

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 7

meeting date: 4 APRIL 2017
 title: REQUIREMENT FOR ELAP SEATS IN HACKNEY CARRIAGES
 submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
 principal author: MAIR HILL

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek Committee's view of the requirement of ELAP seats in Hackney Carriages

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives - }
- Corporate Priorities - } Consideration of these issues will promote the Council's aim to be a well-managed Council.
- Other Considerations - }

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council currently has 52 licensed hackney carriages of which 7 are required to have an ELAP seat. An ELAP seat is a rotating seat which assists disabled persons to get in and out of a vehicle and transfer to and from a wheelchair. An example of this type of seat can be viewed at <http://www.elap.co.uk/elap-rotating-car-seat>. The seat is a permanent fixture or modification to the vehicle and costs approximately £800.

3 ISSUES

3.1 A request has been made by a licence holder that when he replaces his current vehicle the requirement for the vehicle to be modified and fitted with an ELAP seat is removed and instead he be required to carry in his vehicle a swivel seat. He further suggests that it be made a requirement that all hackney carriages carry this type of seat to assist disabled passengers. An example of this type of seat can be viewed at <http://www.rica.org.uk/content/swivel-seats>.

3.2 The request is made on the basis that the ELAP seats are expensive to buy and fit, spoil the look of a vehicle, and the cheaper swivel seat is as effective and could be provided more widely and hence assisting a larger group of persons.

3.3 Committee is asked to consider whether this change is acceptable in principle. If Committee considers that it is not acceptable it is asked to consider in the alternative whether, licence holders and interested groups should be consulted on whether all other vehicles (i.e those not currently required to be fully wheel chair accessible or to have an ELAP seat) should be required to have a swivel seat of the type referred to in paragraph 3.1 above.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – Resources will be expended in consulting upon any change in requirements.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – No implications identified.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – The Council's reputation will be enhanced through consideration of this matter.
- Equality & Diversity –No implications identified

5. **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 5.1 Consider removing the requirement for ELAP seats where currently required in Hackney Carriages and replacing this with a requirement to carry swivel seats;
- 5.2 Consider introducing a requirement that all other hackney carriages carry swivel seats; and
- 5.3 Authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to consult license holders and interested parties upon the above.

MAIR HILL
SOLICITOR

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

For further information please ask for Mair Hill, extension 3216

REF: MJH/Licensing Committee/4 April 2017