

CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE – 2 DECEMBER 2010

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 - HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING AMENDMENT – UPDATED CONDITION

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RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider the request by Thames Valley Police for an additional element to be added to the requirements (Hackney Carriage) and conditions (private hire) on Chiltern drivers' licenses.

Matter for Consideration:

- 1 To consider an update to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire requirements and conditions following a request and discussions with Thames Valley Police (TVP).
- 2 This is a pro-active amendment, with each of the Bucks Authorities being asked to consider inserting a new condition into each license and does not follow a particular incident in the Chiltern District.
- 3 Wycombe and Aylesbury have just sought permission and successfully added this new element.
- 4 It has been proposed by TVP that a condition relating to 'sexual contact' is added to the Chiltern Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy
- 5 TVP figures identify that almost 2% of this type of crime reported to them, alleges a taxi driver as the offender.
- 6 This is part of a wider scheme to reduce instances of serious sexual assault across all of the Thames Valley region.

Background:

- 7 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.

Decision To Be Made:

- 8 Following consideration, Members are asked to agree or disagree to the insertion of the new condition. TVP have provided a suggested condition which is provided below (in italics):

Proposal recommended for adoption on the 25th December 2010

1. That the following condition be added to current Hackney Carriage requirements and Private Hire requirements and conditions following agreement:

Drivers may not initiate any dialogue of a “sexual” nature with a passenger. Licensed drivers are not permitted to become involved “sexually”, or have sexual contact, even with consent, whilst in a licensed vehicle.

2. Enforcement will be a partnership approach with TVP leading any subsequent investigation following our current enforcement procedures. The new condition will be highlighted to all existing drivers and operators through the next enforcement newsletter.

Background Papers: None
