

Committee: Licensing Committee
Date: 8 September 2010
Title: Private Hire Licensing – Smart Cars
Author: Murray Hardy (01799) 510598

Agenda Item

9

Item for
decision

Summary

This report has been submitted to update members with regard to the licensing of Smart Cars as private hire vehicles.

Recommendations

The Committee note the content of this report

Background Papers

None

Impact

Communication/Consultation	None.
Community Safety	The vehicle concerned has met the NCAP4 level of safety approval and must reach the standard of the MOT and compliance test.
Equalities	None.
Finance	There would be a slight increase in revenue if more of this type of vehicle became licensed.
Health & Safety	None
Legal Implications/ Human Rights	None
Sustainability	Vehicle is fuel efficient and environmentally friendly.
Ward-specific impacts	None.
Workforce/Workplace	None.

Situation

- 1 On 10th March 2010 members resolved to adopt amending the licensing conditions in respect of private hire vehicles to allow the licensing of Smart Cars. This follows an application to the Committee from a Justin Ott who

wished to be licensed as a Private Hire Operator based in Stansted trading as Cab4One.

- 2 At the same meeting members agreed to remove the condition that only the word cab could be displayed on a Hackney Carriage Vehicle.
- 3 This company is a member of ULODA and their stance is to welcome any new operator to this District with who they can work in partnership with. In addition this company are members of the National Safer Taxi Scheme and Quality Taxi Partnership.
- 4 It appears that initially this type of business was slow to take off but the operator is now building up a client base involving a National Airline and a charitable body conveying young clients to group events. Cab4One does have a website which contains an 'on line' booking facility. They forecast that the business will expand through their media campaign and meetings with local business groups.
- 5 Whilst this type of vehicle is only licensed to convey one passenger the operator does not see this as a disadvantage and there is sufficient space for luggage to be accommodated within which is accompanied by that single person. Mr Ott believes that he does offer a high quality of service for his customer base.
- 6 This matter is also due for review after a period of one year has elapsed.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
This type of vehicle would be unsuitable for transporting more than one passenger	4 – This vehicle is only designed to carry one passenger however if any additional passengers were carried then an offence would be committed.	1 – There are other operators within this District that offer a Private Hire Service.	The Committee when approving the licensing of a Smart Car did stress that it would only be licensed to carry one passenger.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.