

RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION



Decision taken by individual Cabinet member (delete as appropriate)

(All sections must be completed (mark "N/A" as applicable))

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| DECISION MAKER <i>Cllr Christine Guinness – Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder</i> |
| DECISION AND THE REASON(S) FOR IT To amend the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy in accordance with the recommendations made in the report to change the design of taxi plates, to allow them to better fit vehicles, improve environmental impact and reduce costs. |
| DATE DECISION TAKEN 22/09/2025 |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED <i>(Those examined by officers and generated by consultation, etc)</i> <i>None</i> |
| ANY CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED <i>(conflict of interests of any executive member who is consulted by the officer which relates to the decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).</i> <i>None known</i> |

Signed _____
(Decision maker)

Signed _____
(Cabinet member consultee where applicable)

Designation Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder

Please send completed form to Chris Todd, Democracy and Community

22nd SEPTEMBER 2025

Key Decision? No

Report No. OS2513

**PROPOSED VARIATIONS TO THE
COUNCIL's TAXI LICENSING POLICY**

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

This report sets out proposals to amend the current taxi licensing policy. The proposals and options have been identified to improve security, reduce cost and improve the environmental impact.

The Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder is requested to approve the recommended amendments to policy.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Increasingly, Officers are finding it difficult to affix taxi plates to licensed vehicles, as the current design requires the plate to be fixed into a rigid bracket, which can only attach to straight, flat surfaces of the vehicle.
- 1.2. In looking for alternative options, consideration has also been given to whether there is a more environmentally friendly option, and to reducing cost to the Council, and therefore the taxi trade
- 1.3. The Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Service Portfolio Holder is requested to approve the recommended amendments to policy.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. S.38 and S.51 of The Town Police Clauses Act 1847 requires that a numbered plate is attached to any licensed hackney carriage vehicle, and that the number of passengers that can be carried by the vehicle is also displayed.
- 2.2. S.48(5) of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 requires Private Hire vehicles to be issued with a plate or disc identifying the vehicle as a private hire vehicle.

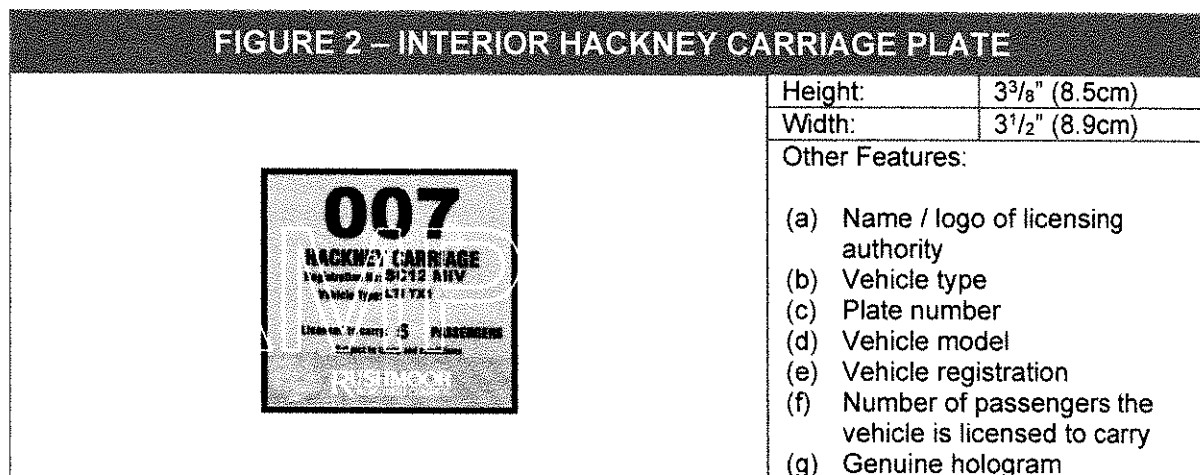
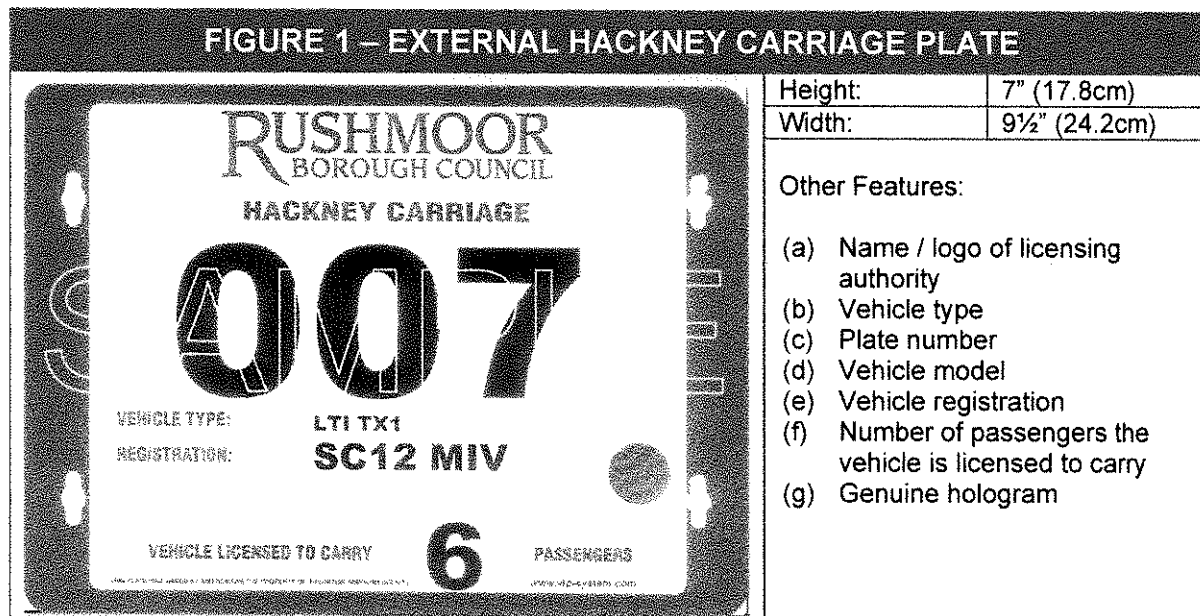
- 2.3. In addition to the information required in legislation, the current plate design includes the registration number, make and model of the vehicle and the expiry date of the vehicle licence. This means that the plate is replaced every time the vehicle licence is renewed (at least annually).
- 2.4. The information on both private hire and hackney carriage vehicles is the same, with a different colour used for each. Current plate designs and colours have been in place for many years, therefore it is not proposed to significantly change the way they look, as this may be confusing for residents.
- 2.5. Given the difficulties that officers have experienced fixing taxi plates to vehicles, a review has been carried out with our taxi plate supplier to identify more flexible options. They have advised that they offer a plate that can be stuck directly on to the vehicle, which can therefore be stuck regardless of any curves in the vehicle shape.
- 2.6. In making a recommendation, consideration has also been given to improving environmental impact and cost reduction.
- 2.7. In accordance with the scheme of delegation, decisions in respect of policy updates are made by the relevant Portfolio Holder.

