

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Amendment to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing 26th March 2015

Report of the Licensing Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request that Members approve an amendment to the conditions in relation to large hackney carriage vehicles which have the capacity to carry more than four passengers which will require proprietors to display a sticker which informs members of the public that the fare is the same as for saloon vehicles.

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 require proprietors of large hackney carriage vehicles with the capacity to carry more than 4 passengers to display a sticker in their vehicles which informs potential customers that the fare for travelling in the vehicle is the same as for travelling in a saloon hackney carriage.
- 1.0 Report
- 1.1 This report has been prepared following a request from a hackney carriage proprietor.
- 1.2 The proprietor is concerned that his 8 seater hackney carriage vehicle may sometimes be losing trade when standing on a hackney carriage rank, as prospective customers think that they will have to pay more to travel in it. He has advised that sometimes when his vehicle is waiting at a rank customers approach a saloon which is further down the rank. Some drivers will inform the customer that he/she should go to the first car on the rank and explain that the fare will be the same. However, some drivers will take the fare and then tell the driver of the larger vehicle that the customer did not want to travel in their type of vehicle. This may or may not be true; however, it can never be verified and drivers of larger vehicles feel that they may be missing out on fares.
- 1.3 The proprietor has asked for permission to display a sign in the window of his 8 seater vehicle informing customers that the fare for travelling in his vehicle will be the same as it is for travelling in a hackney carriage saloon. The exact format and size

of the signage would take would have to be approved by licensing officers as will the location of the sticker. A printing company has been asked to provide some designs for approval.

- 1.4 Members will 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.
- 1.5 If Members are minded to agree to the proprietor's request, they may wish to determine whether the conditions should provide for the display of the sticker to be optional, at the discretion of the proprietor, or compulsory. Officers would recommend that the display of the signage, if approved, should be compulsory in order to ensure consistency and transparency.

2.0 Conclusion

- 2.1 Members are requested to consider approving 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.

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