

## **For publication**

### **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy – Amendments (A000)**

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Meeting:	Appeals and Regulatory Committee
Date:	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
Cabinet portfolio:	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
Report by:	Licensing Manager

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### **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To propose amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.
- 1.2 To propose an exemption to the signage requirements of the policy to allow 'Dementia Friendly' notices to be displayed in certain circumstances.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the policy amendments are approved for a suitable period of consultation.
- 2.2 That licensed vehicles are allowed to display a maximum of two 'Dementia Friendly' notices in their vehicle provided the driver has undergone the necessary awareness training with the Alzheimer's Society.

### **3.0 Background**

## **Policy amendments**

- 3.1 Trade representatives on the taxi consultative committee have requested a re-write of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy as, in their view, it had become difficult to understand, particularly for prospective drivers trying to pass the written knowledge test.
- 3.2 The policy received a major overhaul in 2010, since when it has been amended on four occasions, mostly to reflect legislative changes.
- 3.3 The primary purpose of the revision is to make the document more easily understood while maintaining the necessary rigour that is required.
- 3.4 Repetition within the document has been removed wherever possible and the schedules changed into specific sections that contain as much information as possible on each subject area:
  - 1) General policy
  - 2) Vehicles
  - 3) Drivers
  - 4) Breaches of conditions
  - 5) Application guidance
  - 6) Taxi consultative committee
  - 7) Private hire operators
- 3.5 Most of the amendments are in format and style, consolidating information in one place rather than repeated throughout the document and removing obsolete references. A comprehensive list is attached at Appendix A with the following being particularly noteworthy:
- 3.6 Notification of convictions, paragraph 3.11. Changed so that all such notifications are in writing, for consistency.
- 3.7 Penalty points, section 4. 'Penalty Points Scheme' is a more meaningful title than previously (Breaches of licensing conditions/policy/legal requirements/code of conduct not subject to prosecution).
- 3.8 English language. Paragraph 5.5 clarifies that applicants must be able to read and write to an acceptable standard in English.

- 3.9 Disclosure and Barring Service, paragraph 5.8. In line with the committee's previous decision to move to the DBS update service, an acceptable certificate must be no more than 30 days old (not 3 months as previous).
- 3.10 Personal references, paragraphs 5.11 and 7.30. These have become less relevant with the advent of online monitoring of both convictions and driving behaviour; they are also very difficult to verify so taken at face value.

### **Dementia Friendly Community**

- 3.11 A representative from the Alzheimer's Society recently gave a presentation to the Taxi Consultative Committee, seeking the support of the taxi trade in this initiative which aims to change perceptions of dementia.
- 3.12 The scheme is a programme which facilitates the creation of dementia-friendly communities across the UK. Everyone, from governments and health boards to the local corner shop and hairdresser, share part of the responsibility for ensuring that people with dementia feel understood, valued and able to contribute to their community. This initiative is aimed at the local taxi trade.
- 3.13 Possible actions for operators and drivers included attending a dementia awareness session (45 minutes), adapting working processes (e.g. pre-paid accounts) and revising office layouts (e.g. removing black mats). It was noted that providing travel options benefitted not only people with dementia, but also businesses in terms of increased competitive advantage and brand reputation.
- 3.14 It was recognised that many licensed drivers are experienced in providing assistance to people with disabilities, including dementia, and it was confirmed that drivers could contact the Police (using the Herbert protocol) if they were concerned about a passenger's safety.
- 3.15 Signage in licensed vehicles is restricted by the council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, but this committee can authorise the display of signs in support of specific good causes in a manner and duration determined by them (paragraph 2.8.1.4.4 of the current policy or paragraph 2.11 of the amended version).

## **4.0 Equalities Impact Assessment**

4.1 A full equalities impact assessment has not been completed but the amendments will enhance the travelling experience of dementia sufferers.

## **5.0 Risk Management**

5.1 A full risk management assessment has not been completed but these measures will all enhance public safety.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

6.1 That the policy amendments are approved for a suitable period of consultation.

6.2 That licensed vehicles are allowed to display a maximum of two 'Dementia Friendly' notices in their vehicle provided the driver has undergone the necessary awareness training with the Alzheimer's Society.

## **7.0 Reason for Recommendations**

7.1 The amendments will enhance public safety.

### **Document information**

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<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix A	Policy Reference
Appendix B	Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy - Draft

