

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		13 November 2019	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Joyce Plummer - Resources	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Wendy Redfern – Licensing Manager	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Amendment to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Hackney carriage and Private Hire Licensing	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	Options	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	Options	If yes, date of publication:	

1. **Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To seek approval for the amendment to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing so as to extend the issue of a 6 month licence plate to vehicles up to the age of 10 years old.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 Cabinet approves the amendment to the Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

- 3.1 The Council are responsible for setting the vehicle testing frequency for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, which in turn determines the period of the licence that is issued. Currently vehicles under the age of 2 years are tested annually and issued with a 12 month licence. Vehicles between the age of 2 years and 7 years are tested every 6 months and issued with a 6 month licence and vehicles over the age of 7 years are tested every 4 months and issued with a 4 month licence. A vehicle cannot remain licensed beyond the age of 15 years.
- 3.2 Recently, when carrying out impromptu roadside inspections of licensed vehicles in conjunction with the police and officers from DVSA it has been noted that the standards of the vehicles being checked has risen and that less improvement notices are being issued. The hackney carriage and private hire proprietors have taken on board guidance from licensing officers and have co-operated with them to ensure that the standards are raised.
- 3.3 Officers now believe that the 6 month licence could be extended to include vehicles up to the age of 10 years. This is because of the improvements as set out above and

because officers are now carrying out more frequent roadside inspections which would highlight any potential issues between tests. Blackburn Council which is our closest neighbour issues licences for 6 months and if Hyndburn do not consider doing the same, it is possible that vehicles will be taken to Blackburn to get a 6 month licence and then come back into Hyndburn to work. If this were to happen we would have no authority over the standard of the vehicles.

4. **Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 The Council could take no action and continue with the current policy and frequency of testing, however officers do not feel that there would be any additional benefit to public safety and in fact there could be a detrimental effect to public safety as owners migrate to neighbouring authorities to have vehicles tested and licensed then come back into this area to work leaving us with no control over the safety and comfort of the vehicles.

5. **Consultations**

- 5.1 There has been no formal consultation, however officers are aware that this is a move that is highly supported by members of the hackney carriage and private hire trade.

6. **Implications**

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	None
Legal and human rights implications	None
Assessment of risk	No specific risks have been identified.
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	<p>The Council is subject to the public sector equality duty introduced by the Equality Act 2010. When making a decision in respect of the recommendations in this report Cabinet must have regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and • advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't; and • foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't. <p>For these purposes the relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity,</p>

	<p>race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. To assist the Cabinet in this regard a Customer First Analysis has been carried out as part of the review process and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Cabinet is advised to consider the Customer First Analysis and its obligations in respect of the public sector equality duty when making a decision in respect of the recommendations contained in this report.</p>
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**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:
List of Background Papers**

Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing.

Appendix 1 - Customer First Analysis.