

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

19 APRIL 2011

HACKNEY CARRIAGE POLICY: IMPACT OF POLICY REVIEW

Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update the Committee on the impact of the policy changes implemented on 1 May 2008.

BACKGROUND

2. At a meeting of this committee on 8 April 2008 changes were made to the hackney carriage policy operated by the city council. The Licensing manager was asked to present an annual report to the last committee meeting of the Municipal year to update members on the impact of the policy.
3. The key policy changes implemented on 1 May 2008 can be summarised as follows:-

Grants of new Hackney Carriage licences

- (a) Vehicles must be brand new (excluding delivery mileage);
- (b) Vehicles must display a Bristol blue livery;
- (c) Vehicles must be capable of carrying a passenger using a wheelchair, comply with European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval, and meet with design and quality standards having regard to guidance provided by BPAC;
- (d) No vehicle to be licensed beyond ten years from date of first registration.

Transitional provisions for holders of Hackney Carriage licences as at 1 May 2008

- (e) Existing proprietors have until 1 May 2011 to ensure that their licensed vehicle complies with the Bristol Blue livery requirement; and they have until 1 May 2016 to replace with a vehicle that meets the full specification.

Since 1 May 2010 all licences issued to proprietors who enjoy grandfather rights have been subject to the following conditions:

- 15. Condition imposed in respect of certain licensed vehicles that are not coloured Bristol blue (or other approved similar shade) at the date of grant of the licence

15.1 In this condition "Bristol Blue" means the colour identified by the British Standard code BS 381C (108) (or any European Standard code which may supercede or replace it); and "Exterior Paintwork" means those parts of the visible exterior bodywork of the licensed vehicle to which colour was applied by the manufacturer as standard for vehicles of the same year, make and model as the licensed vehicle.

15.2 With effect from midnight on 30 April 2011 the licensed vehicle may not be used in standing or plying for hire in any street within the administrative area of the City of Bristol unless its exterior appearance accords with the vehicle specification policy that was effective from 1 May 2008, that is to say that

- (i) Any advertising that may lawfully be displayed on the exterior of the vehicle shall only be displayed on the sides of the vehicle in those areas (or part thereof) situated beneath the side windows;
- (ii) Save for any area where advertising is displayed in accordance with the condition in (i) above, all

Exterior Paintwork shall be uniformly coloured
Bristol Blue

The effect of this is that post 1 May the vehicle continues to be licensed but, unless its colour now conforms, it cannot be used in standing or plying for hire until it is compliant.

3. The table below sets out the number of new vehicle and driver licences granted since the policy came into effect.

Year	HC Vehicle	PH Vehicle	HC Driver	PH Driver
2008/9	43	190	7	26
2009/10	27	127	8	15
2010/11	57	248	33	103
Total	127	565	48	144

The total number of licensed Hackney Carriages is 809 and the total number of licensed Private Hire vehicles stands at 929 at the time of publication of this report.

Bristol Blue Livery Requirement

4. As at the time of writing this report 438 of the total number of 809 licensed hackney carriages are known to be compliant with this aspect of the specification. Others may have been re-coloured without your officers being aware of it, some proprietors may have decided to replace their vehicle on or soon after 1 May rather than have it re-coloured. Some may have decided to have it re-coloured at a later date and temporarily cease using it for the prohibited activities until that has been done.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. As this is a report for information there are no legal implications

(Pauline Powell, Senior Solicitor, for Head of Legal Services)

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. N/A

Equalities Impact Assessment

7. N/A

Resource Implications

Revenue: N/A

Capital: N/A

Land: N/A

Personnel: N/A

APPENDICIES

None

RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background papers

**Reports to Public Safety and Protection Committee: 8 April
2008 and 29 July 2008.**

None

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