

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL
REGULATORY AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

4 MARCH 2020

PART I

Report Title	Application for Hackney Carriage Vehicle Extension for further 12 months
Purpose	For the Committee to consider the application, including this report, representations made by the proprietor of the vehicle and the vehicle and to determine whether the vehicle is fit for purpose and should be issued with an extended licensing plate.
Applicant	
Options	The Committee may: a. Grant the request, with or without conditions; or b. Refuse the request.
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Appendices / Background Papers	A: Request for extension B: MOT history

1. RELEVANT POLICY AND LAW

- 1.1 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'.

- 1.2 All vehicle licences are issued annually.

- 1.3 Section 43 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 provides that:

'Every licence so to be granted shall be under the common seal of the commissioners, if incorporated, or, if not incorporated, shall be signed by two or

more of the commissioners, and shall not include more than one carriage so licensed, and shall be in force for one year only from the day of the date of such licence, or until the next general licensing meeting, in case any general licensing day be appointed by the commissioners' and

- 1.4 Section 47(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that:

'A district council may attach to the grant of a licence of a hackney carriage under the Act of 1847 such conditions as the district council may consider reasonably necessary'.

- 1.5 The above Policy and statutory provisions reflect the Council's responsibility to ensure that all hackney carriage and private hire 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.

- 1.6 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."

- 1.7 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 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."

- 1.8 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.'

- 1.9 In summary, the Committee is required to ensure that Public Safety is not compromised by the granting of an extension of the licence. If it is satisfied that safety is reasonably assured they may grant the licence for a maximum of 12 months or such shorter period as they see as appropriate.

2. APPLICATION DETAILS

- 2.1 The vehicle, a Citroen Dispatch Minibus, vehicle registration ML59 LHK which the applicant wishes the Committee to consider was first registered on 27 November 2009 and will be 10 years and 4 months old, if granted. The current Hackney Carriage licence expired on 13 February 2020 and the vehicle has been off the road pending the outcome of the committee hearing. The vehicle will no longer meet the Council's licensing policy as it is now being more than 10 years old.
- 2.2 The vehicle MOT certificate expired on 11 February 2020.
- 2.3 The vehicle had its annual inspection at the Depot on 13 February, details will be available to Committee members at the hearing.
- 2.4 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. CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 **Licensing Officer:** If the Committee resolves to license the vehicle, the Report Authority recommends a condition requiring the vehicle to have six or four monthly vehicle inspections be imposed. The vehicle has been inspected by a Licensing Officer on 27 January.
- 3.2 The vehicle is in reasonable condition. Inside the driver's seat has a minor tear to the seam and the gaiter cover is torn so needs replacing, the first aid kit is also missing. Outside there are some minor scuffs and dents to the bodywork, all of which, along with the internal items, will be addressed.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5. LEGAL

The Committee are required only to ensure that Public Safety is not compromised by the granting of an extension of the licence. If they are satisfied that safety is reasonably assured they may grant the licence for a maximum of 12 months or such shorter period as they see as appropriate.