



Leicester
City Council

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FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Licensing and Public Safety Committee

24 April 2018

Temporary Relaxation of Taxi Age Policy for Hackney Carriages - update

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To inform the Committee of the current position regarding the temporary relaxation of the Taxi Age Policy for hackney carriages.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are asked to note the report.

3. Background

- 3.1 The current policy on vehicle age is that no vehicle will be licensed once it is over 11 years old. The policy approved by the City Mayor on 12 June 2012 permits no exceptions to the policy.
- 3.2 The proposal to introduce a temporary relaxation of the current policy was considered by the Licensing Committee on 13 July 2017, prior to a decision being made by the City Mayor.
- 3.3 On 31 August 2017 the City Mayor decided to introduce a temporary relaxation of the age policy. The details were as follows:
- a) Where any HC vehicle has a last licensable date between the date of the decision and 30 June 2018 then, on request of the owner, it will be relicensed to 30 June 2018 [the end of general moratorium date].
 - b) Where a HC vehicle has a last licensable date after the end of the general moratorium date then, on request of the owner and supply of evidence of a contract to purchase an approved ULEV, it will be relicensed for a period of 3 months [the delivery period] to accommodate delivery of the replacement vehicle.

- c) That authority is delegated to the Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services to defer, after consultation with the relevant Assistant Mayor/s, the end of general moratorium date.
- d) That authority is delegated to the Team Manager (Licensing Policy & Applications) and direct line managers to set, in exceptional circumstances, a different delivery period to facilitate replacement with an approved ULEV.
- e) That the relaxation arrangements will not extend beyond 31 March 2019.

4 Progress since September 2017

- 4.1 At the commencement of the temporary relaxation, there were 20 hackney carriages due to reach their 'end of life' under the Council's Age Policy between October 2017 and March 2018, and a further 26 between April and September 2018
- 4.2 Up to the end of March 2018, 7 of these vehicles have had their licences extended to 30 June 2018 and 17 have been replaced by other vehicles that meet the current age policy.
- 4.3 On 5 March 2018 the Licensing and Public Safety Committee approved the LEVC TX for licensing as a hackney carriage. This vehicle is an ultra-low emissions vehicle, and therefore hackney carriage owners now have the option of replacing their current vehicle with a ULEV.
- 4.4 It had been hoped that grant funding would be in place by April 2018, to assist hackney owners who wanted to replace their existing vehicle with a new ULEV. Delays in the process mean that grant funding is not in place, and is now expected in late summer/early autumn.
- 4.5 A second ULEV hackney carriage may become available later in 2018. If this is approved for licensing it would offer choice to hackney owners who want to purchase a new ULEV.

5 Update to temporary relaxation of age policy

- 5.1 Following consultation with the relevant Deputy City Mayors, the Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services has decided
 - a) To defer the end of the general moratorium date to 31 December 2018.
 - b) The temporary relation policy is consequently amended as follows: "Where any HC vehicle has a last licensable date between the date of the decision and 31 December 2018 then, on request of the owner, it will be relicensed to 31 December 2018 [the end of general moratorium date]."
 - c) To review the deferment in September 2018 (or sooner if appropriate)

5.2 The reasons for this decision are:

- a) Leicester City Council has an 11 year age policy for licensing vehicles as taxis. ULEV hackney cabs are not expected to be available for delivery before end June 2018 and the LCC grant scheme will not be available to taxi drivers until September 2018.
- b) This deferment is to advance the aims of Air Quality Plan 2015-26 by supporting owners of hackney carriages to replace their existing old hackney carriage with a new ULEV hackney carriage.

6 Financial, Legal and Other Implications

Financial Implications

6.1 There are no significant financial implications arising directly from this report.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance, ext. 37 4081

Legal Implications

6.2 It is for individual licensing authorities to reach their own decisions within their statutory powers on overall policies and individual licensing matters. It is therefore within the Authority's power to relax the Age Policy.

6.3 The power for the Council to license a Hackney Carriage/s is contained within Section 37 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the power to place conditions on the licensing of hackney carriages is contained in Section 47 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

6.4 Any contractual agreement between the Local Authority and a Hackney Carriage driver, cannot override statutory requirements.

John Moss, Solicitor – Legal Services

7 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/ NO	Paragraph/References Within the Report
Equal Opportunities	No	
Policy	Yes	The report refers to the council's age policy for hackney carriages
Sustainable and Environmental	Yes	Paragraphs 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3 concern air quality
Crime and Disorder	No	

Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly/People on Low Income	No	
Corporate Parenting	No	
Health Inequalities Impact	No	

8 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972
None

9 Consultations
None

10 Report Author
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