
**Title: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
Recommendations of the Hackney Carriage Consultation Meeting
of 8 July 2010 for a Single Colour for Hackney Carriage Vehicles**

Committee: Licensing Committee

Date: 9 August 2010

Author: Licensing Officer (Enforcement)

[K95]

1.0 ISSUE

- 1.1 The determination of the Council's Licensing Committee of 9 December 2009 was to carry out consultation with hackney carriage proprietors within 12 months regarding the proposed approved single colour for hackney carriage vehicles.
- 1.2 This report seeks Members' approval of the recommendations of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 for silver to be the approved single colour for hackney carriage vehicles.
- 1.3 This report seeks Member's agreement to the proposed implementation timescales of the approved single colour for hackney carriage vehicles and the phasing out of the approved single colour for private hire vehicles.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- 2.2 Approve the recommendation of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 for silver to be the approved single colour for hackney carriage vehicles.
- 2.3 Approve the recommendation of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 for the implementation date from when all new hackney carriage vehicles will be required to comply with the approved single colour condition as 1 March 2011, with a fall back date to 1 September 2011, if this is not achievable.
- 2.4 Agree the suggestion of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 that the period after which all existing hackney carriage vehicles would be required to comply with the approved single colour condition would be 5 years from the approved single colour implementation date.

- 2.5 Approve the recommendation of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 for Council Licensing Officers to match silver colours/shades from different manufacturers and produce a list of acceptable colour/shades at a future Licensing Committee meeting.
- 2.6 Approve the recommendation of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 for Cllr Hunt to work with Council Licensing Officers to compile a list of acceptable silver colour/shades from different car manufacturers.
- 2.7 Agree the suggestion of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 for the implementation date from when new private hire vehicles (apart from those private hire vehicles issued with an exemption private hire licence to undertake only contacted chauffeur bookings) will not be permitted to be licensed in the approved single hackney carriage colour to be 1 March 2011, the DVLA registration number change, with a fall back date to 1 September 2011 if this is not achievable, in line with 2.3 above.
- 2.8 Agree the suggestion of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 that the period after which existing private hire vehicles (apart from those private hire vehicles issued with an exemption private hire licence to undertake only contacted chauffeur bookings) would not be permitted to be licensed in the approved single hackney colour would be 5 years from the single colour implementation date, in line with 2.4 above.
- 3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS
- 3.1 A questionnaire was sent to the 29 hackney carriage proprietors on 16 June 2010 following the proposal of the Council's Licensing Committee of 9 December 2009 to carry out consultation with hackney carriage proprietors within 12 months regarding the proposed single colour for hackney carriage vehicles. A copy of the questionnaire is **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 3.2 9 hackney carriage proprietors responded that they would attend the hackney carriage consultation meeting on 8 July 2010.
- 3.3 4 responses were received advising that the proprietor would not be attending the meeting.
- 3.4 1 response from a proprietor not attending the meeting expressed the preferred colour as silver.
- 3.5 16 questionnaires were not responded to.
- 3.6 The colours proposed and voted on by hackney carriage proprietors present at the hackney carriage consultation meeting were Silver = 5 votes, Blue = 1 vote.

- 3.7 The recommendation of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 was that silver would be suggested as the approved single colour for hackney carriage vehicles.
- 3.8 The recommendation of the hackney carriage consultation meeting was that Council Licensing Officers should match silver colours/shades from different manufacturers and produce a list of acceptable colour/shade at a future Licensing Committee meeting.
- 3.9 The recommendation of the hackney carriage consultation meeting was that Cllr Hunt should work with Council Licensing Officers to compile a list of acceptable silver colour shades from different car manufacturers.
- 3.10 Although no implementation date had been recommended by the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Working Party for the introduction of a single colour for hackney carriage vehicles, the Working Party suggested that it should be when current vehicles are replaced.
- 3.11 The recommendation of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 was that 1 March 2011, the DVLA registration number change, would be an appropriate date for the introduction of the single hackney carriage vehicle colour, with a fall back date to 1 September 2011 if this was not achievable.
- 3.12 It was suggested at the hackney carriage consultation meeting that hackney carriage proprietors might wish to wait for the DVLA registration number change to replace an existing hackney carriage vehicle with a new vehicle in the approved colour.
- 3.13 It was generally agreed at the hackney carriage consultation meeting that 1 March 2011, the first date during 2011 for the DVLA registration number change, would be an achievable date from which the new licensing process could be established. The fall back date suggested as 1 September 2011, the second DVLA registration number change for 2011, was proposed as the fall back date if the new licensing process could not be achieved by 1 March 2011.
- 3.14 Although no period after which all existing hackney carriage vehicles would be required to comply with the approved single colour condition had been recommended by the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Working Party for the introduction of a single colour for hackney carriage vehicles, the Working Party suggested that it should be a five-year period.
- 3.15 The suggestion of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 was that the period after which all existing hackney carriage vehicles would be required to comply with the approved single colour condition would be 5 years from the single colour implementation date.

