

 Regulatory Committee 10th November 2008		Agenda Item No.
Title	Request by a hackney carriage proprietor to remove roof sign when the vehicle is not being used	
For further information about this report please contact	David Davies, Licensing Services Manager, Members' Services. Tel: 01926 456107. david.davies@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Members' Services	
Wards of the District directly affected	None	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	None	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report author's relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	29.10.2008	Robert Inman
Chief Executive		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Legal	29.10.2008	Simon Best
Finance	29.10.2008	Andy Crump
Portfolio Holder(s)	29.10.2008	Councillor Kinson
Consultation Undertaken		
None		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Mr Adrian Lewis, a hackney carriage proprietor, has requested permission to remove his roof sign when the vehicle is not being driven.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider the request from Mr. Lewis and decide if he should be granted this permission.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 One of the conditions attached to all hackney carriage vehicle licences is:

"The vehicle **must** display a **fixed** roof sign with the word "TAXI", **which must be illuminated only when plying for hire.**

THE TAXI ROOF SIGN MAY ONLY BE REMOVED WITH PERMISSION OF THE COUNCIL."

- 3.2 Officers have received a request from Mr. Lewis requesting that he should be permitted to remove his "Taxi" roof sign when the vehicle is being driven. His reasons for this are contained in his letter. (Appendix1)
- 3.3 No notification has been received from other proprietors about damage to signs.
- 3.4 Officers felt, when reviewing licensing conditions, that a permanently fixed sign that was not able to be removed was more appropriate. However, due to representations from the trade, who said that the vehicles would be damaged when fixing the sign to the roof, it was conceded that semi-permanent signs would be accepted.
- 3.5 Purpose built hackney carriages have fixed "taxi" signs that are not able to be removed.
- 3.6 The purpose of the "taxi" sign is that it readily identifies the vehicle as one that is permitted to be flagged down in the street, as opposed to private hire vehicles which are not permitted a roof sign.
- 3.7 Officers suggest that the solution to the problem for any proprietor who feels that the sign may be subject to this would be to make the sign permanently fixed.
- 3.8 Officers do not feel that permission should be given as a hackney carriage vehicle, once licensed, is always a hackney carriage vehicle and must permanently remain readily identifiable as such.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The alternative is to leave the policy regarding "taxi" roof signs in place.

5. BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 This report has no budgetary considerations for the Council.

6. POLICY FRAMEWORK

6.1 None

7. **BACKGROUND**

7.1 None.