

TITLE	:	LICENSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE AGES
TO/ON	:	Licensing Committee, Thursday, 16th March 2006
BY	:	Derek Hamill - Licensing Enforcement Officer
LEAD MEMBER	:	Judith Driver– Street Scene and Liveability
STATUS	:	For Publication.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the requests from the Licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade within Rossendale, to increase the age limits on vehicle licence applications.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1.1 That the Licensing Committee note the report.
- 2.1.2 That the Committee consider the representations of the Licensed Hackney Carriage Trade and the Licensed Private Hire Trade.
- 2.1.3 That the Committee resolve to retain the current age limits.

3. REPORT AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 A Local Authority has a responsibility to licence Hackney carriage and Private hire vehicles.
- 3.2 The Licensing unit has received a representation from the Licensed Trade to increase the age limit on 1st application from five years to six, and to retain the current expiry date of eight years.

- 3.3 **We currently have a condition attached to a vehicle licence application, that all motor vehicles constructed to carry 8 or less passengers, first licensed from 22nd September 2004 as a private hire or hackney carriage vehicle:**
- a. **must be under 4 years 364 days old from first date of registration, and**
 - b. **cannot , once licensed, remain licensed after 7 years 364 days from the date of first registration.**
- 3.4 **All motor vehicles constructed to carry more than 8 passengers but adapted to carry 8 or less passengers first licensed from 1st October 2004 as a private hire or hackney carriage vehicle:**
- a. **must be under 5 years 364 days old from the date of first registration, and**
 - b. **cannot, once licensed ,remain licensed licenced after 9 years 364 days from the date of first registration.**
- 3.5 A meeting of the Council's Licensing sub-committee was held on the 8th of December 1999 whereby the following resolutions were passed:
- (a) **With effect from 17 December 1999 all new applications for private hire and hackney carriage vehicle licences be limited to those vehicles no more than 5 years old at time of application.**
 - (b) **All purpose built hackney carriages are to be exempt from these provisions**
 - (c) **that all vehicles licensed as hackney carriages and private hire vehicles are to undergo two tests per year.**
- 3.6 The licensed trade request that the committee change the age limit criteria on saloon type vehicles licence applications to the following:
- a. **can be 5 years 364 days old from the date of first registration, and**
 - b. **cannot, once licensed, remain licenced after 7 years 364 days from the date of first registration.**
- 3.7 The trade inform us that the cost of replacing vehicles has become very expensive and they therefore experience financial difficulty in the replacement of vehicles in a manner which meets the current vehicle licensing criteria.
- 3.8 With an estimated mileage of 30,000- 40,000 miles per year and with the development of better engineering, the trade believe that the modern vehicle can withstand the additional burden placed upon it. The trade believe that with the introduction of regular servicing they can maintain the high standards that the Council expects.

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- (b) **All purpose built hackney carriages are to be exempt from these provisions**
- (c) **that all vehicles licensed as hackney carriages and private hire vehicles are to undergo two tests per year.**

3.10 These conditions have remained the same with the only exceptions being the introduction of MPV (multi service vehicle) type applications and the introduction of the Mini Bus vehicle licence applications, which is not covered in this report.

3.11 We have contacted all neighbouring Lancashire authorities with regard to the age limits and our findings are detailed below:

- **Hyndburn** **Up to 5years ***
- **Rochdale** **No age limits**
- **Burnley** **Up to 7years**
- **Blackburn** **Up to 10 years ***
- **Oldham** **Up to 4 years**
- **Bury** **Up to 10 years ***
- **Bolton** **Up to 10 years ***
- **Wyre** **No age limits ***
- **West Lancs** **Up to 6 years**

3.12 Local authorities marked with an asterisk and those generally with high limits, impose stringent criteria including an increased requirement of MOT tests, shorter licence periods and/or increased licence fees.

3.13 With greater emphasis on the environment and preservation thereof, the current age limits ensure that the fleet meet the Euro 2 emission standards.

4. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

4.1 FINANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 Not applicable

4.2 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS

4.2 Not applicable

4.3 HUMAN RESOURCES

4.3 Not applicable

4.4 ANY OTHER RELEVANT CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.4 Quality services for local people and confident communities.

5. RISK

Nil.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE REPORT

6.1 As outlined in the main body of the report.

7. EQUALITIES ISSUES ARISING FROM THE REPORT

7.1 There are no equalities issues.

8. WARDS AFFECTED

8.1 All Wards could be affected

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 Nil

For further information on this report please contact;
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