

## REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2014

### REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### AGE POLICY FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENCES AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCES

##### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the consideration of the Committee of the Council's policy relating to the age of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

##### 2.0 DESCRIPTION OF DECISION (RECOMMENDATIONS)

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to consider amending the current age policy as detailed in paragraph 4.2 below.

##### 3.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Presently the Council's policy relating to the licensing of vehicles as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle states:-

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In respect of vehicles submitted for licensing as hackney carriages or private hire vehicles

(a) Except for those vehicles "exceptionally well maintained"

(i) no vehicle over five years old, i.e. from the date of first registration, will be accepted for initial licensing;

(ii) no vehicle, licensed as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, except those vehicles specified in (iii) below, will be accepted for further licensing once it has reached seven years of age from the date of first registration; and

(iii) no vehicle licensed to carry five or more passengers will be accepted for further licensing once it has reached ten years of age from the date of first registration;

(b) All vehicles licensed outside of the Council's 'Age Policy' as specified in (a) (ii) or (iii) above will be subjected to three mechanical inspections per year.

(c) "exceptionally well maintained" means, in relation to the initial licensing of vehicles, that:-

- the vehicle is in excellent mechanical condition;
- the vehicle is in all respects safe and roadworthy with no signs of corrosion to the mechanical parts, chassis, underside or body work;
- evidence is to be produced, i.e. the vehicle service record, that the vehicle has been correctly and regularly serviced, by a reputable garage, in accordance with

the manufacturer's service specification;

- the exterior of the vehicle is in near perfect condition with no dents, damage or signs of corrosion. The paintwork is in excellent condition;
- the interior of the vehicle is in near perfect condition. The upholstery, linings, seats and floor coverings are perfectly clean with no holes, tears or signs of wearing; and
- the boot or luggage compartment is in good condition, clean and uncluttered.

(d) "exceptionally well maintained" means, ***in relation to vehicles previously licensed*** by this Council as either a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, that:-

- the vehicle is in excellent mechanical condition;
- the vehicle is in all respects safe and roadworthy with no signs of corrosion to the mechanical parts, chassis, underside or body work;
- the vehicle must have passed on first examination all of the Council's vehicle inspections while it has been licensed as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle;
- the vehicle must not have been the subject of any suspension notice issued by the Council in relation to a defective tyre or any mechanical defect;
- the exterior of the vehicle is in near perfect condition with no dents, damage or signs of corrosion. The paintwork is in excellent condition;
- the interior of the vehicle is in near perfect condition. The upholstery, linings, seats and floor coverings are perfectly clean with no holes, tears or signs of wearing; and
- the boot or luggage compartment is in good condition, clean and uncluttered."

**3.2** The wording of the current policy has the unintended consequence that vehicles that have been previously licensed as hackney carriage vehicles or private hire vehicles and which have ceased to be used for that purpose may at some future date be introduced back into the fleet. These vehicles may have passed on first inspection the Council's vehicle inspection whilst used as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle but have no history after they ceased to be used for that purpose.

**3.3** This report suggests the removal or amendment of that significant part of the policy highlighted in bold italics above.

#### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION.**

**4.1** In order to ensure the quality of vehicles in the City's hackney carriage and private

hire vehicle fleet the Committee is requested to consider the amendment of the Age Policy for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles in line with the proposals set out in paragraph 4.2 below.

**4.2** "In respect of vehicles submitted for licensing as hackney carriages or private hire vehicles

(a) Except for those vehicles "exceptionally well maintained"

(iii) no vehicle over five years old, i.e. from the date of first registration, will be accepted for initial licensing;

(iv) no vehicle, licensed as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, except those vehicles specified in (iii) below, will be accepted for further licensing once it has reached seven years of age from the date of first registration; and

(iii) no vehicle licensed to carry five or more passengers will be accepted for further licensing once it has reached ten years of age from the date of first registration;

(c) All vehicles licensed outside of the Council's 'Age Policy' as specified in (a) (ii) or (iii) above will be subjected to three mechanical inspections per year.

(c) "exceptionally well maintained" means, in relation to the initial licensing of vehicles, that:-

- the vehicle is in excellent mechanical condition;
- the vehicle is in all respects safe and roadworthy with no signs of corrosion to the mechanical parts, chassis, underside or body work;
- evidence is to be produced, i.e. the vehicle service record, that the vehicle has been correctly and regularly serviced, by a reputable garage, in accordance with the manufacturer's service specification;
- the exterior of the vehicle is in near perfect condition with no dents, damage or signs of corrosion. The paintwork is in excellent condition;
- the interior of the vehicle is in near perfect condition. The upholstery, linings, seats and floor coverings are perfectly clean with no holes, tears or signs of wearing; and
- the boot or luggage compartment is in good condition, clean and uncluttered.

(d) "exceptionally well maintained" means, in relation to vehicles **currently under consideration for renewal of an existing licence (not those vehicles whose licences have lapsed)** by this Council as either a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, that:-

- the vehicle is in excellent mechanical condition;

- the vehicle is in all respects safe and roadworthy with no signs of corrosion to the mechanical parts, chassis, underside or body work;
- the vehicle must have passed on first examination all of the Council's vehicle inspections ***since the last grant of a licence*** as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle;
- the vehicle must not have been the subject of any suspension notice issued by the Council in relation to a defective tyre or any mechanical defect ***since the last grant of a licence***;
- the exterior of the vehicle is in near perfect condition with no dents, damage or signs of corrosion. The paintwork is in excellent condition;
- the interior of the vehicle is in near perfect condition. The upholstery, linings, seats and floor coverings are perfectly clean with no holes, tears or signs of wearing; and
- the boot or luggage compartment is in good condition, clean and uncluttered."

**4.3** The significant amended parts of the proposed policy are shown in bold italics.

## **5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

**5.1** None submitted.

## **6.0 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS/CONSULTATION**

**6.1** None

## **7.0 GLOSSARY**

**7.1** None.

## **8.0 LIST OF APPENDICES**

**8.1** None.

## **9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**9.1** None.