

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director People and Places	Licensing and Public Safety Committee	1 December 2010

## HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To consolidate the current Hackney Carriage (HCV) and Private Hire (PHV) vehicle licence conditions and to review the decision made by Members relating to luggage requirements for Private Hire vehicles.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Members are asked to approve the removal of the luggage requirement condition from the HCV vehicle conditions and to approve the consolidated conditions as presented at Appendix 1 and 2.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. Over the past 12 months several changes have been agreed by Members to both the HCV and PHV conditions.
4. The conditions currently exist in a number of forms or documents and it is appropriate to consolidate them all into a single document for each vehicle licence type. These consolidated conditions are attached as Appendix 1 for Private Hire Vehicles and Appendix 2 for Hackney Carriage Vehicles.
5. One such change proposed at a meeting of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee on the 9 December 2009 was incorrectly reported and relates to the requirement for HCV's to have sufficient luggage carrying capacity in relation to the number of passengers that the vehicle is licensed to carry. This needs addressing by formally removing the condition for luggage capacity having to match passenger numbers which is currently still applicable to HCV's.
6. The report seeking a change in licence conditions to Members in December 2009 wrongly referenced that the condition related to PHVs, where in fact no such condition existed for PHV's and the intent of the report was to remove the luggage condition from HCV's. The original report is reproduced at Appendix 3.
7. Officers consider that this requirement is no longer appropriate and that enough HCV's exist in the fleet where luggage capacity is sufficient if required and could be called on where necessary.
8. Members of the taxi trade report that very few, if any, pick ups involve the carriage of large amounts of luggage and therefore the condition is superfluous.

9. Members should be aware of the risks in removing this condition and these include:

- Current HCV licence holders may have purchased vehicles on the basis of meeting this condition and could be aggrieved that the condition is now being removed.
- HCV's plying for hire may be tempted to accept passengers with excess luggage which puts the vehicle and passenger safety at risk. This is mitigated to some extent by the requirement for vehicles to have adequate means of securing luggage.

10. The consolidated conditions at Appendix 1 and 2 have been drafted to include the following changes agreed by Members in the last year as follows:

- Vehicle test frequency set at 6 monthly intervals – Dec 2009
- Removal of requirement to have a new dated plate at each test – Dec 2009
- Removal of requirement for the vehicle luggage capacity to be linked to passenger licence number – Dec 2009
- Requirement for a tyre tread depth over and above the statutory requirement removed – Dec 2009
- Introduction of a requirement to ensure disabled access vehicles meet appropriate standards – Sept 2010
- Introduction of conditions relating to passenger space which enable some MPV type vehicles to comply with requirements – Oct 2010

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

11. To correct an error in a report to Members in December 2009 concerning the requirement for vehicles to meet a luggage carrying condition and to provide a consolidated set of conditions in a readily accessible number of documents.

### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12. No alternatives have been considered.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

13. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving people in their communities		Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	X

### IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

14. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	X	No significant implications in this area	X

## COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION (HEAD OF GOVERNANCE)

15. The Committee are entitled to set conditions that they believe to be reasonable and appropriate to ensure that the HCV and PHV fleets adequately meet the needs of the public. It is also entirely appropriate to codify conditions to bring them into one place.

JAMIE CARSON  
DIRECTOR PEOPLE AND PLACES

There are no background papers to this report.

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