

LICENSING COMMITTEE (NON LICENSING ACT 2003 FUNCTIONS)

Agenda Item 9

Brighton & Hove City Council

Updated action plan from Committee report recommendations September 10

Number	Recommendation	Agreed action
1	That the committee notes the position regarding the Equality Act 2010 and its possible implications.	Committee originally noted in September 2010. Further report to be made to update members.
2	That the committee notes the current BTEC qualification will not be available to new applicants after 30 th September 2010 and approves the replacement entry-level qualification for new drivers.	BTec is now a National Standard. HCO called introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxis and Private Hire Driver (L2) and we will recognise any qualification gained under this standard. All new drivers will have to attain this qualification. Need to ensure that the new qualification provides the correct level of equalities training including proper use of wheelchair accessible vehicles.

3	That the HCO, working in partnership with the Federation of Disabled People and other stakeholders, develop the framework for a Certificate of Professional Competence, research providers, and report with firm proposals by the end of March 2011.	Please see 2 above. There is a need to establish the baseline of equalities training and consider how to ensure continuing professional development. Once established, a licence condition would be imposed once the hackney carriage office has legal clearance.
4	That the HCO implement changes and improvements to the current complaints process to ensure that it is accessible and that all complainants are provided with clear, detailed responses.	A new complaints leaflet has now been produced and distributed to council's main access points. It is also available on the council's website. These are also available for operators. Officers are working on a 'free post' post card to allow people in taxis to make complaints.
5	That the Committee approve the maximum age limit for a WAV, be increased from 10 to 12 years, subject to it passing two vehicle tests per year, and that the Existing Conditions are amended accordingly with the rider 'all vehicles over ten years old shall be required to pass two vehicle inspections each year' be added.	The maximum age limit was raised.
5A	That the Committee approve the removal of the maximum age limit for newly licensed vehicles, subject to the maximum age limit appropriate to that vehicle.	As 5 above.
6	Withdrawn	This arose from technical difficulties in requiring swivel seats in vehicles not designed for them.

7	That the views and evidence provided by all contributing parties to this report be brought to the attention of officers dealing with the school transport contracts.	The trade and officers are aware of the separation between licensing requirements and contract work. The trade have been advised by the Head of Schools admissions and transport on a number of occasions. The city's private hire operators understand the new Best Value tendering and procurement process and are very welcome to submit tenders.
8	That the Committee approve all new hackney carriage vehicle licences and licences which are renewed following a transfer should conform to the Conditions of Fitness as prescribed by the Public Carriage Office (ie purpose built London type hackney carriage vehicles) or be for wheelchair accessible vehicles with M1 ECWVTA.	Officers are unaware of any transfers that have resulted in new WAVs in the fleet. Taxi licensing is migrating to a corporate software system which should allow transparent reporting of data.
8A	That the Committee approves the licensing of rear loading M1 ECWVTA WAVs.	Taxi licensing policy (Blue Book) will be used to attempt to specify minimum standards of WAV.
8B	That the Committee approves the immediate release of five new hackney carriage vehicle licenses.	Agreed to issue 5 last September and 5 in May have been offered.
9	That the Committee approves that CCTV approved by the Director is installed in all vehicles (a) upon application for a new vehicle licence on or after 1 April 2012, or (b) on annual renewal of a vehicle licence falling between 1 April 2012 and 31 March 2013	Amended to read by 1 April 2013. Committee have now agreed this condition. Officers are following progress of legal challenge elsewhere in the country.

10	That the Committee approve a pilot scheme initially for one-year, to publish contact details of WAV drivers prepared to take bookings, and where an operator's licence is required for a single vehicle, that operator's licence is provided free of charge.	Details of WAV drivers installed on BHCC website with relevant links to Federation website.
11	That the Committee note the promotion of accessible taxi/PHV services to taxi voucher recipients in January 2011.	Officers liaising with Customer Services to promote vouchers.
12	That the Committee note the proposal to support National Customer Service week by promoting WAVs and demonstrating access features of vehicles.	City Cabs promoted their vehicles during this week. Further work with customer services will be explored.
13	That the Committee supports in principle a Star Rating for operators, the detail to be developed by the HCO in partnership with the Federation of Disabled People.	MS to arrange meeting between Geraldine, MS and operators, also include in Forum Agenda.
14	That the Committee ask the Federation of Disabled People to make a detailed proposal as to how they would envisage undertaking 'mystery shopping' setting out any costs that might be incurred.	Geraldine to investigate.
15	That the Committee require 'Right to Work' checks carried out on application for drivers' licences.	Done
16	That the Committee approve in principle, interior seat advertising in licensed WAVs.	Done
New	Equalities Act 2010 preparation for a list of designated vehicles. New offences are created concerning failure to pick up, failure to carry safety and overcharging.	Officers are now able to produce a designated list of wheelchair accessible vehicles and have written to all proprietors advising them that their vehicle has been placed on the "shadow list" and that they will be written to again once the act comes into force.

		Currently officers only know of 10 of the 126 WAVs.
New	Taxi forum terms of reference.	Head of Environmental Health & Licensing to offer assistance to progress.

