



Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Thursday, 07 December 2023	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy Review**

Report Author(s): **Tracey Aldwinckle (Licensing Enforcement Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	To agree changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy (hereafter the Policy) after consultation with hackney carriage and private hire drivers had taken place.
Report Summary:	To propose changes to the policy after consultation to promote low emission licenced vehicles, encourage more wheelchair accessibility and clarify age and executive vehicle criteria.
Recommendation(s):	A. Approve the proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy (2023) provided at Appendix 3. B. That delegated authority be given to the Head of Law and Democracy and the Senior Strategic Development Manager to determine, interpret and apply the Policy for all relevant matters.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	David Gill (Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Jon Wells (Senior Strategic Development Manager) (0116) 257 269 jon.wells@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Tracey Aldwinckle (Licensing Enforcement Officer) (0116) 257 2689 tracey.alwinckle@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Strategic Objectives:	Our Communities (SO2) Our Council (SO1) Our Environment (SO4) Our Partners (SO5)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Customer & Community Focused (V1)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Economy / Regeneration (CR9) Key Supplier / Partnership Failure (CR2)

Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	All Oadby and Wigston licensed Hackney and Private Hire Drivers.
Background Papers:	Licensing and Regulatory Committee, 21 September 2023, agenda item 16, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy Review (September 2023).
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consultation Responses Summary 2. Revised Vehicle Inspection Form 3. Proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy (2023)

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 On 21st September 2023, the Licensing and Regulatory Committee agreed for Officers to consult with drivers on some proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy (2021) for all licensed drivers with the Council.
- 1.2 The consultation asked for drivers feedback on the following:
- a. Vehicles to be licensed for the first time must be a EURO 6 and under 6 years of age as opposed to age limits as set out in the existing Policy.
 - b. The promotion of low emission vehicles by providing a reduced fee for fully electric and ULEV vehicles. 50% reduction on the fee for fully electric and 25% for ULEV.
 - c. Encouraging more wheelchair accessible vehicles to be licenced by offering a 25% fee reduction and removing age criteria changes.
 - d. Introduce more frequent testing and inspection of licensed vehicles to three times a year (from the current twice a year).
 - e. Vehicles to be renewed shall be no older than 10 years.
 - f. Providing clarity on the Policy on the definition of executive vehicle so that there is a defined list of suitable vehicles.
 - g. To propose that an executive vehicle will not be licensed for the first time if over 4 years of age.

1.3 The consultation was sent out to all licensed drivers, and advertised on the Councils website inviting comments. The closing date for replies was the 19th November 2023.

1.4 Out of the 520 licensed drivers consulted a total of 207 replies were received, a 40% response rate. A summary of the responses is provided in the table below.

Support a review	197 in favour 10 against 95% in favour
Changes to ages of vehicles	196 in favour 11 against 94% in favour
Increasing to 3 midterm tests	57 in favour 150 against 38% in favour
Comments about executive vehicles	None received
Comments on low emissions or wheelchair accessibility	None received

1.5 The responses to the consultation were largely in favour of the proposed changes, apart from the introduction of a third inspection for each vehicle, which many argued would place an additional financial burden on them. In addition, there were requests for the upper limit to renew a vehicle to be raised to 12 years. If the age limit is raised to 12 years, officers are satisfied that the level of safety will remain, as a more stringent test on application and at 6 months has been introduced. Inspection form (Appendix 2) in addition regular meetings with the approved MOT Inspectors/stations have been scheduled to ensure testing of vehicles is consistent.

2. Proposed Changes to the Policy

2.1 If the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy (2023), as proposed, is approved then it shall come into force from 1st January 2024 with the following changes:

- a) Vehicle to be licensed for the first time must be Euro 6 to bring forward the plan of all licensed vehicles being Euro 6 by January 2025.
- b) Vehicles to be licensed for the first time must be under 6 years of age, in line with other authorities.
- c) A 50% reduction application fee for any fully electric vehicle, to promote low emissions within the Borough. At present the authority has one fully electric vehicle. It is not anticipated that there will be a huge increase of fully electric vehicles due to the cost to purchase.
- d) Keeping the discounted application fee 25% reduction for ULEV vehicles (page 12 of Appendix 3).

- e) Keeping the discounted application fee by 25% for all wheelchair accessible vehicles and removing the age criteria. This will have no financial implication on the authority.
- f) Continue with twice yearly MOT and vehicle inspections as at present. The MOT vehicle inspection report has been amended (see Appendix 2) so it is now in line with VOSA inspection requirements to promote public safety at all times.
- g) Vehicles to be renewed shall be no older than 12 years as long as they continue to meet the strict requirements of the VOSA MOT and Vehicle inspection required twice a year (which is in line with neighbouring authorities).
- h) Definition of an executive vehicle with examples given (Appendix 7 of the Policy).
- i) A requirement that executive vehicles to be licensed for the first time must be under 4 years of age due to the nature of their work.

2.2 For ease of reference, the Policy provided in Appendix 3 shows the changes described above.