
DECISION - MAKER:	LICENSING & GENERAL (SUB) COMMITTEE
DATE OF DECISION:	
SUBJECT:	DELEGATED POWERS IN RELATION TO VARIATIONS IN HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS
REPORT OF:	SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL
AUTHOR AND CONTACT DETAILS:	PHILIP HALL (telephone 8083 2704) (e-mail: phil.hall@southampton.gov.uk)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider and determine a request by officers of Legal Services to vary the conditions on hackney carriages in relation to the colour of the livery.

B. REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations are given. It is for the Sub – Committee to decide the application on its merits. The Chair will give the Panel's reasons for its decision after the Panel has considered the report and relevant matters raised at the meeting.

- C.** The Committee has discretion to approve the report, subject to a duty to act reasonably.

SUMMARY

1. It is requested that approval be given to the use of a 'white vinyl wrap' on vehicles which are manufactured in a colour other than white.
It is also requested that officers be given delegated power to agree this use on selected colour variations
2. The condition officers wish to vary, accordingly, is condition 6.1 of the City Council's current hackney carriage licence conditions, in force since 1st December 2000. which currently states :-
"The bodywork of all hackney carriages (subject to other conditions herein) shall be white. Standard production components etc fitted by the manufacturer in the course of production, which are not white, will be exempted from this requirement"
3. The Panel is requested to consider and determine this request.

BACKGROUND & REPORT DETAILS

4. The Committee will be aware that all hackney vehicles licensed by the City Council must comply with the licence conditions that the City Council has made under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
5. The Committee in 2000 decided, following advice, that all hackney vehicles should be white in colour so as to differentiate them from private hire vehicles which can be any colour other than white.
6. Over the last 3 - 4 years car manufacturers have gradually been moving away from white vehicles on production. This has had a knock on effect through the second hand market until at the present time the trade are having extreme difficulty in locating suitable vehicles for use as hackneys carriages.

7. This has led to owners having to look throughout the country for suitable vehicles or to consider buying a non standard colour and then having the vehicle spray painted in order to comply with our conditions. This is a process that cannot be reversed and leads to a lower re-sale value of the vehicle concerned.
8. An alternative to this is to allow what the trade describe as a 'vehicle wrap'. This consists of the vehicle body being almost entirely enveloped in a shrink wrap vinyl cover. This cover is durable and has to be supplied and fitted by specialist companies. It is comparable in price to painting but gives the owner the flexibility to have the covering removed prior to sale. It also protects the body finish. In the event of scratches or damage the panel concerned can be repaired and re-vinyled to match the original cover.
9. Officers have been carrying out a trial on one vehicle to see the consequences of this type of cover. Following a one year period which included a repair to the vehicle it has proved to be very successful.
10. The request is to allow vehicles of a pale or light colour. i.e. silver / beige etc. to be considered for this treatment. The overall effect on the eye would be that whilst stood at the kerbside the vehicle would, to all purposes, be seen to be white. The test vehicle was silver in colour and the only traces of this colour could be seen around the door frames when the doors were open. This was not intrusive.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

11. The decision to determine the application in the manner set out in this report is not contrary to the Council's policy framework.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

12. Not applicable.

CONSULTATION AND CONCLUSIONS

13. Not applicable

Appendix 1	None
Appendix 2	None
Documents in Members Rooms	None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Title of Background Paper

None

Relevant Paragraph of AIP Rules allowing document to be Exempt/ Confidential (if applicable)