

THE PROVISION OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AND FIRST AID KITS IN LICENSED VEHICLES

SUMMARY

- 1.1 A report was presented at committee on 11 April 2013 following a representation requesting a review to be undertaken in relation to the requirement for first aid kits and fire extinguishers in licensed vehicles.
- 1.2 The Committee resolved to note the request, instruct the Director of Environment and Regulatory Services to undertake a consultation process on the proposed changes that were set out the report and report back to committee following the outcome of the consultation process, with final recommendations for adoption.
- 1.3 A consultation exercise has been undertaken and the results are contained in the report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the requirement for licensed vehicles to be installed with a Small Work Place First Aid Kit as specified in BS 8599-1:2011.
- 2.2 To approve the requirement for licensed vehicles to be installed with an AFFF foam fire extinguisher with a nominal capacity of no less than 1 litre minimum, which complies with the British Standards Institution BS EN3 specification for portable fire extinguishers.
- 2.3 To amend the Council's Supplementary Testing Manual, Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Conditions and Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions to reflect the approved changes set out in Recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 above.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To acknowledge the overwhelming consultation preference for the retention of first aid kits and fire extinguishers in licensed vehicles.
- 3.2 In the interest of the overriding need to promote public safety, the retention of first aid kit and fire extinguisher provision in licensed vehicles, is important, while acknowledging that the licensing requirement is to 'provide and maintain' the relevant equipment in licensed vehicles. Specifically, it is to be noted that there is no

requirement for licensed drivers to administer first aid or deploy fire extinguishers.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 A report was presented at committee on 11 April 2013 following a request for a review to be undertaken in relation to the requirement for first aid kits and fire extinguishers in relation to licensed vehicle.
- 4.2 The Committee resolved to note the request, instruct the Director of Environment and Regulatory Services to undertake a consultation process on the proposed changes that were set out the report and report back to committee following the outcome of the consultation process, with final recommendations for adoption.
- 4.3 The consultation exercise has been undertaken. Just under 1200 consultation packs were sent to private hire vehicle owners and hackney carriage vehicle owners. Only 6 responses/comments were received and a summary of these are attached at Appendix 2.
- 4.4 Having considered the comments made in the responses to the consultation with regard to first aid kits, officers believe it is appropriate to require a first aid kit that complies with an appropriate British Standard. After researching this, officers believe it would be appropriate to adopt the Small Work Place First Aid Kit that complies with BS 8599–1:2011. This is a recognised standard for a low hazard workplace environment. Further information about this type of first aid kit is contained in Appendices 3 and 4.
- 4.5 Having considered the comments made in the responses to the consultation with regard to fire extinguishers, officers recommend that the requirements as specified in the report dated 11 April are appropriate for adoption i.e. an efficient AFFF foam fire extinguisher with a nominal capacity of no less than 1 litre minimum, which complies with the British Standards Institution BS EN3 specification for portable fire extinguishers.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 To reverse the existing licence conditions requiring licensed vehicles to have both forms of equipment installed and available for use.
- 5.2 Officer's recommendations are based on the principle that reversal would undermine the overriding public safety objective that underpins the licensing regime.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Olu Idowu - - John Tomlinson -
---	--

For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Sandra Mansell 01332 641931 e-mail sandra.mansell@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Consultation Responses Received Appendix 3 – Comparison of First Aid Kit Contents Appendix 4 – BS 8599-1:2011 Workplace First Aid Kits
---	---

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None directly arising from the report.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council's overarching responsibility as licensing authority is to safeguard passenger and public safety. The justifications for imposing conditions need to be balanced and proportionate.

Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising from the report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 The proposals will apply to proprietors of all licensed vehicles.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 The proposals set out help support the health, safety and welfare of drivers, passengers and the wider public.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None directly arising from the report.

Asset Management

- 7.1 None directly arising from the report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None directly arising from the report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 The information set out in this report supports the corporate objectives and priorities to ensure the people of derby will enjoy **good quality services that meet local needs, being safe and feeling safe** and **good health and well-being**.