



Licensing Committee

Item
7

22 March 2023

Report of	Safety and Protection Manager	Author	Sarah White 506420
Title	Electronic Payment Devices in Licensed Vehicles//Policy Changes		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed changes to the Council's Penalty Point Scheme in relation to the requirement that all licensed vehicles are to be equipped with the means to accept electronic payments in addition to cash. The report also details the proposed changes to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 To recommend to full Council that the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Policy be amended as set out in Paragraphs 6 and 7 of this report.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 The Council has committed to keeping the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy under review to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and is responsive to the changing licensing environment.
- 3.2 Electronic payments have become the norm for a large percentage of the population, and it is considered that the requirement to have facilities to accept such payments should be included within the Policy. Many drivers/operators already make provision for electronic payments but there is disparity across the trade which is causing problems for some customers and in the case of hackney carriage vehicles, compromises the principle that the taxi at the head of the rank, takes the next fare. The refusal of fares by the driver at the head of the rank because they are unable to take electronic payments is another source of complaint to the Council.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 To leave the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy unaltered.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 At its meeting on 18 January 2023 the Sub-Committee considered the responses of the trade to the consultation on the proposal to require licensed vehicles to be equipped with the means to accept electronic payments in addition to cash.
- 5.2 The Committee resolved to recommend to full Council that the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy be amended to require licensed vehicles to be fitted with the means to accept electronic payments in addition to cash.
- 5.3 The Committee requested officers look again at the level of penalty points to be applied for failing to have the means to accept electronic payments.

6. Changes to the Penalty Point Scheme

- 6.1 The penalty point scheme has been reviewed and it is suggested that the points for contravention of the requirement to have and operate an electronic payment device be reduced from the originally proposed 4 to 3 points. This change will bring the points into line with those given for first offences for a variety of other matters.

113	Failure to comply with the requirements relating to the provision and/or operation of an electronic payment device		x	x	x
	1 st offence	3			
	2 nd offence	6			
	3 rd offence	9			
	4 th offence	12			

7. Proposed amendments to the Policy

- 7.1 Set out below are the proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

7.2 Annex 2 – Hackney Carriage Vehicles Licensing Standards and Conditions

Pre-Licensing Standards and Conditions

15. Electronic Payment Device

- 15.1 The vehicle must be equipped with an electronic payment device.

Conditions of Licence

21. Electronic Payment Device

- 21.1 Vehicles must be equipped with the means to accept electronic payments in addition to cash. The vehicle must have a Colchester City Council approved electronic payment device (see 21.2 below) which can accept an electronic payment.

21.2 Approved Electronic Payment methods

BarclayElectronic payment/App
Cab:app Ltd (Miura M010)
Cabvision Network Ltd (Ingenico)
Elavon
Farepay Ltd (Miura M010)
Ingenico
iZettle (Miura M010)
LoPay
Payataxi (Miura M010)
PayPal (Miura M010)
SquareApp
SumUp (Miura M010)
Viva Wallet
Worldpay

Further electronic payment methods/Apps may be used upon application to, and approval by, the Council.

21.3 The Council considers the electronic payment facility to be part of the vehicle and as such it must be working at all times.

21.4 The vehicle must display the Colchester City Council approved stickers on both the rear passenger window and inside the vehicles indicating that debit and credit card payments are now taken.

21.5 If the means of making electronic payments is not working this must be reported immediately to the Council. The Council must be notified when any problems have been resolved and the payment facility is again operational.

21.6 If there is concern that the electronic payment facility may not work at the destination point, a fare may be agreed and paid in advance for the journey. This is permitted on condition that the meter is used, and if the metered charge is less than the agreed payment for the journey, the overpayment is refunded.

7.3 **Annex 3 – Private Hire Vehicles Licensing Standards and Conditions**

Pre-Licensing Standards and Conditions

15. Electronic Payment Device

15.1 The vehicle must be equipped with an electronic payment device.

Conditions of Licence

21. Electronic Payment Device

21.1 Vehicles must be equipped with the means to accept electronic payments in addition to cash. The vehicle must have a Colchester City Council approved electronic payment terminal (see 21.2 below) which can accept an electronic payment.

21.2 Approved Electronic Payment methods

BarclayElectronic payment/App
Cab:app Ltd (Miura M010)
Cabvision Network Ltd (Ingenico)
Elavon
Farepay Ltd (Miura M010)
Ingenico
iZettle (Miura M010)
LoPay
Payataxi (Miura M010)
PayPal (Miura M010)
SquareApp
SumUp (Miura M010)
Viva Wallet
Worldpay

Further Electronic payment methods/Apps may be used upon application to, and approval by, the Council.

21.3 The Council considers the electronic payment facility to be part of the vehicle and as such it must be working at all times.

21.4 The vehicle must display the Colchester City Council approved stickers on both the rear passenger window and inside the vehicles indicating that debit and credit card payments are now taken.

21.5 If the means of making electronic payments is not working this must be reported immediately to the Council. The Council must be notified when any problems have been resolved and the payment facility is again operational.

21.6 If there is concern that the electronic payment facility may not work at the destination point, a request can be made to pay in advance for the journey.

8. Standard References

8.1 There are no particular references to the strategic plan; consultation; community safety; health and safety or risk management, financial, equality diversity and human rights or publicity implications from the changes set out in this report.