

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

meeting date: TUESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2023
title: HACKNEY CARRIAGE SIGNAGE
submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of the outcome of consultation on signage on Hackney Carriages and to ask Committee to decide whether there should be an amendment to the Council's Hackney Carriage Vehicle conditions.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

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

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 A report was taken to the meeting of this Committee on 1 November 2022, seeking the views of Committee on an issue which had been raised at the annual taxi meeting relating to signage on Hackney Carriages and, subject to Committee approval, authorising consultation on proposed amendment of the Council's Hackney Carriage Vehicle conditions. A copy of the report can be accessed on the following link:

<https://democracy.ribblevalley.gov.uk/documents/s4028/HACKNEY%20CARRIAGE%20SIGNAGE.pdf>

2.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services wrote to all Hackney Carriage drivers, Private Hire drivers and Private Hire operators by way of consultation on the proposed amendment. A copy of the consultation documents is appended to this report as **Appendix 1**.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The Council received 11 responses to the consultation. These responses are detailed in tabular form at **Appendix 2**. Some respondents raised more than one issue in making representations about the proposal.

3.2 Nine respondents, all being Hackney Carriage drivers, do not support the proposal. The majority (eight) consider that the sign on the roof and plates are sufficient. Three respondents are concerned about additional expenses for drivers, and two express concern about additional expense for the Council. One driver perceives that passengers are less likely to travel in a vehicle with more signage, and another states simply that door signage is not required.

3.3 Two respondents stated that they supported the proposal.

- A driver who holds both a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver's licence, referred to preventing drivers from other boroughs working in the Ribble Valley, and that Ribble Valley officers should be able to check those vehicles and drivers – however, this would conflict with what is permitted by law.
 - A Private Hire licence holder referred to introduction of a possible colour scheme for Hackney Carriages, and whether the current restriction on the number of Hackney Carriages should remain.
- 3.4 None of the replies addressed the proposition in the report that door signage would identify vehicles as having been licensed by the Council, and thus giving an increased likelihood that the driver is local and that the vehicle and driver meet local standards.
- 3.5 The Council has a total of 70 licensed Hackney Carriage drivers. Of those there were ten who submitted representations, and of those the vast majority did not support the proposal. As Members will note from the agenda item for the meeting on 1 November 2022, the issue was first raised by a Private Hire driver at the annual meeting.
- 3.6 The issues have not been raised by any member of the public. Committee will wish to consider the representations, as well as the factors considered at 3.1 and 3.2 of the report to Committee on 1 November 2022 and may wish to balance the views of the licensed trade with the possible public benefit that might arise from adoption of the proposed signage.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
- Resources – If adopted, officer time will be expended in preparation and distribution of the signage.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal – There would be a small amount of plastic material required for any signage.
 - Political – No implications identified.
 - Reputation – No implications identified.
 - Equality and Diversity – No implications identified.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Determine whether condition 25 of the Council's Hackney Carriage Vehicle conditions be amended to require Hackney Carriages to display door signage reading 'Ribble Valley Licensed Hackney Carriage'.

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