

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND REGULATORY SUB COMMITTEE

5 April 2022

PART I

Report Title	Request for Private Hire Vehicle Extension for further 12 months SB61 RXZ Silver Mercedes-Benz Vito
Purpose	For the Committee to consider the request, including this report, representations made by the proprietor of the vehicle and to determine whether the vehicle is fit for purpose and should be issued with an extended licensing plate.
Applicant	Mr Mathew Gibbs
Options	The Committee may: a. Grant the request, with or without conditions; or b. Refuse the request.
Report Author	Debbie Rosenveldt, Licensing Officer licensing@teignbridge.gov.uk
Appendices / Background Papers	A: Request for extension B: MOT history C: Vehicle Inspection Sheet D: Photographs

1. APPLICATION DETAILS

- 1.1 Vehicle first registered – 21 December 2012
Age of vehicle, if granted - 10 years and 2 months
Private Hire licence expired – 23 February 2022

Due to COVID-19, the licence was granted a temporary 3 month extension by the Licensing Manager until this committee hearing could determine the request in full. The proviso of the 3 month extension was that works were carried out to the sill under the driver's door and the minor defect on the MOT, nearside windscreen wiper blade and the three advisories on the vehicle test sheet. All works have been completed apart from the door sill which still has to be carried out.

The vehicle will no longer meet the Council's licensing policy as it is now being more than 10 years old.

- 1.2 MOT expires – 19 February 2023 with a minor defect and advisories - see Appendix B.

1.3 Vehicle inspection took place on 18 February 22 with three advisories – see Appendix C. The applicant has indicated above all works have been carried out other than the sill under the driver’s door.

1.4 **Licensing Officer:**

The vehicle has not been inspected by a Licensing Officer. The photographs have been provided by the applicant. The applicant offered up that the only area that still requires work is the sill under the driver’s door, this can be seen in the photographs attached at Appendix D.

Recommendation:

If the Committee resolves to license the vehicle, a condition requiring the vehicle to have six or four monthly vehicle inspections be imposed.

2. RELEVANT POLICY AND LAW

2.1 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’.

2.2 All vehicle licences are issued annually.

2.3 Section 48(4)(c) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that:

‘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’.

2.4 Section 48(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that:

‘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.’

2.5 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.

2.6 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."

2.7 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."

2.8 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.'

2.9 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.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

4. 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.