

**ADOPTION OF DRESS CODE FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE  
DRIVERS**

**Agenda Item 5**

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**Background Papers:-** Licensing Committee 9<sup>th</sup> August 2007 & 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008  
**Financial Implications:-** None  
**Equalities Implications:-** None  
**Legal Implications:-** The imposition of a dress code as a condition to a hackney carriage licence would require an amendment to the byelaws which would then create a criminal offence. This is not a proportionate action and it would be more appropriate to adopt a dress code that would sit alongside the licence conditions and the byelaws. Non-observance of the dress code would result in the issue of penalty points.

**Risks:** None

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At the October 2007 Committee meeting, Members supported the proposal to introduce a dress code for all licensed drivers, subject to consultation with the trade association. The results of the consultation were presented to the Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and, after considering representations from the trade, Members agreed not to adopt a prescriptive dress code, but to establish a minimum standard of dress.

Suggested wording for a dress code is:-

**Braintree District Council is committed to encouraging the professional image of the hackney carriage and private hire trade. The Council considers, therefore, that drivers should conform to a minimum standard of dress, as set out below, in order to raise and maintain the profile of the licensed trade.**

**The Council does not impose such standards by way of conditions to any licence. It is expected however that such standards will be maintained at all times.**

**All drivers are required to dress smartly and to maintain a clean and tidy appearance. Clothing should not be dirty, ripped, snagged or holed or contain words or graphics that are offensive or suggestive. The torso, the tops of arms and the top half of the legs should be covered.**

**DECISION**

Members are recommended to approve the dress code as set out in the Executive Summary.