- 3.16 No recommendation had been made by the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Working Party if private hire vehicles will be permitted to be licensed in the approved single hackney carriage colour. As the matter was raised at the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 and it was generally agreed that private hire vehicles should not be permitted to be licensed in the approved single hackney carriage colour, Elected Members are asked to consider implementing a timescale for the phasing out of the approved single hackney carriage colour from the private hire fleet of vehicles (apart from those private hire vehicles issued with an exemption private hire licence to undertake only contacted chauffeur bookings).
- 3.17 Private hire vehicles issued with an exemption private hire licence to undertake only contacted chauffeur bookings are not licensed for normal private hire work and as such do not need to be included in the approved colour phasing out period for private hire vehicles.
- 3.18 Exemption licences are issued only to 'high quality' vehicles in terms of brand and condition of vehicles and there are existing licence conditions that such vehicles need to meet prior to an exemption licence being issued.
- 3.19 The minutes of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 is **Appendix 2** to this report.
- 3.20 A table of colours of existing hackney carriage and private hire vehicles is included as **Appendix 3** to this report to identify the current number of silver coloured licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.
- 3.21 Based on the information available on 27 July 2010, the licensing system shows that there are 37 silver coloured vehicles out of a total of 91 licensed hackney carriage vehicles and 6 silver coloured vehicles out of a total of 33 licensed private hire vehicles.

4.0 ARGUMENTS / CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Members' approval of the recommendations of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 will enable Council officers to implement the recommendations of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Working Party as approved by the Licensing Committee of 9 December 2010 for a single colour for hackney carriage vehicles.
- 4.2 Members' approval of the recommendations of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 will ensure that the implementation timescale for the single colour for hackney carriage vehicles is with the agreement and cooperation of both hackney carriage and private hire vehicle proprietors.
- 4.3 Members' approval of the recommendations of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 will enable Council officers to work with

Cllr Hunt to compile a list of acceptable silver colour shades from different car manufacturers for the benefit of hackney carriage proprietors when purchasing new vehicles.

4.4 Members' approval of the suggestion of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 that private hire vehicles should not be permitted to be licensed in the approved single hackney carriage colour will ensure uniformity of the hackney carriage fleet of vehicles and contribute to the safety and well being of the general public when accessing licensed vehicles.

4.5 If the approved single colour for hackney carriage vehicles is phased out from the private hire fleet, there would be no ambiguity between hackney carriage and private hire vehicles and licensed vehicles would become more easily identifiable to the general public and for enforcement purposes.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no costs associated with this report.

6.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Questionnaire sent to hackney carriage proprietors on 16 June 2010.

Appendix 2 – Minutes of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010.

Appendix 3 – Table of colours for existing hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer Lin Bagwell</u>
Minutes of the Licensing Committee Meeting of 9 November 2009	Room FF105 The Grange Ely	Licensing Officer (Enforcement) lin.bagwell@eastcambs.gov.uk

Minutes of the Consultation Meeting with Hackney Carriage Proprietors on 8 July 2010 Standard Colour of Hackney Carriage Vehicles

Present:

Fraser Mott, Hilda Pease, Denise Money, Nurhan Yasan, Martin Lane, John Skipper, Alan Cole, Arthur Taggart

Cllr Ron Bradney (Chairman), Cllr Jackie Petts, Cllr Bill Hunt, Cllr Michael Allan, Cllr Andy Wright, Cllr Sue Austin, Cllr Tony Cornell

Elizabeth Bailey, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Stephen Carrington, Licensing Officer, Lin Bagwell, Licensing Officer

1.0 Chairman's Welcome

- 1.1 Chairman Cllr Ron Bradney welcomed hackney carriage proprietors, Elected Members and Council Licensing Officers to the meeting.
- 1.2 Cllr Bradney advised that although this was not an official Council meeting, recommendations from the meeting would be taken for determination to a future Council Licensing Committee.
- 1.3 29 questionnaires were sent out to hackney carriage proprietors following the determination of the Council's Licensing Committee of 9 December 2009 to carry out consultation with hackney carriage proprietors within 12 months regarding the proposed single colour for hackney carriage vehicles.
- 1.4 9 hackney carriage proprietors responded that they would attend the meeting.
- 1.5 4 responses were received advising that the proprietor would not be attending the meeting.
- 1.6 1 response from a proprietor not attending the meeting expressed the preferred colour as silver.
- 1.7 16 questionnaires were not responded to.

