

**RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Decision title</b>	Temporary relaxation of vehicle age policy – hackney carriages and private hire vehicles
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	None
<b>3.</b>	<b>Date of decision</b>	18 October 2023
<b>4.</b>	<b>Decision maker</b>	Deputy City Mayor - Housing and Neighborhoods
<b>5</b>	<b>Decision taken</b>	<p>i) To temporarily relax the vehicle age policy to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicles must be no older than 6 years when first licensed</li> <li>• Vehicles must be no older than 12 years when renewed</li> </ul> <p>ii) The temporary relaxation of the vehicle age policy will take effect immediately and eligible vehicles must be renewed before the date the vehicle licence expires.</p> <p>iii) Notwithstanding ii), in the interests of good relations with the trade, vehicles that expired from 18 September 2023 may also be licensed for an additional year if they meet all of the usual pre-licensing requirements no later than 14 October 2023.</p> <p>iv) All vehicles that are relicensed under this temporary policy must pass an additional inspection at the Vehicle Testing Station – ie, an inspection every four months as opposed to the current requirement for an inspection every six months.</p> <p>v) The temporary relaxation of the vehicle age policy shall continue until such time as the permanent age policy has been consulted upon and a decision has been made on the permanent age policy.</p>

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER

6.	<b>Reason for decision</b>	<p>In response to the request from the trade representatives, it has been agreed that the vehicle age policy will be reviewed. It is necessary to undertake a formal consultation and to consider the options carefully, which will take several months. In the meantime, we know that taxi licence holders are struggling to make a reasonable living.</p> <p>All vehicles must meet the council's pre-licensing requirements, including a formal inspection at the Vehicle Testing Station, to ensure that the vehicle meets minimum safety requirements.</p> <p><i>Upper age limit – temporarily increase to 12 years</i> There are a small number of licensed vehicles approaching the upper age limit in the 6 months to the end of March 2024. It is considered that the impact of retaining them for an additional 12 months will be negligible to the council but significant to the individual licence holders.</p> <p>There is one hackney carriage that expired on 19 September 2023 and is now overage, and one private hire vehicle that expired on 22 September that is now overage. In the interests of fairness, it is proposed that both proprietors be contacted by Licensing staff to advise that they may license these vehicles for an additional year.</p> <p><i>Entry age limit – temporarily increase to 6 years</i> Noting comments from trade representatives about the cost and availability of replacement vehicles, it is considered appropriate to also temporarily increase the age at which a vehicle may be licensed for the first time from 5 years to 6 years. This should give licence holders who need to replace their licensed vehicle some more leeway during the cost-of-living crisis.</p>
----	----------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER

7.	<p><b>A) KEY DECISION Yes/No?</b></p> <p>b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? Yes/no</p>	No
8.	<p><b>Options considered</b></p>	<p>1) <i>Retain the existing vehicle age policy during consultation on a new policy</i> The consultation is likely to take several months to complete, analyse and report upon. During this time it is anticipated that some drivers will be forced out of the trade through being unable to afford a suitable replacement vehicle. These drivers may leave the trade altogether or may move to another licensing authority but continue to work in Leicester.</p> <p>2) <i>Temporarily relax the existing age policy during the consultation process with immediate effect.</i> Vehicle licence holders approached LCC for help, first raising this matter formally during a meeting held in June 2023. It is likely to take several months to consult on the proposed new policy, analyse the responses and submit a decision report. A temporary relaxation of the current policy during this period will allow licence holders a period of grace in a difficult financial climate. Vehicles must still meet the appropriate safety standards.</p> <p>3) <i>In addition to option 2, include a short backdate for vehicles whose licences have recently expired.</i> The proposal to temporarily relax the vehicle age policy was put forward by LCC at the follow up meeting in September and as a gesture of good faith it is right to apply the temporary relaxation from the week of the meeting.</p>

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL  
EXECUTIVE MEMBER

<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Deadline for call-in</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 members of a scrutiny commission or any 5 councillors can ask for the decision to be called-in.</li><li>• Notification of call-in with reasons must be made to the monitoring officer</li></ul>	<p>25 October 2023</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>Signature of decision maker</b> (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of executive member)</p>	