

# LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

## Amendment to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014

### Report of Licensing Manager

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request that Members approve an amendment to the conditions in relation to hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licences which will allow proprietors to display a sticker which has been provided by the Lancashire Constabulary endorsing the request of pre-payment of fares.

**This report is public.**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Members are requested to approve the proposed amendment to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing –**

- 1. To allow proprietors to display a sticker in their vehicles which has been provided by Lancashire Constabulary as part of their Safeguarding Taxi Drivers Campaign and endorses any request from the driver to the passenger for a pre-payment of the fare.**

#### **1.0 Report**

- 1.1 Lancashire Constabulary have been doing some work in relation to civil disputes. One outcome of that work was that taxi related incidents have been identified as a key demand. Incidents have been taking up a lot of police time Lancashire wide and the police are trying to look at ways of dealing with that issue so that their resources can be better utilised.
- 1.2 One of the recommendations from their work is that the Police should provide a consistent message to taxi drivers and encourage pre-payment of fares in order to prevent not only making off without payment offences but also associated crimes which may be initiated by payment disputes, such as assaults, theft, damage etc.
- 1.3 The police are therefore recommending that a sticker be placed in all licensed vehicles. This would allow the driver to refer to it when asking for pre-payment and the endorsement from the police would add credibility to the request. This request was due to be discussed at the Taxi Forum on the 28<sup>th</sup> August.
- 1.4 Members may be aware that there is a facility on the hackney carriage table of fares which allows hackney carriage drivers to ask for payment in advance. However in officers' opinion a sticker which is endorsed by the police would assist drivers when making that request. A copy of the sticker is attached at appendix 1 to this report

1.5 Members may also be aware that conditions have been attached to all licensed vehicles in relation to signage. In order to facilitate the display of this signage the conditions would have to be amended accordingly.

1.6 Members may wish to determine whether the display of the sticker should be compulsory or whether the conditions should be amended to permit the display of the signage at the proprietor's discretion. Officers would recommend that the displaying of the signage should be optional as some proprietors may consider it to be perceived to be antagonistic or not appropriate for the type of work they undertake.

## 2.0 Conclusion

2.1 Members are requested to approve the proposed change to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing as set out in the recommendation above.

### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

The Rules, Regulations and Procedures are in place to protect the public.

The proposed changes do not have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender, race/ethnicity, religion or religious belief (faith), sexual orientation, or rural isolation.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**Contact Officer:** Wendy Peck

**Telephone:** 01524 582317

**E-mail:** wpeck@lancaster.gov.uk

**Ref:** WP