

A.3 MAXIMUM AGE THAT A VEHICLE MAY BE LICENSED AS A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE

(Report prepared by Alan Tolmie)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek Members' approval to amend the age limit at which a vehicle is no longer eligible to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A request has been received from the Tendering District Taxi Drivers Association (TDTA) to increase the age at which a taxi may be licensed from the current 10 years old to a maximum of 12 years old, subject to the vehicle being mechanically and bodily sound.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members agree to:-

- a) Amend the policy to allow vehicles to be licensed as Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicles until aged twelve, provided that they are mechanically and bodily sound and**
- b) Subject to (a) above, a fee of £10 per mechanical test be levied to cover the extra time needed for the additional inspection undertaken for vehicles over 10 years old.**

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

This amendment would support the Council's Corporate Strategy in promoting sustainable economic growth.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

Any additional cost to the Authority would be offset by the proposed levy.

Risk

If the proposed amendment was not adopted it could, in the current financial climate, lead to an increase in unemployment as drivers may not be able to afford to change their vehicles and therefore have to cease trading.

LEGAL

The proposed action is within the Council's discretionary powers.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder/Equality and Diversity/Consultation/Public Engagement.

CRIME AND DISORDER

There are no Crime and Disorder issues.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken, which confirmed that there were no implications arising that directly affect equality and diversity issues.

AREA/WARDS AFFECTED

All wards

CONSULTATION

Staff in the Council's workshop, which undertakes the mechanical tests, have been consulted and the amendment, if approved, would pose no significant burden on staff.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION**BACKGROUND**

Modern vehicles, through an increase in technology and improved construction methods, maintain a presentable outward appearance and are generally mechanically sound for a longer period.

Due to an increase in overheads, drivers are finding it difficult to find the finances to change their vehicles, as required under the current policy. They have, therefore, requested that the Council amend its policy to allow vehicles to be licensed as Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicles up to the age of 12 years, providing that the vehicles pass the enhanced mechanical test which will be applied to vehicles aged 10 years and over.

CURRENT POSITION

Members may be aware that at a meeting of the Control and Protection Committee held on 9 September 1987, Minute 84 refers, a Policy was introduced which limited the age to which a vehicle, other than an FX4 type Hackney Carriage, could be licensed as a taxi to ten years from the date of first registration.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDIX

None