



Derby City Council

LICENSING COMMITTEE
18 January 2018

ITEM 7

Report of the Strategic Director of Communities & Place

Update on the Condition and Safety of Licensed Vehicles

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following correspondence from Derbyshire Constabulary raising concerns about the condition and safety of the private hire and hackney carriage fleet in the city, a cross party working group (CPWG) met to consider the introduction of measures to address these concerns.
- 1.2 The report sets out the measures proposed by the CPWG to address the issues raised.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve introduction of two tests a year for all licensed vehicles irrespective of age from 1 April 2018.
- 2.2 To note the need for and authorise the commencement of a consultation process (subject to approval of recommendation 2.1)
- 2.3 To authorise consultation with the trade and public on the proposal to introduce a requirement that new vehicle licences will only be issued to vehicles less than five years old at first registration.
- 2.4 To note and, if considered appropriate, to authorise the need for further development work on the other matters set out at paragraph 4.4 (iii) & (iv), 4.6 and 4.7.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To introduce measures to address the concerns raised by Derbyshire Constabulary on the condition and safety of the private hire and hackney fleet in Derby City.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 At the last meeting, Members considered a letter and heard representations from Derbyshire Constabulary which raised concerns about the condition and safety of the private hire and hackney carriage fleet in the city.
- 4.2 The letter identified three main concerns:
- (a) the age of the fleet;
 - (b) the effectiveness of the single annual formal inspection currently required; and
 - (c) the extent of operators' and drivers professional responsibility.
- 4.3 After some debate, Members agreed that a cross party working group should be convened to discuss the concerns raised. The group met with officers on 6 December 2017.
- 4.4 The cross party working group considered data and information relating to age of the current licensed fleet, inspections and suspensions undertaken by licensing officers and the police over the previous eighteen months, comparison data from other local authorities, and Euro-standard emission information reproduced from RAC data. The following proposals were agreed as recommendations to be put before committee:
- (i) The introduction of two tests a year for all licensed vehicles irrespective of age.
 - (ii) To drive up vehicle condition standards and promote a cleaner fleet of vehicles licensed in the city, to introduce a requirement that new vehicle licences will only be granted to vehicles less than five years old at the date of first registration with the DVLA.
 - (iii) To drive up vehicle condition standards and promote a cleaner fleet of vehicles licensed in the city, to introduce a requirement that from 2020, renewal of vehicle licenses will only be granted to vehicles less than ten years old at first registration with the DVLA, subject to the application of an 'exceptionality criteria'.
 - (iv) To actively explore the introduction of an in-house provision for the inspection and testing of licensed vehicles to replace the current system.
- 4.5 In relation to the proposals set out above at paragraph 4.4 (i) and (ii), the proposal is for these measures to be introduced with effect from 1 April 2018. Before these changes can be introduced, consultation with the trade and public will need to be undertaken. Information will be made available on the Your City Your Say pages of the Council's website. Once concluded, the outcome of the exercise will be reported to committee for further consideration, as appropriate. Approval is sought to commence this process.

- 4.6 In relation to the proposal set out above at paragraph 4.4 (iii), further work is required to develop a specific set of criteria both for the exceptionality principles as well as to complement the work currently being undertaken in relation to the need to introduce a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in the city. As well as considering a minimum age, this could include disparate considerations such as reference to a minimum emission standard and other date specific requirements by reference to target dates, such as 2025, 2030 and 2040 e.g. the introduction of ultra-low emissions vehicles (ULEV) and/or zero emissions vehicles to the fleet, acknowledgement of and working to meet central government targets to phase out the sale of fuel propelled vehicles, etc. More information about this will be presented to a future licensing committee meeting once further development work has been undertaken, should committee deem it appropriate for such work to be carried out by officers.
- 4.7 In relation to the proposal set out above at paragraph 4.4 (iv), further work is also required to develop this as a proposal, not least of which will include securing buy-in from the relevant Council service and securing funding to develop in-house facilities to the required standard. More information about this will be presented to a future licensing committee meeting once further development work has been undertaken.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Olu Idowu
Financial officer	n/a
Human Resources officer	n/a
Estates/Property officer	n/a
Service Director(s)	n/a
Other(s)	Michael Kay

For more information contact:	Sandra Mansell 01332 641931 sandra.mansell@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Correspondence from Derbyshire Constabulary

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None directly arising from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 Consultation would need to be undertaken on any changes that may be proposed.

Personnel

- 3.1 None directly arising from this report.

IT

- 4.1 None directly arising from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report but, dependent on any future proposals considered, further assessment may be required.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None directly arising from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 The implementation of any scheme that considers a minimum age or minimum emission standard for licensed vehicles will have an impact on the environment.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None directly arising from this report.

Risk Management

- 9.1 None directly arising from this report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 The proposals set out in this report address the corporate objectives of:

- protecting vulnerable children, young people, adults and older people
- promoting health and well-being
- delivering our services differently