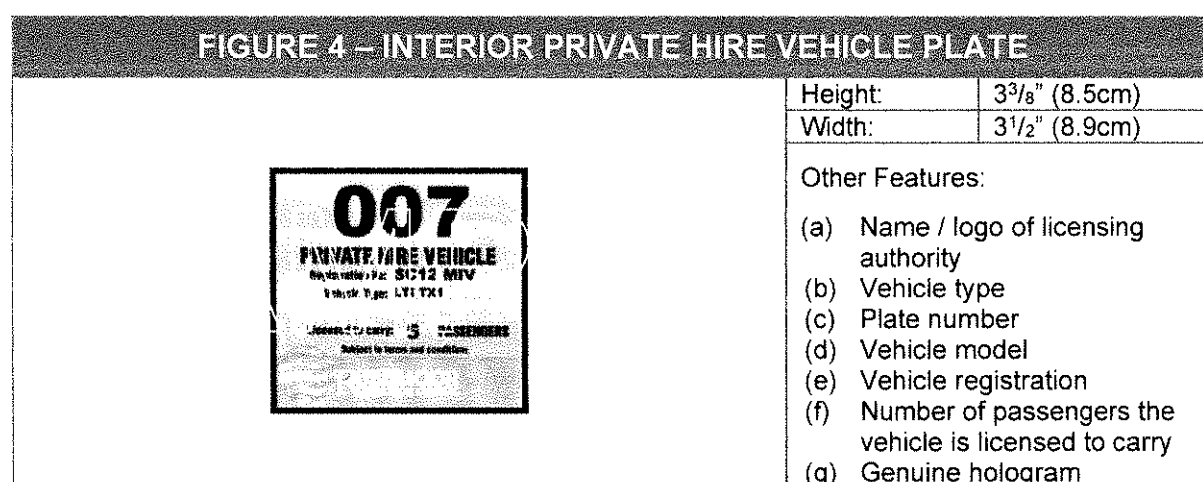
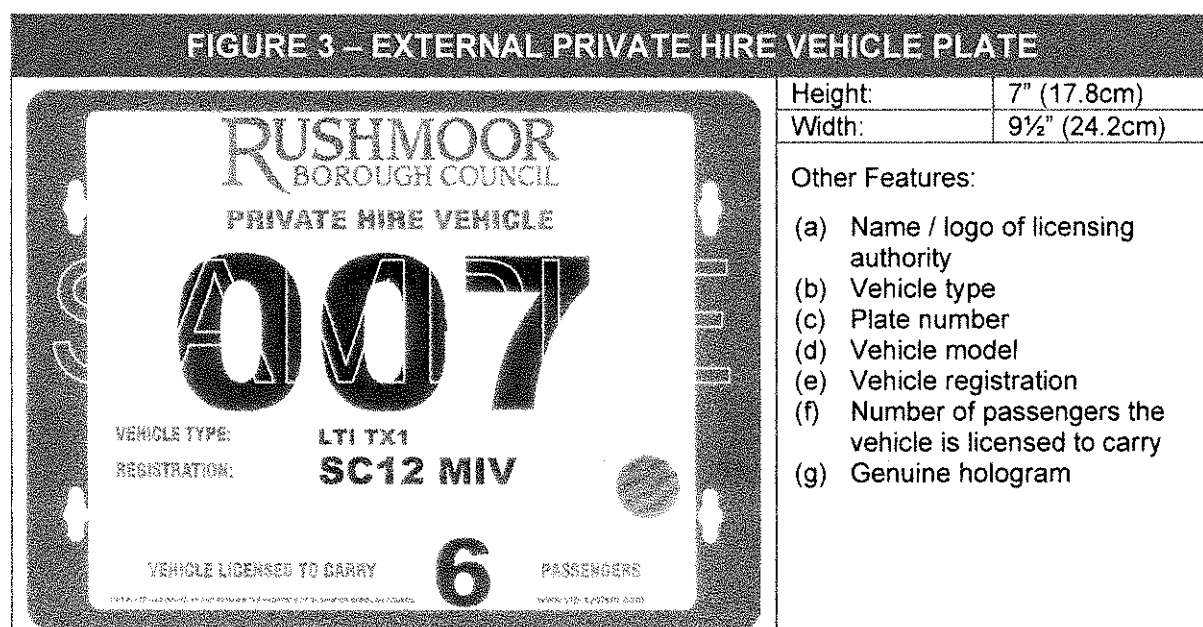
3. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS

