

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LIVERY

**To:**

Licensing Committee 30/01/2023

Report by:

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Wards affected:

None directly affected

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Under the powers conferred to Cambridge City Council under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, (as amended), Cambridge City Council has responsibility for licensing Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Dual Licence Drivers as well as vehicle proprietors and Private Hire Operators within the City.
- 1.2 The current Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Policy (the 'policy') applies to all drivers, vehicles and operators and was updated in October 2016 and has been reviewed and amended on several occasions since.
- 1.3 On 9th July 2018 at full Licensing Committee, Members agreed, in part, on the specification for a Livery for Hackney Carriage Vehicles (HCV) which was a silver base.
- 1.4 On 16th October 2018 at full Licensing Committee, Members agreed the colour green for the wrap of two gloss stripes along either side of the silver HCV.

- 1.5 The Livery standards was implemented from January 2019, whereby all new HCV must be of a silver base with a green strip down either side of the vehicle.
- 1.6 The main justification to having a livery requirement is for the safety of the travelling public. It assists the travelling public to identify easily a HCV that is licensed by Cambridge City Council and thereby have had all the necessary safety checks in place especially when being hailed down in the street.
- 1.7 On Thursday 29th December 2022, the Licensing Authority received a petition signed by 101 Hackney Carriage Vehicle drivers requesting for the livery standards to be removed, as referenced in Appendix A.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Licensing Committee are recommended to retain the current livery standards for HCV as part of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire taxi licensing policy.

3. Background

- 3.1 Cambridge City Council has responsibility for licensing Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Dual Licence Drivers as well as vehicle proprietors and Private Hire Operators within the City.
- 3.2 In doing so, Cambridge City Council seeks to promote the following objectives that impact on the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trades:
 - i) The protection of the public;
 - ii) The establishment of professional and respected hackney carriage and private hire trades;
 - iii) Access to an efficient and effective public transport service
 - iv) The protection of the environment

- 3.3 The current Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Policy (the 'policy') applies to all drivers, vehicles and operators and was updated in 2016.
- 3.4 Subsequent requests including the introduction to a livery from the trade to revise the policy, led to the Licensing Committee in 24th July 2017 resolving to request officers go out to consult on the proposed amendment to the policy.
- 3.5 Public consultation took place from 31st July 2017 until 3rd September 2017.
- 3.6 At Licensing Committee on 16th October 2017, Members agreed to the addition of a Livery requirement for all Hackney Carriage Vehicles in order for the public to readily identify licensed Hackney Carriage Vehicles which are regulated and safe by Cambridge City Council.
- 3.7 A public consultation took place between 1st and 26th March 2018 with the proposed changes requested by the trade including the introduction of a livery for Hackney Carriage Vehicles.
- 3.8 A meeting to discuss the results of the consultation took place with members of the Trade on 1st May 2018. At this meeting the Council and Trade representatives agreed proposals for the Livery and implementation plan.
- 3.9 At Full Licensing Committee on 9th July 2018 the proposals were presented to Members who agreed to a silver colour base to the vehicle but were unable to agree to the colour of the wrap.
- 3.10 At Full Licensing Committee on 1st October 2018 members agreed to the wrap being 2 green strips along both sides of the vehicle with different widths depending on whether it was a saloon vehicle or a wheelchair accessible vehicle.
- 3.11 At Licensing Committee on 9th July 2018, members agreed an implementation plan in that all existing silver vehicles at that time would need to have the wrap placed on the vehicle at the next renewal, and all other HCV would need to full comply with the livery requirement upon change of vehicle. The implementation date agreed was 1st October 2021.

- 3.12 At full Licensing Committee on 1st October 2018 members agreed to amend the original implementation date to 1st January 2019.
- 3.13 On Thursday 29th December 2022, the Licensing Authority received a petition signed by 101 Hackney Carriage Vehicle drivers requesting for the livery requirement to be removed (attached as Appendix A). However, there was no justifiable reason why the livery requirement should be removed.
- 3.14 To date 179 out of the 306 Hackney Carriage Vehicles, comply with livery requirement. If the policy remains in place then the 300 of HCV will meet the livery requirement by 2028 however due to the fact that 6 vehicles became electric just before the policy was implemented meaning those vehicles have a longer taxi life span.
- 3.15 The main justification to having a livery requirement is for the safety of the travelling public. It assists the travelling public to identify easily a HCV that is licensed by Cambridge City Council and thereby have had all the necessary safety checks in place especially when being hailed down in the street.
- 3.16 Section 47 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that a hackney carriage should be of such a design and appearance or bear such distinguishing marks to clearly identify it as a hackney carriage. Cambridge City Council has a duty to provide a safe and secure taxi service and by implementing a Livery, this will enhance the identification of Hackney Carriage Vehicles and support the legislation.
- 3.17 It also gives the HCV trade an identity that would support their business.

4. Implications

a) Financial Implications

Costs for the requirement of a livery will be borne by vehicle proprietors.

b) Staffing Implications

Nil

c) Equality and Poverty Implications

Nil

d) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Nil

e) Procurement Implications

Nil.

f) Community Safety Implications

Section 47 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that a hackney carriage should be of such a design and appearance or bear such distinguishing marks to clearly identify it as a hackney carriage. Cambridge City Council has a duty to provide a safe and secure taxi service and by implementing a Livery, this will enhance the identification of Hackney Carriage Vehicles and support the legislation.

5. Consultation and communication considerations

A public consultation initially took place from 31st July 2017 until 3rd September 2017 as part of a wider policy consultation

A further consultation took place from 1st to 26th March 2018 specifically on the Livery.

Further discussion with Trade representatives took place at a meeting on 1st May 2018 and 18th July 2018.

6. Background papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

Reports and Minutes to Licensing Committee 24th July 2017, 16th October 2017, 9th July 2018, 1st October 2018

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of petition received 29th December 2022

8. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Yvonne O'Donnell, Environmental Health Manager, tel: 01223 - 457951, email: yvonne.odonnell@cambridge.gov.uk.