2.0 Single Colour Consultation

- 2.1 Cllr Allan asked, when the Council's Licensing Committee ratifies the single colour chosen at the consultation meeting, if the chosen colour would apply when a change of hackney carriage vehicle takes place.
- 2.2 John Skipper, hackney carriage proprietor, advised that he understood that the trade would be given 5 years to make the agreed changes.
- 2.3 Stephen Carrington, Licensing Officer, advised that no implementation date had been recommended by the hackney carriage and private hire working party for the

introduction of a single colour for hackney carriage vehicles, although it had been resolved at the Licensing Committee of 9 December 2009 that the single colour requirement will apply when current vehicles are replaced.

- 2.4 As '5 years' was suggested by the hackney carriage and private hire working party as the period after which all existing hackney carriage vehicles would be required to comply with the single colour condition, it was agreed at the hackney carriage consultation meeting that this would be an appropriate timescale.
- 2.5 Cllr Wright suggested that timescales for the introduction of the single colour for hackney carriage vehicles should form part of the hackney carriage consultation meeting's recommendation to the next Licensing Committee.
- 2.6 Cllr Allan suggested that a single rather than a dual colour for hackney carriage vehicles would create no additional purchase cost for the trade and would be easier for the vehicles to be resold.
- 2.7 A concern was raised if hackney carriage vehicles should be more conspicuous, as 'silver' is a common vehicle colour and taxi users might still be able to access unlicensed vehicles.
- 2.8 It was generally agreed that a single colour hackney carriage would be more identifiable for hackney carriage users and would be an improvement to the appearance of ECDC licensed hackney carriage vehicles.
- 2.9 It was agreed that Councillors would not propose a single colour as they may have knowledge of what members of the trade wanted.
- 2.10 The colours proposed and voted on by hackney carriage proprietors present at the meeting were Silver = 5 votes, Blue = 1 vote.
- 2.11 The recommendation of the hackney carriage consultation meeting of 8 July 2010 was for silver to be the approved single colour for hackney carriage vehicles.
- 2.12 It was recommended that Council Licensing Officers be asked to match silver colours/shades from different manufacturers and produce a list of acceptable colour/shade at a future Licensing Committee meeting.
- 2.13 It was recommended that Cllr Hunt should work with Council Licensing Officers to compile a list of acceptable silver colour shades from different car manufacturers.

3.0 Timescale

- 3.1 Cllr Hunt suggested that proprietors might wish to wait for the DVLA registration number change to replace an existing vehicle with a new vehicle in the approved colour.
- 3.2 After discussion, it was generally agreed that 1 March 2011, the first date during 2011 for the DVLA registration number change, would be an achievable date from when the new licensing process could be established.

3.3 A fall back date was proposed as 1 September 2011, the second DVLA registration number change for 2011, if the new licensing process could not be achieved by 1 March 2011.

3.1 Alan Cole, hackney carriage proprietor, suggested that the agreed colour should be phased out from the private hire fleet from 1 March 2011.

3.2 It was generally agreed that the approved colour should be phased out for private hire vehicles in line with the agreed implementation timescale for hackney carriage vehicles.

4.0 Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Trade Association Meeting

4.1 It was proposed that an annual trade association meeting be introduced for trade members to discuss and agree issues with Elected Members and Licensing Officers in the spirit of cooperation between all parties.

5.0 Livery

5.1 It was agreed that 'livery' did not include vehicle colour but referred to advertisements and signs on the outside of a licensed vehicle.

5.2 Concern was raised by John Skipper, hackney carriage proprietor, regarding the retention of existing hackney carriage livery.

5.3 Chairman Ron Bradney read out the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting of 9 December 2009, in which it was agreed that the hackney carriage trade would be permitted to retain existing livery, but made no further specifications as to the size and location of the livery on the licensed vehicle.

5.4 Cllr Bradney advised that ECDC stickers, to include the Council crest, are to be placed on the front doors of hackney carriage vehicles, as resolved at the Licensing Committee of 9 December 2009. The design of the stickers are still to be approved by the Council's Licensing Committee and until this decision is taken, no agreement could be given as to the location of the Trade's livery.

6.0 Committee Meetings

6.1 It was agreed that Licensing Officers would contact members of the hackney carriage trade to set up an email mailing list for the trade to receive future information regarding Licensing Committee meetings including hackney carriage agenda items.

7.0 Other Business

7.1 It was agreed that a number of recommendations of the hackney carriage and private hire working party approved by the Licensing Committee of 9 December 2009 would be brought for clarification to a future Licensing Committee to ensure that agreed decisions are both understandable, workable and enforceable.

Table of Colours of Current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles

Vehicle Type	Beige	Black	Blue	Gold	Green	Grey	Red	Silver	White	Yellow
Hackney Carriage	2	10	14	3	4	5	10	37	6	0
Private Hire	0	1	7	0	3	1	9	6	5	1
Exempt Private Hire	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	6	0	0