

AMENDMENT TO PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE CONDITIONS

Report of the Corporate Director for Place and Regeneration

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to consult with the taxi trade on an amendment to the existing conditions for licensed private hire vehicles.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the Council to set conditions for private hire vehicle licences. Stockport Council have extensive licence conditions in place with the primary aim of protecting the safety of the travelling public.
- 2.2 Private hire vehicles are licensed to undertake pre-booked journeys only and in accordance with The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, all bookings must be made through a licensed private hire operator.
- 2.3 There is currently no condition requiring a licensed private hire vehicle to display the details of the licensed private hire operator for whom they are working. The licensing authority does have an advertising policy in place which specifies the content and format of this information when it is displayed on a vehicle.
- 2.4 It is proposed to require licensing private hire vehicles to display information relating to the private hire operator for whom they are working and to make this condition of the licence. Magnetic (temporary signage) would not be permitted.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 It is considered that private hire vehicles displaying the details of the licensed private hire operator for whom they are working will improve the safety of the travelling public. This is on the basis that it decreases the possibility that a passenger will get in the wrong vehicle – whether that be an unlicensed vehicle or a vehicle illegally plying for hire. It also allows greater transparency and accountability in the event of any issues occurring either during the journey or with the vehicle in general.
- 3.2 A number of licensed private hire drivers currently drive for more than one private hire operator. This practice is not illegal and is not prohibited by licence conditions. It can, however, create confusion for passengers if the vehicle is displaying signage for a different private hire operator to the one that accepted their booking.

4. OFFICER OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the Committee authorise the Licensing Manager to carry out a consultation with trade, including with all licensed private hire operators.
- 4.2 That the Licensing Manager reports back to the Committee with details of the consultation for consideration of introducing the proposed condition.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Peter Cooke on telephone number 0161 474 4851 or alternatively email peter.cooke@stockport.gov.uk