been out for public consultation as set out in the body of this report.

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

Following public consultation the revised policy will have to be brought back to this committee for approval before being referred to Full Council for adoption.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
 Telephone and email: **01375652472**
sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk

Any increase in the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles servicing Thurrock's Taxi ranks is positive in improving access to public transport for wheelchair users. Comments from all consultees should be carefully considered at this stage.

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.
- Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Standardised Conditions Template 09.10
- Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice Guidance

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- Appendix A – Summary of consultation responses.
- Appendix B – Proposed vehicle specifications and licence conditions.

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