

encourage the provision of swivel seats in all other licensed vehicles as they are useful for elderly people.

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 Retain the requirement for ELAP seats where currently required in Hackney Carriages;

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/13 June 2017

APPENDIX 1

please ask for: MAIR HILL
direct line: 01200 413216
e-mail: Mair.hill@ribblevalley.gov.uk
my ref: MJH
your ref:
date: 12 May 2017

Dear Sirs,

RE: ELAP Seats in licensed vehicles

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>.

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>.

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.

The issue was considered by the Council's Licensing Committee on 4 April 2017. Committee resolved that the Council should consult disability groups before it made a decision in principle rather than after. As such I would be grateful if you could respond on behalf of your organisation and provide its views on the following:

1. Should the requirement for ELAP seats be retained? If so please provide your reasons why.
2. Should all licensed vehicles be required to carry a swivel seat? Please provide your reasons for or against this proposal.

The next licensing committee is to be held on 13 June 2017 and so I would be grateful if you could provide me with your response by 2 June 2017.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

**MAIR HILL
SOLICITOR
RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**