

REPORT OF THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER
LICENSING, FOOD & SAFETY
TO THE GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
8th SEPTEMBER 2017

PROPOSAL TO AMEND RESTRICTED PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE
CONDITION 23

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To ask Members to consider amending the existing condition which stipulates where the licence must be displayed on the vehicle.

2.0 Current condition

- 2.1 Currently, restricted private hire vehicle condition 23 states:

“The restricted licence issued by the Council must be displayed in the front windscreen of the vehicle on the nearside. It must be clearly visible at all times. The vehicle licence must be returned to the Council on expiry.”

- 2.2 The current window licence is credit card size and shows the vehicle licence number, expiry date of the licence, registration mark of the vehicle licensed and maximum number of persons the vehicle is permitted to carry. It is small and not easily visible.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Recently, concern regarding the ability to easily identify these vehicles has been raised by officers responsible for school transport and other agencies.
- 3.2 Restricted Private Hire Vehicles are restricted to providing services for school transport, airport travel and executive travel only and may be any colour. This is in contrast to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles used for general hire which are subject to a strict colour policy to assist the public in easily identifying a licensed vehicle.
- 3.3 Concern has been raised that the restricted private hire vehicles are difficult to identify as licensed vehicles as unlike hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, they are not required to display door signs and a licence plate on the rear of the vehicle.
- 3.4 In view of the signage required for restricted private hire vehicles, in practice these vehicles cannot be easily distinguished from private vehicles that are not licensed. This is now causing concern and reports have been received that unlicensed vehicles, arranged privately by

parents and not provided by this authority, are being used to transport children to and from school.

4.0 **Proposals**

- 4.1 To address these concerns it is now proposed that restricted private hire vehicles are required to display door stickers and a plate on the rear of the vehicle in line with the current requirements for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles used for general hire and existing condition 23 of the restricted private hire vehicle conditions is amended to state the following:

“Vehicle plates and stickers must be securely fixed to the vehicle. The vehicle plate is to be fixed on the bumper bar or boot lid/rear door between centre line and the offside of the vehicle. Stickers must be affixed to the front near and offside doors of the vehicle. The plate and stickers must be kept clearly visible at all times. The vehicle plate must be returned to the Council on expiry of the licence.”

5.0 **Recommendations**

- 5.1 It is recommended that Members amend restricted private hire vehicle condition 23 to state the following:

“Vehicle plates and stickers must be securely fixed to the vehicle. The vehicle plate is to be fixed on the bumper bar or boot lid/rear door between centre line and the offside of the vehicle. Stickers must be affixed to the front near and offside doors of the vehicle. The plate and stickers must be kept clearly visible at all times. The vehicle plate must be returned to the Council on expiry of the licence.”

The Licensing Committee’s instructions are requested.

Background Papers: None
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