

## CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

### LICENSING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE – 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010

---

*Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report*

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 - HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE AMENDMENT – ADDITIONAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE CONDITION**

*Contact Officer: Ben Coakley 01494 732060 & Stuart Broome 01494 732140*

*Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report*

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Members agree to amend the current Hackney Carriage vehicle licence conditions to introduce a new condition for each vehicle to display Chiltern District Council & Thames Valley Police branded door stickers on each licensed vehicle.**

#### **1 Matter for Consideration**

To consider the addition of an additional Hackney Carriage vehicle condition to require vehicles to display Chiltern District Council & Thames Valley Police (TVP) partnership branded door stickers. The stickers also include the vehicle licence number with the option for the name and telephone of the taxi company. An example of the sticker will be presented at the Committee Meeting.

#### **2 Background**

Private Hire vehicles and Hackney Carriages, their drivers and operators/ proprietors are regulated by this Authority under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (1976), the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and by historical bylaws. This collection of legislation allows the Authority to adopt requirements and conditions for the purposes of licensing.

3 It is already an existing requirement (Licensing and Regulation Committee, July 2008) for private hire vehicles to display a private hire- pre booking door sticker when directed by the Council. It is proposed that this is extended to Hackney Carriage vehicles to ensure improved visibility at distance of the fact that the particular vehicle is licensed by the Council and that we are working with the police to reduce the potential for antisocial behaviour.

4 ‘Operation Confidence’ is a concerted effort to address crime and disorder, and highlight what Thames Valley Police, the Council and local residents are doing to make communities safer. The jointly branded door signs will contribute towards reassuring residents, dissuading potentially disruptive passengers by visibly signifying a link with the police and demonstrate partnership working between taxi drivers, the Council and TVP in a highly

visible manner. The specific logo branding element has already been agreed, and used in other sections of the Council for highly visible campaigns such as joint enforcement and working directly with the community.

- 5 This matter of introducing 'partnership' door stickers has been consulted on at a meeting with the taxi & private hire association which took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010 where an example door sign was presented for views, acceptability and comments. Minutes from the meeting are attached as *Appendix A*. The meeting concluded with generally positive comments on the concept and introduction of such a sticker, under the proviso that the template be amended to include the company name and telephone number on the sticker.
- 6 It is proposed that the new condition would be applied to those seeking a new vehicle licence and all other vehicles from their appropriate renewal date.

**Decision To Be Made:**

- 7 Members are asked to agree or disagree to the insertion of the following condition in the Hackney Carriage vehicle conditions:

***HACKNEY CARRIAGE DOOR SIGNS***

*As directed by the Council, the operator shall cause to be fixed and maintained to the exterior of the vehicle a prescribed sign bearing the words "Hackney Carriage Vehicle" with the "CDC/TVP Partnership logo" on the front driver and passenger doors. The sign may also include the company's trading name, phone number and/or the vehicle plate number.*

---