- 3.1. Whilst changing to stick on plates does not require a policy change, the design of the plates is specified in policy and therefore would require a change. Moving to stick on plates is more secure (as once removed, the plates would not be able to be easily re-attached to another vehicle), and also more environmentally friendly as they attach directly to the vehicle without the need for a plastic frame which is currently required.
- 3.2. In considering the environmental impact, this could be further lessened by removing the expiry date from the plate design. This would mean that the plate does not need to be replaced each time the licence is renewed. The expiry date is not required by law, and the licensing authority require plates to be returned on the expiry, suspension, revocation or surrender of the licence. Therefore, there is no need for this to be displayed.
- 3.3. Removing the expiry date, would also reduce the cost to the licensing authority and therefore the taxi trade, as there would be no cost of producing new plates each time a licence is renewed.
- 3.4. Given these benefits, it is proposed that the expiry date is removed from both the internal and external plate design. With no other changes, this would not be a significant change to how the plates look and therefore is unlikely to cause confusion to residents / passengers.

3.5. Private Hire Vehicles are also required to display side plates. It is proposed that the design of these is amended slightly to make the name of the licensing authority more prominent.

3.6. Images of the proposed designs are given below:





3.7. It is proposed that the changes are implemented with immediate effect, and the new designs are used as plates are provided through the usual renewal process.

Consultation

3.8. There has been no consultation on the recommended updates to the policy as they are not considered to have a significant impact.

4. IMPLICATIONS (of proposed course of action)

Risks

4.1. There are no risks associated with this report.

Legal Implications

- 4.2. There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications

- 4.3. The reduction in the number of plates issued will result in less cost to the Council and therefore to the taxi trade.

Resource Implications

- 4.4 There are no resource implications associated with this report.

Equalities Impact Implications

- 4.5 There are no equalities impact implications associated with this report. The equality impact assessment produced at the time that the review of the taxi licensing policy was carried out remains current.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 To resolve issues with attaching taxi plates to licensed vehicles, improve the environmental impact of taxi plates and reduce cost the Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services Portfolio Holder is requested to approve the recommended amendments to policy.

LIST OF APPENDICES/ANNEXES:

None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

CONTACT DETAILS:

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