

Allerdale Borough Council

Licensing Committee – 6 February 2023

Taxi/Private Hire Change of Conditions

Portfolio holder	Councillor Colin Sharpe Portfolio Holder for Legal and Finance
Report from	Gillian Collinson – Senior Specialist – Licensing and Compliance
Wards affected	All Wards
Is this a key decision	Yes

1.0 The reason for the decision

- 1.1 To award delegated powers to the Senior Specialist – Licensing and Compliance in conjunction with the Senior Manager – Environmental Health and Housing to amend Allerdale Borough Council’s Hackney Carriage and Private Hire conditions of application and licence.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 To consider the information contained within paragraph 4 to decide whether to approve delegated powers.

3.0 Background and Introduction

- 3.1 Following the commencement of Cumberland Council on 1 April 2023 there will be a period whereby Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policies from sovereign policies will remain in place until a consolidated policy for Cumberland is approved.
- 3.2 In order for licensed vehicles and drivers to be provided with agreed Cumberland Branding and livery from 1 April 2023 it is necessary to amend the conditions/policy of Allerdale Borough Council.

4.0 Content

- 4.1 Branding guidelines have now been approved for Cumberland Council. To ensure vehicle licence plates, vehicle livery and driving badges can be issued from 1 April 2023 it is necessary to change the current policy.
- 4.2 Current conditions require chequered stripes on hackney carriages. This will be removed and replaced with door signs for both hackney and private hire vehicles. An internal plate will be introduced detailing how a passenger can make a compliment, comment or complaint. Existing conditions requiring plates to be affixed to the front and rear of vehicles (all vehicles), provision of a roof sign and meter (hackney carriages only) will remain.
- 4.3 The official branding guidelines have just been approved and arrangements are underway with the current supplier to draw up designs and pricing. As this is likely to take a period of time it is prudent to request delegated powers for the conditions to be amended when they are finalised.

5.0 Delivery arrangements

- 5.1 Vehicle licence plates, livery and badges with the new branding will be issued as part of licences granted/renewed after 1 April 2023. Due to time constraints and resource it is not possible to roll these out to everyone prior to April.

6.1 Contribution to Council Strategy Priorities, Outputs and Outcomes

- 6.1.1 Outstanding local services – Clearer identification of taxis and private hire vehicles will make it easier for residents and visitors to contact us with any issues.

6.2 Finance/Resource implications

- 6.2.1 The cost of vehicle identification plates, badges and livery are already included in the price of a licence. There will be no additional resource required.

6.3 Legal and governance implications

- 6.3.1 It is necessary for all sovereign authorities to amend their policies in order to have uniform branding for licensed vehicles in Cumberland Council area from 1 April 2023.

6.4 Risk analysis

A scored and mitigated risk log

Risk	Consequence	Controls required	Mitigated score

6.5 Increasing satisfaction and service

- 6.5.1 New livery requirements will assist the community identify the taxis from private hire vehicles, who the private hire operator is and help communicate the change in

unitary status. By introducing an internal plate with a QR code it is an additional service which will aid the public make a swift comment or complaint immediately.

6.6 Equality impacts

6.6.1 Standards will be applied equally across the hackney and private hire licensed trade and for this reason it is not necessary to complete an impact assessment.

6.7 Health and Safety impacts

6.7.1 Affording to maintain standards will promote the health and safety of the trade and the travelling public.

6.8 Health, wellbeing and community safety impacts

6.8.1 The focus of the standards is to protect children and vulnerable adults and the nature of them will by extension, protect all passengers and the people working in the trade.

6.9 Environmental/sustainability impacts

6.9.1 Not applicable

6.10 Other significant implications

6.10.1 No other significant implications.

Appendices attached to this report

Appendix number	Title of appendix
N/A	N/A

Background documents available

Name of background document	Where it is available
N/A	N/A

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