

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Licensing Committee – 9 March 2011

Licensing Act 2003 – Taxi Handbook Amendments

Report of the Licensing Manager

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Ken Hayward)

1. Executive Summary

Members are asked to consider adopting the amended “Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers, Vehicles and Operators Handbook”.
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2. Background

2.1 All of Taunton Deane Borough Council’s recommendations, policies, practice and conditions relating to taxi licensing are contained in one document, entitled the “Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers, Vehicles and Operators Handbook”. The handbook was approved and adopted by the Council as the definitive source of information for those in the trade, officers and other agencies.

3. Report

3.1 Following a request by members of the taxi trade, the Licensing Team have reviewed Appendix 5 (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle test criteria), specifically the paragraph relating to first aid kits.

3.2 Currently, the testing criteria requires all taxis and private hire vehicles to have first aid kits containing the following:

- Ten antiseptic wipes, hygienically packed
- One conforming disposable bandage (not less than 7.5 cm wide)
- Two triangular bandages
- One packet of 24 assorted adhesive dressings
- Three large sterile unmedicated dressings (not less than 15 cm x 20 cm)
- Two sterile eye pads, with attachments
- Twelve assorted safety pins
- One pair of rustless blunt-ended scissors

As per the handbook, any vehicle without a first kit containing all of the above items, fails the Council's vehicle compliance test, which is carried out at an approved testing station. As members are aware, to address the concerns of the trade with a minimum amount of disruption, we allowed vehicles with incomplete first aid kits to be given advisory notes instead of failing the compliance test.

- 3.3** Since the last Licensing Committee meeting, we have contacted St John Ambulance and looked at standard first aid kits for passenger carrying vehicles. We have developed a new first aid kit list comprising of items that are included in St John Ambulance's passenger carrying vehicle kit but are also items that members of the taxi trade can easily go out and buy. We are therefore requesting that the committee agree to amend the testing criteria and list of items required in a first aid kit to the following:

- Eye pad
- Triangle bandage
- Cleansing wipe
- Powder free gloves
- Conforming bandage
- Washproof plaster

In order for a vehicle to pass the compliance test, it's first aid kit must have at least one of each of the above mentioned items. Incomplete kits will cause a vehicle to fail.

4. Finance Comments

None

5. Legal Comments

The legal implications are set out within the report.

6. Links to Corporate Aims

No direct links to the Corporate Aims

7. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

None

8. Equalities Impact

Not required

9. Risk Management

N/A

10. Partnership Implications (if any)

None

11. Recommendations

That Members approve the amendment to the testing criteria contained within Appendix 5 of the “Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers, Vehicles and Operators Handbook”.

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