



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

## TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 1 JUNE 2005

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

### **IMPROVED VEHICLE LICENCE PLATES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2 To authorise the Director of Corporate Services to amend the Council's vehicle licence conditions to incorporate the use of these new vehicle licence plates.

#### **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 2.1 Currently, all vehicle licence plates are ordered in bulk from an external supplier. These plates detail only a licence number and the number of passengers that the vehicle is licensed to carry. If lost or stolen, there is the risk that such plates could be utilised on unlicensed vehicles, which might then ply for hire.
- 2.2 Following consultation and agreement with the taxi trade, licensing managers have identified and procured supplies of improved taxi licence plates for fitment to licensed vehicles. The plates, produced by a company named 'MOGO', can be produced 'in house' in a couple of minutes. They are each specific to a particular licensed vehicle, as they contain details of the make and registration of the vehicle, in addition to the information on the existing licence plates. Most neighbouring authorities have adopted these (or similar) plates.
- 2.3 The 'MOGO' licence plates may either be fixed to the rear of the vehicle, as is the case with the current plates, or by means of proprietary brackets produced by the company. The advantage of this latter method is that the bracket can be attached to the car using the existing number plate screws and no additional holes need to be drilled in the rear panel or bumper to fit the plate. A number of licensed drivers, being aware of the impending move to the improved plates, have asked that the Council consider this method of fixing the plates to vehicles.
- 2.4 The Council's current vehicle licence conditions require that the plate is securely fixed to the rear of the vehicle by means of screws or bolts. It is proposed that the conditions are amended to also allow the use of MOGO brackets approved by the Council and to prohibit the use of any other types of bracket. However, any existing brackets would be exempt from these provisions.

Although the proposed plates do not yet carry licence expiry dates, it is proposed that in the medium term, these will be introduced, as this will contribute towards increased public safety. However, a new plate will be required every year for each vehicle. It is anticipated that the cost of annual replacement of the plates will be recovered from licence fees.

2.6 A copy of the existing and proposed licence conditions is attached at Appendix 2.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	David Dowbenko Telephone 01332 716268 e-mail dave.dowbenko@derby.gov.uk
<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Extract from Licence Conditions

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

1. None in the current financial year. However, if members decide to incorporate expiry dates onto the plates, the additional annual cost (approximately £7 per plate) would need to be built into the vehicle licence fees.

**Legal**

2. None

**Personnel**

3. None

**Equalities impact**

4. None

**Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change**

5. The introduction of improved licence plates for licensed vehicles will contribute to the Council's objective **of protecting and supporting people.**

## EXTRACT FROM PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS

**1. CURRENT CONDITIONS****10. Plate and Licence Disc**

- a) The plate shall be securely affixed to the exterior rear side of the vehicle immediately on or above the bumper, in such a position that the particulars are clearly visible.
- b) The plate shall be kept in such a condition that the information carried on it, is clearly visible to public view at all times when the vehicle is being used as a private hire vehicle.
- c) The plate shall remain the property of the Council at all times and shall be returned to the Council on the sale of the vehicle or in the event of surrender, suspension or revocation of the licence.
- d) The licence disc shall be securely affixed to the near side upper interior of the front windscreen, so that the particulars are clearly visible to public view of persons outside the vehicle.
- e) The licence disc shall remain the property of the Council at all times and shall be returned to the council on the side of the vehicle or in the event of surrender, suspension or revocation of the licence.
- f) The proprietor shall report to the Police and to the Council the loss or damage to the plate or licence disc as soon as the loss or damage becomes known.

**2. PROPOSED AMENDED CONDITIONS****10. Plate and Licence Disc**

- a) The plate shall be securely affixed to the exterior rear side of the vehicle immediately on or above the bumper in such a position that the particulars are clearly visible, (**or**)
- b) *The plate shall be securely affixed to the exterior rear side of the vehicle above, below, or to the side of the number plate on a Council-approved 'MOGO' bracket.*
- c) The plate shall be kept in such a condition that the information carried on it, is clearly visible to the public view at all times when the vehicle is being used as a private hire vehicle.

- d) The plate shall remain the property of the Council at all times and shall be returned to the Council on the sale of the vehicle or in the event of surrender, suspension or revocation of the licence.
- e) The licence disc shall be securely affixed to the near side upper interior of the front windscreen so that the particulars are clearly visible to public view of persons outside the vehicle.
- f) The licence disc shall remain the property of the Council at all times and shall be returned to the Council on the sale of the vehicle or in the event of surrender, suspension or revocation of the licence.
- g) The proprietor shall report to the Police and to the Council the loss or damage to the plate or licence disc as soon as the loss or damage becomes known.