

**Reasons given by those who answered “Councillors (on a Licensing Sub-Committee)”**

Simon Deakin should decide as he the only Qualified individual and can give a FAIR and proper judgement regarding renewal exceeding 10 years.

I believe that the licensing committee will benefit from direct contact with drivers on this issue and will soon understand the problems and hardship that this policy brings.

Now a days the vehicle prices goes sky high and it's really hard to purchase a new vehicle. Specially when the business is not as it should before Covid . so if the vehicle is passed through MOT stations then councils should uplift the age policy. Because if the vehicle is in good condition and road worthy as well so why we the driver has to follow the age policy. I think so the council should have to think about drivers as well that in this competitive world it's really hard to change vehicle.

Licensing officers develop relationships with the Taxi Drivers and will not be as impartial. However, having 3 Councilors and the licensing officer with the legal officer is much more transparent

More fair with 3 people

As a councillor, I believe this is a fairer method and open to scrutiny. It is a fairer decision-making process with 3 sets of eyes and an agreement on the condition of vehicle between Councillors often from different Party's.

Overall a fairer system.

**COUNCILLORS ARE ELECTED  
MAKE THEM WORK**

**THEY ARE FAIRER AS THEY HAVE TO AGREE ON A FAIR DECISION**

They have agreed to pass my Taxi and I am grateful as the cost of newer car is too much at this time.

Good and different elected councillors.

Councillors give confidence to the system.
Same as everywhere else
The Councillors can be responsible for maintaining high standards and are elected to do so.
The directly elected and accountable people.
Councillors give confidence to the public as we voted for them.
Make the councillors work, they are chosen for these duties.
Three equals Three sets of eyes Three from opposing political parties
Works ok Stop wasting money
Licensing Officers are not independent enough of Redditch Council
Councillors should be responsible and should have the Taxi tester there as well to have his opinion. I have been through this process and found the councillors not very knowledgeable when it comes to vehicle standards. The tester employed by the council will know the car very well and really only needs him to write a report.
Fair
Don't trust council only
Fairer to have 3 independent people that normally don't work well together
As elected reps for public

It's what they get paid for and are elected to do in these committees

Councillors are our elected representatives.  
Council staff are not elected and it seems they are seeking power.  
If they want more peers, tell them to stand and be elected.

Taxi drivers can't influence 3 councillors where they could be more friendly with one or two Council Officers

My dad is a Taxi driver and he recently found the system to be fair.  
He did not see the need for a change but we should not be kept waiting so long by the council. Have more regular committees but with Councillors.

I believe Councillors would have a more open and un-biased opinion as they do not deal with the operator or its drivers on a regular basis.  
The system was only changed due to Covid and was only ever meant to be an emergency (temporary) arrangement.

### Reasons given by those who answered “Licensing Officers”

Be more easier and would not have to wait for a date I think Crossgate should check the vehicle as they test it they know if the vehicle is roadworthy

I personally think that crossgate tester should make the decision on the matter as he or she checks the vehicles and knows how safe and roadworthy they are.

The reason is it would leave councillors more time to do other important work it's much easier for drivers to have done at Crossgates it's saves time for drivers for waiting up to 2 months to be seen by councillors

The primary source of information on whether a vehicle is warranted an extension or not should lay with the people inspecting them. If they deem the vehicle roadworthy then a licensing officer may wish to check the physical appearance of ether car, and whether it is suitable for members of the public to be transported in.

I've never understood why councillors on a sub committee would ever be the deciding factor in regards to liven extension when they have no knowledge of vehicle maintenance, inspection, and in fact only base their decision on their own opinion.

Extensions should not be based on opinion.

Is the vehicle roadworthy and kept to a good standard? YES OR NO

Is there anything about the appearance of the vehicle that affects its roadworthiness? YES OR NO?

If answer to both are NO, the vehicle should be granted an extension.

If the vehicle is deemed roadworthy (mechanically) but may have some cosmetic damage, then I feel a temporary extension is giving and the owner just have remedial work done within a set time period.

As a company owner, in an ideal world we want all driver to have nice expensive cars for our clients, but the reality is it's not affordable. We also don't have the level of clientele to warrant spending large amounts on executive saloons. Taxis are often abused by passengers and therefore most driver will buy cheaper. We should be encouraging drivers to spend a little bit more with the premise that extensions are likely if they maintain their vehicles to a reasonable standard.

Licensing officers because they have better idea of what's going on

Simply because, we are getting battered as it is, it's costing £500 a week before we are making money, councillors are parasites who only want brown envelopes , don't let these vile people anywhere near this

I had my Vehicle inspected for an Extension in Covid by the Licensing Officer, Tom Phelan. Under the circumstances, I thought he did an Excellent job and I would definitely recommend Licensing Officers to take on this role.

In my opinion the person at cross gate who inspect the vehicle is the best person rather then councillors or licensing officer.

It will be cost effective and less time consuming, if the MOT tester has passed the vehicle then a licencing officer can be present to reduce time to come with a out come, in appose to councillors who have no clue about the car.

Just makes sense  
Why hold a meeting a the council when an officer can make the desision  
Holding a meetings seems like a waste of money

To save time and cost.

Saves time, they are more qualified than a committee. Should also include mot examiner as he knows the vehicle better than everyone.

Only concern is that there might be some bias towards some drivers. As the general feeling in the trade is that those drivers and operators who get on with licencing officers, will probably get below standard vehicles passed.

I believe that the majority of Councillors do not have mechanical skills qualifications. this is a very specialized area of expertise which could lead to serious consequences if the wrong decision was taken.  
There should be no compromise when it comes to the safety of the travelling public , clearly it is in the best interests of all that this should be delegated to responsible officers who can ensure that the vehicle is safe for the travelling public.

The officers are the professionals in this field, not untrained councillors. It would speed up the process allowing for a taxi to get on the road and earning again.  
It would remove the anxiety of thing up in front of a courtroom style committee and also save the council time and money.

Because they are more operational

The licensing officer are better equipped to decide whether or not to renew the vehicle as opposed to councillors, who are not specialised in this field.

Councillors should stick to running the council and their constituency needs, not dabbling in taxi licensing which is above their intellect.

Moreover we believe if the vehicle is passed by the Crossgate Depot then that should be sufficient, if the vehicle is pristine mechanical condition.

It doesn't take 6 people to check a vehicle can be done at cross gates more convenient for me

licensing officer has the complete MOT and test record and report recieved every six months with Vehecle Exminer reviews and he/she knows better wether to allow or disallow .  
Regards

It's more convenient and shud not take 2 month

They would know

Hi there ,I had an experienced both of them and I think licensing officers decision is more practical and more beneficial for drivers and for council as well and the reason are.

- ☆)It's a long wait for the committee to give u date and time.
- ☆)They changed the date without any notice in committee and you have no other option to come on that given time.
- ☆)It's a long wait for the appearance in front of councillors.
- ☆)Sometime there is a parking issue when u come to town hall for committee.
- ☆)So many people on the same day.
- ☆)Licencing officers wasting no time and vehicle inspected on given date in 10 mins.

Save the time and money also they know much better then local sitting councillors 6ppl occupied for nothing  
I think Simon and enforcement can make better decisions

If a Licensing Officer actually examines the vehicle which the 3 Councillors would not then the Licensing Officers are better placed to make an informed decision.