

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

meeting date: TUESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2022
title: PLATES ON HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: STEPHEN BARKER, SOLICITOR

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of a change to the information displayed on the plates fixed to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives }
 - Corporate Priorities }
 - Other Considerations }
- The Council aims to be a well-managed authority; these proposals support that objective.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council must issue plates to be displayed on Hackney Carriages by virtue of the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847 and on Private Hire vehicles by virtue of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. There is a statutory requirement for the plate on a Hackney Carriage to indicate the number of persons who can be carried in that vehicle, and the dimensions of this information are specified. Apart from this, the content and design of the plate for both categories of vehicle are entirely at the discretion of the Council.

2.2 Currently, the plates on vehicles licensed by the Council include details of the type of licence (Hackney Carriage or Private Hire), the licence number, the vehicle registration number, vehicle type (ie make and model), the expiry date and the number of passengers that the vehicle is licensed to carry.

2.3 Depending on the age of the vehicle, a licence will be issued for a period of 4 months, 6 months, or 12 months. A new plate is issued on each occasion to show the expiry date of the licence. The proprietor pays a fee of £15.50 for each new or replacement plate. Each plate is approximately 18cm by 24cm (7 inches by 9 inches) and is comprised of hard plastic to which the paper bearing the information is affixed. When a plate is returned the plastic is eventually recycled.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Many authorities have less information on their plates than is currently required in the Ribble Valley. In particular, if the expiry date information is omitted, the plate can last for many years, as the information does not change.

3.2 The Council's conditions for Hackney Carriages require that a plate is displayed identifying the vehicle as a Hackney Carriage, the number of passengers that may be carried and the licence number. The conditions for Private Hire vehicles require the display of plates, but without stipulating the information to be displayed.

3.3 It is therefore intended that the plates for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles should be altered by the removal of the information on the renewal date. The Council's officers monitor the impending expiry date of licences and, in the event that a renewal application is not received, will take steps to recover and remove the plate.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – there will be a saving on officer time and in the resources required on issue of a new plate on each renewal.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – no implications identified.
- Political - no implications identified.
- Reputation – no implications identified.
- Equality & Diversity – no implications identified.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

STEPHEN BARKER
SOLICITOR

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Stephen Barker, extension 3216.