



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 9 FEBRUARY 2005

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

### HACKNEY CARRIAGE SINGLE COLOUR POLICY

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2 To consider whether to require a full licence fee or a reduced rate for licenses issued for a period of less than 12 months.

#### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 8 November 2000 the Council's Policy Committee approved a 'single colour policy' for all hackney carriages licensed by the authority. The policy required that:
  - all vehicles licensed as hackney carriages for the first time (in Derby) from 1 April 2001 must be in the specified colour (AA yellow), and
  - all currently licensed hackney carriages (in Derby) must comply with the single-colour policy by 1 April 2006.
- 2.2 All hackney carriage proprietors were advised of the new policy in writing in February 2001.
- 2.3 At present, 186 of the 299 hackney carriages licensed by the Council (62%) are finished in the specified colour. Those vehicles not finished in the specified colour will not be able to be licensed to operate beyond 31 March 2006. This means that, from 1 April 2005, those non-yellow hackney carriages due for licence renewal will receive new licences for less than the normal 12-month period.
- 2.4.1 Where hackney carriage vehicle licences are issued for less than 12 months, a licence fee will still be payable (in addition to the vehicle test fee). Members may wish to consider reducing the license fee to a pro-rata amount based upon the length of the licensed period. However, this would have an impact upon the budget, which is calculated based upon full fees across both hackney carriage and private hire fleets. If all proprietors of these vehicles paid 'pro-rata' licence fees this would reduce income by approximately £8,600 for 2005/6. It is not known how many of the 113 proprietors of the non-yellow hackney carriages intend to re-spray/re-license or replace their vehicles. It should also be borne in mind that the administration costs of issuing a licence are the same regardless of the licence period.

- 2.5 Hackney carriage proprietors have had 4 years to prepare for the full implementation of this policy and are aware of the April 2006 deadline. Licensing Officers will write to them again within the next two weeks to remind them of the single colour policy and the implications for their hackney carriage licences.

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| <b>Background papers:</b>            | None  |
| <b>List of appendices:</b>           | Appendix 1 - Implications   |

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| <b>IMPLICATIONS</b> |
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**Financial**

1. Reducing licence fee levels on a pro-rotta basis will have an impact upon the licensing budget, although the level of impact will depend upon how individual proprietors respond to the policy over the next 12 months. Any shortfall in income would have a direct impact upon licence fees in 2006/7

**Legal**

- 2.1 The Town Police Clauses Act 1889 allows Licensing Authorities to license hackney carriages for periods of time less than 12 months.
- 2.2 Any person aggrieved by the Council's single colour policy may seek a judicial review of the policy.

**Personnel**

3. None

**Equalities Impact**

4. The completion of the single colour policy implementation will benefit all of Derby's citizens by making all of Derby's licensed hackney carriages easily recognisable.

**Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change**

- 5.1 Hackney carriage and private hire licensing contributes to the Council's objective of **protecting and supporting people**.