



Licensing Committee

Item

7

20 March 2024

Report of

Head of Public Protection

Author

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 506420

Title

Vehicle Age Restriction – Consultation Responses

Wards
affected

All Wards

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report considers the responses received to the Council's consultation on whether the current vehicle age restriction for licensed vehicles stipulated in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy should be removed.

2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 That the age restriction on licensed vehicles be removed and the vehicle testing programme be used to determine the continuing road worthiness of licensed vehicles.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 The consultation responses indicated a broad level of support for the proposed changes. The changes would bring the Council into line with the Department of Transport's Best Practice Guidance.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 To leave the Policy unaltered and to continue with the existing licensing regime.

5. Detailed Information

- 5.1 At its meeting on 19 January 2024, the Committee approved a consultation on the the proposed removal of age restrictions on licensed vehicles and on the use of the vehicle testing regime and Euro emission standards to determine the continuing suitability of a vehicle to be licensed.
- 5.2 The consultation ran from 23 January to 4 March 2024. The responses to the consultation are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 5.3 The majority of responses are in favour of the removal of restrictions and many reference the increasing cost of vehicles and the difficulty the trade has experienced in finding suitable and affordable vehicles that meet the Council's current licensing requirements.
- 5.4 In light of the responses received and the Department of Transport's updated Taxi and Private Hire Best Practice Vehicle Guidance issued in November 2023, it is recommended that the that the current vehicle age restriction for licensed vehicles stipulated in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy should be removed.

6. Strategic Plan References

- 6.1 Links to the priorities in the Council's [Strategic plan 2023-26](#).
Priorities: -
- Respond to the climate emergency.
 - To make our city a better place in which to live and work and visit.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 No further consultation on the matter is proposed.

8. Publicity Considerations

- 8.1 Any change to the Policy will have effect once approved by full Council. The Policy and supporting information will be made available on the Council's website.

9. Financial implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications for the Council associated with the policy. The cost of vehicle inspections is borne by the vehicle owners.

10. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 10.1 The Council's Policy currently sets emission limits for its licensed vehicles with the intention of improving air quality over time and these will remain pending a full review as part of the wider review of the Policy to ensure that the Council's policy reflects the current science and targets on emissions and air quality. The Council's vehicle testing regime will continue and therefore it is anticipated that the proposed change will have no detrimental impact.
- 10.2 The Council's 2030 Climate Emergency Response target monitors our direct emissions (Scope 1 Emissions) and "Scope 2" emissions indirectly created by people working for or with the Council to provide us with goods or services.

However, as neither of these applies, this would not affect our own targets, as vehicle emissions from third party owned vehicle are outside the scope of the 2030 target.

11. Standard References

- 11.1 There are no community safety, health and wellbeing, health and safety, risk management, nor equality, diversity, and human rights implications.