

REGULATORY & APPEALS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Dennis

DATE: 22nd January 2018
REPORT OF: Licensing Officer
SUBJECT: Private Hire Vehicle Extension

PART I

RECOMMENDATION

The Regulatory & Appeals Committee is recommended to resolve whether to grant or refuse this request.

1. PURPOSE

The Committee is asked to consider a request to grant a Private Hire vehicle licence for a further 12 months.

2. BACKGROUND

Paragraph 5.2 of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policy states that:

'A vehicle being presented for initial licensing is required to be under five years old at first registration.

A vehicle being presented for subsequent licensing is required to be under 10 years old with the exception of purpose built cabs. The Council has discretion to continue to licence Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicles which are older than ten years provided that the Council is satisfied that the vehicle is in a good condition and good state of repair and provided that it passes the appropriate testing standard. Applications for subsequent licensing for vehicles older than ten years will be considered by the Regulatory and Appeals Committee which can impose such conditions as it thinks fit including six and four monthly testing'.

All vehicle licences are issued annually.

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Section 48(4)(c) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that '*(4) Every licence granted under this section shall— (c) remain in force for such period not being longer than one year as the district council may specify in the licence*'.

Section 48(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that '*(2) A district council may attach to the grant of a licence under this section such conditions as they may consider reasonably necessary including, without prejudice to the generality of foregoing provisions of this subsection, conditions requiring or prohibiting the display of signs on or from the vehicle to which the licence relates*'

The above Policy and statutory provisions reflect the Council's responsibility to ensure that all hackney carriage vehicles are safe and fit for use by members of the public.

The Committee has the discretion to license a vehicle if it is of the view that the vehicle is safe, fit for use and is in an acceptable condition.

Request –The vehicle, a Volkswagen transporter LF05 YMZ which the applicant wishes the Committee to consider was first registered on 30th March 2005 and will be 12 years and 10 months old, if granted. The current private hire licence expires on 14th January 2018. The vehicle will no longer meet the Council's licensing policy as it is now being more than 10 years old.

The vehicle has a current MOT that expires on the 25th July 2018 with no advisories. At the time of writing this report the vehicle has not undergone a taxi test, due to the Christmas break it would have had to have been done 6 weeks before the licence expires. Details will be presented at the hearing.

The vehicle has been inspected by a licensing officer and is in very good condition internally and externally.

It has been requested that the vehicle is made available at the hearing for inspection by the Committee should the members wish to do so.

3. CONSULTATION

The decision of the Committee following a complete review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy in April 2009 after taking into account the views from the trade was as follows:

"The Committee decided that vehicles being presented for initial licensing must be under five years old."

With regard to subsequent licensing, the Committee decided that a vehicle should be under ten years old with the exception of purpose built cabs. However the Committee decided that the Council could exercise discretion to continue to licence Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicles which are older than ten years provided that the Council is satisfied that it is in a good condition and good state of repair and provided that it passes the appropriate testing standard. Applications for subsequent licensing for vehicles older than ten years will be considered by the Regulatory and Appeals

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Committee which can impose such conditions as it thinks fit including six monthly testing. The Committee did not consider it appropriate to introduce an upper age or mileage limit.”

Section 50(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides ‘that a district council shall not under the provisions of this subsection require a proprietor to present the same hackney carriage or private hire vehicle for inspection and testing on more than three separate occasions during any one period of twelve months.’

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of defending the appeal if the application is refused and the applicant appeals to the Magistrates’ Court.

5. OPTIONS

- a. Grant the request, with or without the condition set out in c. below
- b. Refuse the request.
- c. If the Committee resolve to license the vehicle, Committee is asked to consider whether it is necessary to impose a condition requiring the vehicle to have six or four monthly vehicle inspections.

Hayley Carpenter
Licensing Officer
Environment, Health and Wellbeing

Wards affected	All
Contact for any more information	H Carpenter
Background Papers (For Part I reports only)	<i>Relevant legislation and Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Regulations</i> Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
Key Decision	N
In Forward Plan	N
In O&S Work Programme	N
Community Impact Assessment attached:	N
Appendices attached:	A: Request for extension