

TAXI LICENSING & APPEALS COMMITTEE 7 December 2011

ITEM 7

Report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE SPECIFICATION – SPARE WHEEL PROVISION

SUMMARY

- 1.1 All licensed private hire vehicles must comply with the Council's Specification for Private Hire Vehicles, which includes a section on spare wheel provision.
- 1.2 Recently, a request has been received to review this aspect of the specification and Members are asked to consider this request.

RECOMMENDATION

2.1 To consider the request set out in this report and decide whether or not to amend the Council's Specification for Private Hire Vehicles accordingly.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 To make a decision following the request.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 All licensed private hire vehicles must comply with the Council's Specification for Private Hire Vehicles.
- 4.2 Paragraph 8 relates to the provision of a spare wheel and sets out that it must be of the same type as the four road wheels. It does not allow for the use of a 'space saver' tyre, a 'run flat' tyre or a 'temporary seal & inflation gas product'. It also requires that where provision needs to be made for a full size spare tyre in the luggage storage area, the luggage capacity must not be reduced below 300 litres.
- 4.3 The request that has been made refers to the fact that many new vehicles no longer include the provision of a full size spare tyre, indeed many vehicles are not being supplied with a space saver tyre but just a gas product that is designed to temporarily seal and inflate a tyre.

- 4.4 Paragraph 8 of the Council's current Specification for Private Hire Vehicles is contained at Appendix 2 for information.
- 4.5 Members are asked to consider the information that has been provided and decide whether or not the Council's Specification for Private Hire Vehicles needs to be amended to address this issue.

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OTHER	OPI	IONS	CONS	SIDERED

5.1 Not applicable.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

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

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Background papers:	None

List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications		
	Appendix 2 – Paragraph 8; Specification for Private Hire Vehicles		

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1.1 None directly arising.

Legal

2.1 It is for the Council to be satisfied of the safeguards in place to secure the safety of passengers and the general public by licence holders. By the same token, it is for the Council to justify the addition of any new conditions to be introduced.

Personnel

3.1 None directly arising.

Equalities Impact

4.1 None directly arising.

Health and Safety

5.1 As set out in the report.

Carbon commitment

6.1 None directly arising.

Value for money

7.1 None directly arising.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

8.1 The proposal supports the corporate priorities to ensure the people in Derby will enjoy good quality services that meet local needs and being safe and feeling safe.

Paragraph 8 - Specification for Private Hire Vehicles

- 8. (a) The vehicle must have at least four road wheels and carry at least one spare wheel, a jack and brace all securely stored in a position not liable to damage passengers' luggage. The spare wheel must be the same type as the four road wheels.
 - (b) The four road wheels shall be fitted with wheel trims of a similar pattern.
 - (c) Where a vehicle's manufacturer specification includes the provision of a space saver tyre, compliance with conditions 8(a) and (b), which requires the provision of a full size spare tyre, must not result in the luggage capacity of the storage space being reduced below 300 litres.