

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

8TH OCTOBER 2010

Application to begin a period of public consultation with a view to recommending a change to the colour of Private Hire Vehicles operating within the district of Wyre Forest

OPEN	
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APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 - Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider application from the taxi trade to change the colour of Private Hire Vehicles operating within the district of Wyre Forest.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to DECIDE whether or not:

- 2.1 **A period of public consultation should commence with Stakeholders with a view to recommending to Council that a change of policy is required regarding the colour of Private Hire Vehicles operating within the district of Wyre Forest.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Private Hire Vehicles operating within the district are required to be red in colour according to the Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions adopted by the Council on the 28th November 2007.
- 3.2 The Wyre Forest Taxi Trade Liaison group met on the 1st September 2010 and Members were informed that it was difficult to purchase suitable vehicles in the colour red.
- 3.3 It was proposed that this should be changed to a more popular colour, and recommended a colour, range from Anthracite/Black.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Council has always been flexible in its policy regarding the colour of private hire vehicles, and in consultation with the trade in 2007, “red”

was recommended and agreed as being the easiest colour to source at that time from manufacturers/garages.

- 4.2 Latest figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) indicate that research predicted that black would become the most popular car colour.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Section 48 (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states:

“A district council may attach to the grant of a licence under this section, such conditions as they may consider reasonably necessary, including without prejudices to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this subsection, conditions requiring or prohibiting the display of signs on or from the vehicle to which the licence relates.”

The Department for Transport has issued “Best Practice Guidance to Local Authorities in respect of Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing” which states in its introduction that:

“It is for individual authorities to reach their own decisions both on overall policies and on individual licensing matters in light of their own views of the relevant considerations.”

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There is no risk management issues arising from this report.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 There are no issues over Equality Impact Assessment.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 Officers recognise the difficulties experienced by the trade to present vehicles for licence and are not opposed to a change in colour policy.
- 9.2 No other council in Worcestershire operates Private Hire vehicles in the colour Anthracite/Black.
- 9.3 The recommended period of public consultation is 12 weeks.
- 9.4 Views need to be obtained from all stakeholders so that a consolidated report can be made to Council.

10. CONSULTEES

10.1 Director of Legal and Corporate Services.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 Department for Transport Best Practice Guidance.