

Classification	Item No.
Open / Closed	

Meeting:	Licensing and Safety Committee
Meeting date:	23 January 2025
Title of report:	Review of hackney carriage and private hire driver's identification badges
Report by:	Executive Director (Operations)
Decision Type:	Council
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

Executive Summary

This report relates to a request from a private hire driver and a trade representative to modify the lanyard, style and size requirement for a driver's identification badge. This report considers the options.

Options

- To remain with the current design and dimension for hackney carriage/private driver identification badges as displayed in Appendix 2
- To modify Council Policy with the requirement for driver identification badges to that of a smaller credit card style identification badge and fabric safety lanyard as displayed in Appendix 3.

Key considerations

This is a Council Function that is delegated to the Licensing and Safety Panel by the Council's Constitution.

This paper is in the public domain.

Community impact / Contribution to the Bury 2030 Strategy

Not applicable

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to

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- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The public sector equality duty requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

The Licensing Service have considered the Equality Act 2010 and due to each application being dealt with on its own merits there is no positive or negative on any of the protected characteristics.

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Not Applicable	.

Consultation:

Not applicable

Legal Implications:

Under the legislation the Council is required to determine representations. The report is in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

The costs of the licensing function are funded through the fees and charges levied by the Council. There may be additional costs if appeals are lodged with the Magistrates and Crown Courts.

Members are advised that Licences are regarded as possessions within the terms of the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act everyone is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of one's possessions and so actions interfering with those possessions must be lawful, reasonable and proportionate. It is lawful to impose reasonable conditions as a way of protecting the safety of the travelling public, so long as it is not out of proportion. It is a balancing act between the public interest and the individual's rights.

Financial Implications:

There are no adverse financial implications to the Council should members decide to adopt the new size and style of the driver's identification badge.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Mr M Bridge
Licensing Office
3 Knowsley Place
Duke Street
Bury
Telephone No: 0161 253 5209
Email: m.bridge@bury.gov.uk

Background papers:

Report and minutes of the Licensing and Safety Panel – 9 January 2020

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
LGMPA	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
TPCA	Town Police Clauses Act 1847
ID	Identification
TfGM	Transport for Greater Manchester
DDRG	Disability Design Reference Group

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (LGMPA) and the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (TPCA) make provisions for a Local Authority (district council) to attach such conditions, as it may consider reasonably necessary, to the licence.
- 1.2 The Council Constitution delegates the determination of the design of the vehicle plates and badges to the Licensing and Safety Committee.
- 1.3 Bury currently requires a driver to wear a photograph identification badge and have a similar badge displayed in the vehicle. The current identification badge dimensions are 9.8cm by 9.8cm due to the size of the laminate around the driver's badge. Appendix 1 includes the current ID badge design and dimensions for Members information.
- 1.4 It is over 10 years since the Licensing and Safety Panel last considered modifications to vehicle signs and ID badges. As outlined below members of the Licensing & Safety Committee resolved to retain both as they were.
- 1.5 Members may recall that following a request from the Private Hire Drivers Association and the Hackney Carriage Drivers Association on the 9 January 2020 a report was considered regarding the review of vehicle signage and driver's badges. Members resolved; That the current Council policy relating to the size requirements for identification badges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle remains. The minute is attached at appendix 1.
- 1.6 During the preparation of the above report a representative from the Greater Manchester Licensing Managers Group met on the 5 September 2019 with TfGM Disability Design Reference Group (DDRG), and TfGM staff. DDRG have wide ranging disabilities and impairments. There were a number of concerns discussed relating to licensed vehicles and of particular relevance to this report was as follows:-
 - All taxi and PHVs should display (at least A4 size) a recent photo, name and badge number of the driver in the vehicle so all passengers can identify the driver and ensure they're getting into the right vehicle.
 - Many drivers don't wear badges – and the text font on the badges is often too small to read for partially sighted passengers.
- 1.7 The Licensing Service have received a request from a private hire driver to review Council Policy in relation to the current size of the hackney carriage and private hire badge and removal of the chain that the badge is displayed on. The request is to change to a credit card style badge and a lanyard.
- 1.8 The Licensing Service have recently undertaken a procurement exercise for the Supply & Delivery of Taxi Vehicle Licence Plates, Driver Badge Materials, other Licences and Consents. The contract period is 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2027 with an option to extend for a further 12 months.

3.0 Existing and proposed identification badges

- 3.1 Examples of the proposed badges and lanyard have been sourced from the new contractor. The Licensing Service have attached to this report examples of the current badge and the proposed credit card style badge, these are attached at appendix 1 and 2.

3.2 The **proposed new** identification badge will consist of:-

- Pre-printed Credit Card style Hackney carriage and Private hire drivers' badge
- Lanyard
- Laminate
- Hologram

4 Conclusion

4.1 Members are requested to consider the options below:

- To remain with the current design and dimension for hackney carriage/private driver identification badges as displayed in Appendix 2.
- To modify Council Policy with the requirement for driver identification badges to that of a smaller credit card style identification badge and fabric safety lanyard as displayed in Appendix 3.

(1) Minute LSP.4 of the Licensing and Safety Panel held on 9 January 2020 – Review of Vehicle Signage and Drivers Badge.

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor Grimshaw and it was: -

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council's Policy relating to the size of the vehicle licence plate on the front of a licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle be modified to reduce the size of the front plates.
2. That the new sized plates be introduced for newly licensed vehicles and licence renewals, from April 2020.
3. **That the current Council policy relating to the size requirements for identification badges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle remains.**

Current Badge Size

Bury PHD Size 3 x 1E Badge Style 91_46_91_v6

	Bury Council	This badge was issued by Licensing Office Bury Council 3 Knowsley Place Duke Street Bury BL9 0EJ and remains their property. It is an offence to display this badge unless in possession of a valid licence.
	Private Hire Driver	
Number		Security Information Strip
Expiry		
Name		Name

Badge width 9.8 CM

Badge Height 9.8 CM



Chain is 75 CM in length

Proposed New Badge (Front)



Badge width 10 CM

Badge Height 7 CM

Proposed New Badge (Rear)

