

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Licensing Committee named meeting dated

Information Report – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Renewal Upper Age Limits

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor M. Stringfellow
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – Director of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Report Author	Job Title: Principal Officer - Licensing Contact email: hazel.powell@worcestershire.gov.uk Contact Tel: 01562 738054
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	No
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 **Members are asked to note the contents of this report.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members have previously queried the number of applications received for hackney carriage and private hire licences which fall outside of the current policy in terms of vehicle age limits.
- 2.2 The current hackney carriage and private hire vehicle age requirements for both new and renewal licence applications are set out in section 3.0 to 3.5 of the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, given as **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 At a Licensing Committee held on the 8th December Members requested an information report to consider whether the current policy around the upper vehicle age limits is suitable and functional.
- 2.4 Members were concerned a high proportion of vehicles were being presented at Sub committee and being granted a licence due to their exceptional standards.

3. OPERATIONAL PROGRESS

- 3.1 Hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licences may be issued to vehicles that fall outside of the vehicle age policy providing that the vehicle presented for licensing is of an 'exceptional standard'.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Licensing Committee named meeting dated

3.2 In the past 3 years between February 2023 and February 2026, the Council has received and considered 95 applications to licence a vehicle outside of the vehicle age policy.

3.3 Of these 95 vehicles determined only 9 have ever been refused. A breakdown of the last three years by process are outlined below:

	Vehicles Determined (Feb 23 – Feb 26)	Vehicles Refused (Feb 23 – Feb 26)
Licensing Sub committee	63	4
Under Delegated Decision	32	5

3.4 At the time of writing this report, the total number of licensed vehicles on the taxi fleet is 415, which consists of 182 hackney carriage vehicles and 233 private hire vehicles.

3.5 A benchmarking exercise has been carried out setting out comparable vehicle age limits with neighbouring local authorities within and bordering Worcestershire. The information is presented at **Appendix 2**.

3.6 To get a greater understanding of the presentation of vehicle conditions further discussions have been had with Crossgates Garage engineers.

3.7 Engineers emphasised that on average the age limits currently set are appropriate but could be extended by another year, particularly for Euro 6 (diesel) and Euro 4 (petrol) which make up most of the taxi and private hire fleet. They also commented that vehicle condition can be very varied and can be dependant on other factors than just age alone, including make and model, mileage and the upkeep maintained by the proprietor.

3.8 If Members wanted to revisit the current upper age limit, then such a recommendation would be placed onto the Licensing Committee workplan for officers to review and to continue further research.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This is an information report only, no financial implications have been identified.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Licensing Committee named meeting dated

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The licensing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles is regulated by the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 along with the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.
- 5.2 A Council which sets out a vehicle age limit within their licensing policy and wish to reconsider a change in policy must consult with stakeholders and consider responses prior to any implementation of a change in policy.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 6.1 Not applicable, this report is for information only.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.2 This information is for information only; no climate change implications have been identified.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.3 This report is for information only however should a change to policy be recommended then an initial equality impact assessment would be conducted.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 This information is for information only; no risks have been identified.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
(Part)

Appendix 2 – Vehicle Age Policy Benchmarking

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
------------	--------------------	------

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Licensing Committee named meeting dated

Portfolio Holder	Please record the name of the relevant Portfolio Holder who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Lead Director / Head of Service	Please record the name of the relevant lead Director / Head of Service who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Financial Services	Please record the name of the relevant Officer in Financial Services who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Legal Services	Please record the name of the relevant Officer in Legal Services who has signed off the report here.	Please give the date they signed off the report here.
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)	If applicable, please record the name of the relevant Officer in the Policy team who has signed off the report here.	If applicable, please give the date they signed off the report here.
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	If applicable, please record the name of the relevant Officer in the Climate Change team who has signed off the report here.	If applicable, please give the date they signed off the report here.