

Subject:	Amendments to the Handbook for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, Drivers, Vehicles and Operators		
Date of Meeting:	02 March 2017		
Report of:	Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities & Housing		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Martin Seymour	Tel: 01273 296659
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 In order that the Handbook for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, Drivers, Vehicles and Operators "The Blue Book" is up to date and complies with current legislation it is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it is fit for purpose.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Committee approve the additions to the handbook contained in (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 That Committee refuse the alternative livery on Hackney Carriages Operated by Brighton & Hove Streamline as shown in (Appendix 2).
- 2.3 That Committee agree that Hackney Carriages may display the Operator Name and phone number in Aqua as approved by the Director, providing the name and number is in proportion and does not exceed the corporate logo.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The handbook was designed to combine many bye laws, conditions, advice and information for hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators previously in various and separate forms and was first approved by committee in February 2007. It is a useful aid to officers in explaining the council's requirements to existing and potential drivers, proprietors, operators and guidance to garages carrying out fitness and compliance tests on behalf of the council.
- 3.2 The 4th edition was approved by committee on the 19th November 2015.

- 3.3 Most amendments are minor and some of the changes have become necessary following the DVSA ceasing to undertake driver assessments including the Taxis Wheelchair Test. Officers have sourced various alternative suitable providers and an approved list of such providers will be held by the Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing.
- 3.4 Catstream drivers Disability Awareness Training has been added as an alternative to the BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Induction to the Role of the professional Taxis and Private Hire Driver (QCF) for new applicants.
- 3.5 Some changes to vehicle requirements have been made to update latest vehicle specifications, other nearby local authority vehicle requirements and allow a greater range of wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- 3.6 Minor changes to taximeters have been made in particular Private Hire meters which, if installed will required to be sealed by the meter programmer or installer (approved by the Director) with the Operators Tariff. There are no powers that enable a local authority to require a meter or set the fares charged in a Private Hire Vehicle. However, should a meter be fitted it must have been tested and approved by or on behalf of the district council.
- 3.7 The handbook for hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators requires Hackney Carriage Vehicles to display the following:
Council issued door signs on the front doors and plate number to the rear doors. A single telephone number or the name of the operator may be shown on the front doors below the Council logo and shall not exceed the logo in length in aquamarine. In addition advertising is permitted on the rear wing of the vehicles and any advertisement displayed conforms to the council's guidance for licensed vehicles. This would include any Operator advertisement.
- 3.8 Brighton and Hove Streamline has requested that they be able to apply their own company designed logo in black & yellow (as shown in Appendix 2) to the front doors of all Hackney Carriages operated by Brighton & Hove Streamline who state that they have been inundated from both members of the public and their owners to have the Streamline brand name on their vehicles. Streamline also state that they are constantly receiving requests from the Police for information as Officers assume that all Brighton & Hove Hackney Carriage Vehicles are operated by Streamline.
- 3.9 Officers believe that the proposal by Brighton & Hove Streamline detracts from the current livery that has been in place for many years and is recognised as being best practice nationwide. Officers also believe that it is unnecessary as Companies can already display their name in Aqua under the Council Logo or on the rear wing as an advertisement. If members agreed to Streamline's proposal the Director would have to consider allowing other companies to display their logo & colours further detracting from the current livery which may cause add confusion and detract the public from the plate numbers displayed on the vehicle which make it identifiable.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The amendments have been discussed at meetings of the Brighton and Hove Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Consultation Forum.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 Any costs associated with revising the Blue Book will be met from within existing revenue budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: Michael Bentley Date: 08.02.17

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no direct legal implications other than those set out in the body of the report.

Lawyer Consulted: Name Rebecca Sidell Date: 8.2.17

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Amendments to the Handbook for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, Drivers, Vehicles and Operators

