

REPORT NUMBER WSC 41/12
PRESENTED BY KAY O'SULLIVAN – LICENSING OFFICER
DATE 15 MARCH 2012

HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE PLATES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Members of an alternative plating system for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles in West Somerset.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That Members approve the use of the VIP system for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle licence plates, for use on licensed vehicles from the 1st May 2012.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

Risk Matrix

Description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall
Illegal use of plates when not returned	2	2	4
<i>Providing a different type and design of plate will help prevent Illegal use</i>	1	1	2

The scoring of the risks identified in the above table has been based on the scoring matrix. Each risk has been assessed and scored both before the mitigation measures have been actioned and after they have.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1. As Members are aware, each Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle licensed by this authority must display a licence plate on the rear of the vehicle, and a small plate in the interior. The cost of producing the plates is included in the licence fee.
- 4.2. West Somerset Council has used the current MOGO licensing plate system for some years. During that time, only minor changes have been made to the style and layout of the plates. The plates are printed and assembled in the Licensing Unit.
- 4.3. An alternative system operated by VIP systems, is available. The system is still an in-house system whereby the plates are printed and assembled by the Licensing Unit.

4.4. The main differences between the two systems are outlined below:

	MOGO	VIP
Fixing external plate to vehicle	Licence holder takes plate and fixes to vehicle via sticky tape or drilling holes in the boot The plate is renewed each year. MOGO offer several types of fixing, some of which do not involve drilling	On new applications, the licence holder must fix the platform to the vehicle. VIP offers several types of fixing, some of which do not involve drilling. The platform remains on the vehicle and on renewal, only the plate is removed / attached using special fixings
Internal Plate	Hard plate held in windscreen pouch	Paper plate held in windscreen pouch
Ease of removal by Licensing Authority in event of enforcement	If the plate is securely fixed to the vehicle, some damage may be caused when the officer attempts to remove the plate	VIP fixings are secured by quick release button and key sets. The plate can be removed with no damage to the vehicle
Recycling	MOGO plates are recycled by MOGO. The redundant plates are retained in the Licensing Unit and collected by a representative of MOGO on a 6 – 12 monthly basis	VIP plates can be shredded or cut up

4.5 If Members nominate to approve the use of the VIP system for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicles, commencing their use from the 1st May 2012, the renewal date for Private Hire Vehicles, it would complement the implementation of the new Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Regulations from the 1st March 2012. There are no changes to the design of the plates, which still show the Council logo therefore no changes to the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire policy would be required.

5. FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. If the VIP system were to be approved, there would be an increase in the cost of purchasing the system in the first year of £108.81 against the cost of remaining with MOGO. This is due to the need to purchase a laminator and the platforms. In the second and following years it is anticipated there would be a saving of £267.54 each year.

5.2. The VIP system is compatible with Northgate and will migrate information without the need for duplicate entry of information.

5.3. It is proposed that there would be no charge for the platform on first application (or renewal), however a charge would be made for replacement thereafter. In addition, a small number of sticking accessory kits would be purchased for direct sale to the proprietors on request. As it is not possible to anticipate how many will be sold, it is proposed to charge a small additional fee for the kits.

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTS

6.1. The VIP system appears to offer more cost-effectiveness in the long-term, following the initial purchase.

7. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are no perceived equality and diversity implications in respect of this report.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1. There are no perceived crime and disorder implications in respect of this report.

9. CONSULTATION IMPLICATIONS

9.1. No consultation has been undertaken in respect of this report.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1. There are no asset management implications in respect of this report.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

11.1. There are no perceived environmental impact implications in respect of this report.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12.1. There are no perceived legal implications in respect of this report.

REPORT TO A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON 15TH MARCH 2012

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