

Consideration of the adoption of Dress Code For Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers & Operators

Agenda Item 6

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Background Papers:-

Minutes of the Licensing Committee 9th August 2007
Minutes of the Licensing Committee 10th October 2007
Appendix 1 – Written views from various members of the trade
Appendix 2 – Selected copies of the free text element of the questionnaire

Financial Implications:- None

Equalities Implications:- None

Legal Implications:- If adopted the dress code will be added to the drivers conditions

Options:
1.To approve the adoption of a Dress Code for Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers & Operators with amendments deemed appropriate by Members.

2.To refuse to adopt a Dress Code for Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers & Operators.

Risks: None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To consider the adoption of a Dress Code for Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers, the details of which were considered by the committee on 10th October 2007.

Members instructed officers to carry out a consultation exercise with the trade; this report presents all valid responses that have been received during the consultation.

Members are to consider the responses and decide whether to recommend the adoption of a dress code. If it is agreed to adopt the dress code, members are asked to consider any necessary amendments to the code that are required following the consultation exercise.

DECISION

Members are requested to consider endorsing the introduction of a dress code for Licensed Drivers.

1. CONSULTATIONS/RESPONSE

- 1.1 The consultation took place between 15th January to 4th February 2008. All licensed drivers and operators were sent a letter outlining the details of the proposed dress code and asked to complete a pro-forma questioner, which was designed to solicit views on the proposed dress code.
- 1.2 In total approx 600 letters were sent out, and to date the Licensing Department have received 37 responses.
- 1.3 The returns from the pro-forma questionnaire have been analysed and are presented in the following table:

	Dress Code Pro-forma Questionnaire	Yes	%	No	%
Q1	Should a code be adopted?	21	57	16	43
Q2	Is it appropriate for all?	21	57	16	43
Q3	Should penalty points be awarded for failures?	21	57	16	43
Q4	Other Suggestions	22	59	15	41

- 1.4 From the results presented in the above table 57 % of the respondents support the introduction of the dress code.
- 1.5 The response from the trade has been in the form of either the returned questionnaire, or a written response. All written responses have been attached to this report. Appendix 1.
- 1.6 Copies of the free text element of the questionnaire have been copied and attached to this report where a driver has made additional valid comments. Appendix 2.

A summary of general comments extracted from the pro-forma questionnaire.

Appendix 2

	Question 1
	"There are some scruffy drivers out there"
	" The smarter the driver the more confident the passenger will feel and safe too"
	"Those of us offer quality services dress way above your code and achieve greater business success because of it"
	"Should be a condition of the license that the driver dresses smart but casual with no bare skin showing"
	" Too restrictive, plain T-Shirts and collarless type tops should be allowed especially in hot conditions"
	"Re word to say that it applies whilst driving for hire... not all times!"
	"Track suit bottoms and t-shirts can be smart"
	" As long as the driver is not scruffy they should be able to ware what they feel comfortable in"
	"Write to those drivers who you feel are unkempt – that's all that is required"
	"I agree smarten up the trade "
	"The committee don't need to tell us what to ware, as long as it is known that we have to dress smart"
	"Tidy the trade up"
	" Too much work for licensing and difficult to police"
	"Drivers owners etc should be responsible for them selves with your code as a guide"
	"Its important to look smart but you need to feel comfortable as well"
	"I support the scheme to the full"
	"If you supply a uniform and pay for it then you can expect us to ware it, if not you should not try and tell us what we can and can't wear"

	"Its no business of BDC how drivers dress"
	"Female members of the public do not like men in shorts"
	"Jeans should be on the no list"
	"I have been driving for 18 years and no one has ever complained about my dress"
	"I am self employed, I dress causally and mostly with comfort in mind and its none of your business how I dress"

	Question 2
	"Should apply to all drivers"
	"If I were a chauffer then the dress code would be applicable but not as a Private Hire Driver who is in and out of the car a lot with bags of shopping"
	"Not all drivers are going to be comfortable driving in the clothes listed. If the driver is uncomfortable they wont be driving to the best of their abilities"
	" It has to be for all otherwise ill-feeling will start up"
	"Should apply to Taxi drivers as they stand around on the ranks and people see them more than Private Hire Drivers"
	Question 3
	"There should be some digression with baseball caps as many drivers wear them when the sun is bright"
	"Include pullovers and cardigans"
	"Weatherproof hats should be allowed but not baseball caps"
	"Include jeans trainers and T-shirts"
	"Unless growing a beard the driver should be clean shaven"
	" No shirt and collar with trousers, we are not bank managers or financial advisors"
	"This company has had its own dress code for 17 years, pity the council are so far behind. Attention should be made to personal hygiene"

	“ Some form of uniform is required do not leave it t individual interpretation
	“ I wear Jeans and T-shirt for major corporate work. It is a new millennium things are not so formal any more”
	“ No polo shirts, Jeans or trainers”
	“Navy blue and black colours for all items of clothing”
	“Item allowed should be more descriptive i.e.: Shirts long or short sleeve/polo or rugby Season clothing summer tailored shorts/quarter length trousers/sandals No dark glasses”
	“ No woollen hats”