

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND REGULATORY SUB COMMITTEE

18 January 2024

PART I

Report Title	Request for Hackney Carriage Vehicle over 5 years. DY63 KYA, Blue Vauxhall Zafira
Purpose	For the Committee to consider the request included in 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 a licensed plate.
Applicant	Mr Michael Miller
Options	The Committee may: a. Grant the request, with or without conditions; or b. Refuse the request.
Report Author	Andrea Furness, Licensing Manager licensing@teignbridge.gov.uk
Appendices / Background Papers	A: Request for licence B: MOT history C: Photographs from Depot D: Photographs taken by Licensing E: Vehicle inspection sheet

1. APPLICATION DETAILS

- 1.1 Vehicle first registered – 30 September 2013
Age of vehicle, if granted - 10 years and 3 months

The applicant failed to make payment for this vehicle under a renewal, the licence expired on 13 December 2023, therefore was required to make an application for a new vehicle licence.

The vehicle no longer meets the Council's licensing policy as it is over 5 years of age.

- 1.2 MOT expires - 6 December 2024 - see MOT history for defects and advisories.
- 1.3 Vehicle inspection at the Depot on 14 December 2023 when it initially failed and was retested on 22 December 2023.
- 1.4 **Licensing Officer:**
Vehicle checked – 14 December 2023
Officer comments.

There was a dent on the bonnet. Offside wing mirror taped up; minor scratches due to age. Wear and tear visible inside and out, other than these, the vehicle was clean and tidy.

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.

2.2 All vehicle licences are issued annually.

2.3 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

2.4 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'.

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, were as follows:

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

2.7 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.'

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 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.