

**LICENSING  
COMMITTEE**

7<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**CONSIDERATION OF A REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND  
PRIVATE HIRE AGE LIMITS**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Yvonne Smith
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

Members are asked to consider whether they wish to conduct a review of the age limits for vehicles that are set out in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policies

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That Members RESOLVE whether or not they would like a report to be brought to a future Licensing Committee setting out options for amending the existing applicable age limits for vehicles that are set out in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policies.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The costs involved in carrying out the review, including any necessary consultation, would need to be met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 Council's are free to adopt policies on the licensing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. These policies can include requirements relating to the age of vehicles that the Council will consider issuing licences in respect of. However each case must be considered on its own merits and the Council can depart from its own policies and grant a licence in respect of a vehicle that does not meet the normal requirements in policy where there are exceptional reasons for doing so.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 The Council's existing Private Hire Vehicle Policy was approved in July 2013 and the Council's Hackney Carriage Vehicle Policy was approved in November 2013.
- 3.4 These policies both contain requirements in relation to the age of vehicles. A summary of the vehicle age requirement is shown in the table at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.5 It is open to applicants to request that the Council departs from its normal policies if there are exceptional reasons for doing so. Where a person submits an application to licence a vehicle that does not meet the Council's policy, the application is referred to a Licensing Sub-Committee for consideration and determination.
- 3.6 Officers have noticed an increase in the number of applications being submitted where the vehicle does not comply with the Council's policy. For example an increasing number of applicants are requesting that licences for vehicles are renewed after they have reached the upper age limit set out in the policies.
- 3.7 Between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016 there have been a total of ten applications for licences for vehicles that did not meet the age requirements set out in the Council's policy.
- 3.8 Four of these applications related to applications for licences to use a vehicle as a hackney carriage three being granted and one refused. The remaining six applications were for licences to use vehicles as private hire vehicles. Five of these were granted and one application was withdrawn.
- 3.9 Officers recognise that arranging and attending Licensing Sub-Committees is costly and time consuming for both the Council and licence applicants. Therefore, in light of the number of occasions this year that Sub-Committees have resolved to grant licences to vehicles that fall outside the policy requirements, Members are asked to consider whether they wish to review these requirements.
- 3.10 Specifically Members are asked to consider whether they would like to receive a report from officers at a future Licensing Committee setting out various options for amending the existing applicable age limits for vehicles that are set out in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policies.

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- 3.11 Members are reminded that any proposed amendments to the Council's policies would need to be subject to appropriate consultation with relevant stakeholders.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 None

**5. APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 – Table Setting Out Existing Age Requirements for Licensed Vehicles

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