

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

16th DECEMBER 2010

AMENDMENT TO POLICY REGARDING VEHICLE SPECIFICATION FOR VEHICLES WHICH ARE PROVIDED AS TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT HACKNEY CARRIAGES

Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods

Purpose of Report

1. To seek committee approval to amend the policy regarding vehicle specifications for those vehicles that are provided as temporary replacements for hackney carriages, which are subject to insurance claims following accidental damage or other exceptional circumstances such as mechanical failures which may be subject to warranty or guarantee claims.

Background

2. As members will be aware the policies for vehicle specification in respect of hackney carriages have been refined and developed in such a way as to promote public safety.
3. The initial specification for vehicles to be licensed as hackney carriages may be summarised briefly as follows:

Vehicles shall be brand new (delivery mileage only), Bristol Blue in colour, wheelchair accessible and M1 European Whole Vehicle Type Approval standard.

3. Occasionally licensed vehicles may be involved in incidents which result in the vehicle being removed temporarily from the road. Some insurance policies allow for 'courtesy cars' whilst claims are being resolved or taxi proprietors may hire

a vehicle in order that they can continue to operate until such time as issues with the inoperable vehicle are resolved.

4. The policy for new hackney carriages requires the vehicle to be new (delivery mileage only) before it can be licensed. This creates difficulties in that each time a company is requested to provide a temporary replacement hackney carriage they would have to invest in a brand new vehicle in order to comply with the Council's policies covering these issues. There is no difficulty in respect of the provision of private hire vehicles under the current specifications as a private hire vehicle can be licensed for the first time as long as it is no older than three and a half years from the date of first registration.
5. A relaxation of the policy is therefore being sought for temporary replacement hackney carriages only, in that the age limit for such vehicles be extended to three and a half years in line with the current age policy for new private hire vehicles. Such a relaxation would allow for temporary replacement vehicle providers to optimise the use of such vehicles and maintain the provision of temporary replacement vehicles for the hackney trade.
6. All other vehicle specification requirements in respect of such temporary replacement vehicles will remain as mandatory requirements before vehicles can be licensed as hackney carriages.
7. Where vehicles are to be licensed as temporary replacements the licence would be issued subject to a maximum duration with a presumption against renewal, unless there were exceptional or extenuating circumstances.

Legal Implications

The proposal is lawful.

Pauline Powell, Senior Solicitor for Head of Legal Services

Resource Implications

Financial None

RECOMMENDED

That with effect from 1 May 2011 any hackney carriage being licensed as a temporary replacement vehicle whilst repairs are being undertaken shall comply with all aspects of the current hackney carriage specification with the exception of the requirement that the vehicle shall be brand new. A vehicle can be licensed as a temporary replacement vehicle provided it is no older than three and a half years from date of first registration.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background papers

None.

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