

Report to Full Licensing Committee

Report reference: LSC-012-2010/11

Date of meeting: 13th April 2011



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Safer and Greener

Subject: Review of the Licensing Conditions for Taxis

Officer contact for further information: Alison Mitchell – Assistant Director (Legal)

Democratic Services Officer: Adrian Hendry (01992 – 564246).

Recommendations/Decisions Required

- 1. To consider the proposed changes to the Licensing Conditions, and**
- 2. Agree for a consultation to be carried out.**

Report

1. Officers have reviewed the licensing conditions for taxis and would wish to propose a number of minor amendments. If members of the Committee agree to this then a consultation exercise will be carried out with members of the trade and interested parties.

Reason for Proposed Decision

2. This is part of a periodic review of licence conditions.

Report:

4. There are five types of licence conditions which are the subject of the review:
 - Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence
 - Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietors licence
 - Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence
 - Private Hire Vehicle Licence
 - Private Hire Vehicle Operators Licence
5. The changes to the main licence conditions are set out below:

Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence and Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence

6. The following new conditions have been added:
 - A prohibition against using the central door locking system whilst carrying only adults
 - The driver must not drive a vehicle unless the licence plate is displayed and is legible
 - The driver must not drive a vehicle unless he/she is satisfied that there is a current insurance policy.
 - The driver must take reasonable precautions for the safety of passengers entering

- and leaving the vehicle and ensure that seat belts and child restraints are used.
- If requested the driver must provide a receipt for a fare
- A driver must notify the Council of any medical condition that arises during the term of the licence which affects his/her ability to drive

Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietors Licence and Private Hire Vehicle Licence

There have been some changes to these conditions. The main changes are:

- A condition that the driver must submit his/her vehicle for inspection before the grant and renewal of the licence. This would happen in any event but it is included for the information of the applicants.
- The Advertising condition has been changed to allow advertising on the headrests as well as the side of the cars and to expand on the categories of advertising that the Council can ask to be removed.
- A requirement has been added that the licence holder must notify the Council of any change of address

- **Private Hire Vehicle Operators Licence**

There have been no substantive changes made to the Private Hire Operators Licence.

Resource Implications:

None...

Legal and Governance Implications:

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

The Council Plan 2006 – 2010 – As Safe Community

Consultation Undertaken:

None.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

N/A

Equality and Diversity:

Did the initial assessment of the proposals contained in this report for relevance to the Council's general equality duties, reveal any potentially adverse equality implications?

No

Where equality implications were identified through the initial assessment process, has a formal Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? No

What equality implications were identified through the Equality Impact Assessment process?

No

How have the equality implications identified through the Equality Impact Assessment been addressed in this report in order to avoid discrimination against any particular group?

None

