

**Subject:** Amendment of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions & Hackney Carriage Driver Licence Conditions

**Status:** For Publication

**Report to:** Licensing Committee

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> August 2006

**Section Head:** Head of Legal & Democratic Services

**Report Author:** Susan Chadwick, Licensing Manager

**Portfolio Holder:** Leader of the Council

**Key Decision:** NO

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle licence conditions & Hackney Carriage driver licence conditions.
- 1.2 To request that members consider the amended conditions at Appendix A.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee resolve to adopt the new set of conditions with immediate effect.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The current conditions were approved by the Licensing Committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2004. Since that time, there have been changes to manufacturer's vehicle specifications and the Licensing Unit has also undertaken a review of the vehicle licensing conditions. In light of that review, amendments have been made to the vehicle licensing conditions which clarify a number of matters.
- 3.2 Paragraphs 1.6 (Hackney Carriage conditions) and 1.5 (private hire conditions) outlines what sign, advertisements and notices may be displayed on a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle and has been amended to clarify the nature, size and content and position of any markings on the vehicle. The intention of the condition is so that markings do not detract from the licence plates or door markings that make it apparent that the vehicle is a licensed hackney or private hire.
- 3.3 Paragraphs 5.13 (Hackney Carriage conditions) and 4.12 (Private Hire conditions) has been inserted to ensure that vehicles licensed in Rossendale

maintain a mechanical condition and an exterior condition that is appropriate for their use as vehicles for hire or reward. To date no such condition was embodied in the vehicle conditions.

- 3.4. Paragraphs 6.2 (Hackney Carriage conditions) and 4.14 (Private Hire conditions) refers to the nature of windows on licensed vehicles. It is important from a public safety aspect and for the peace of mind of passengers transported in the vehicle that people should be able to see into the interior of the vehicle whilst it is being used to carry passengers. Vehicles have been presented to be licensed that have 'privacy' glass fitted as standard, or have had film fixed over the windows that prevent or restrict a view into the vehicle. This condition seeks to clarify what will be accepted.
- 3.5. In all other respects the conditions remain the same.
- 3.6. With regard to the Hackney Carriage Driver licence conditions, minor amendments have been made with respect to the wording of the conditions.
- 3.7. The conditions essentially remain the same as only slight grammatical adjustments have been made.

#### **4. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 4.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:

Customer Services and Community Safety.  
Quality services for local people and confident communities. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles should be clean, safe and in good mechanical condition.

#### **5. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There is a risk of vicarious liability should the Council licence an unfit vehicle.
- 5.2 The Authority must act in a transparent and open manner.

#### **6. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

- 6.1 None.

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Hackney carriage vehicle licence conditions	Attached
Private hire vehicle licence conditions	Attached
Hackney carriage driver licence conditions	Attached