

INFORMATION NOTE

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

1. At a meeting of the [Public Protection Committee](#) on the 14th February 2018, the Committee considered a request from a licensed private hire operator for the grant of an additional hackney carriage licence for a rear loading wheelchair accessible vehicle, and also to amend the Policy to accept vehicles longer in length.
2. It was reported that current policy, adopted in 2017, provides that:
Any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences are only granted in respect of vehicles that are:
 - i) less than six years old at the time of the initial grant of the new Hackney Carriage licence and
 - ii) a purpose built vehicle, designed and developed for use as a wheelchair accessible taxi. Wheelchair access must be from the side and not from the rear.

The vehicle must be unaltered from the manufacturers/converters specification and documentation must be produced to show that the vehicle is certified to M1, European Whole Vehicle Approval or Low Volume Approval standards. Any replacement vehicle must also meet the standard required of such newly licensed hackney carriage vehicles.
 - iii) Any application should be submitted with supporting information in relation to the Intended Use Policy
3. Concerns relating to rear loading and longer vehicles were highlighted and the potential to reduce the number of rank spaces available but it was confirmed the rear loading restriction does not apply to private hire vehicles.
4. The minutes report that:
Following a discussion on the pros and cons of amending the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, members were satisfied that there was adequate provision for both types of vehicles to be licensed under Private Hire.

The committee RESOLVED:
 1. Not to amend the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.
 2. To evaluate the effect the policy has had on the number of licensed wheelchair assessable vehicles in twelve months.
5. The table overleaf demonstrates the number of purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicles that have been issued with additional hackney carriage licences. For the benefit of members, the Policy was first introduced with a maximum age limit from the time of first registration of 1 year at the time of first registration in 2005, amended to 2 years in 2006 and to 6 years in October 2017.

Licence Number	First Licensed	Last Granted	Expiry Date	Vehicle age
916	26/10/2018	26/10/2018	27/10/2019	5yr 5m
915	01/08/2018	01/08/2018	31/07/2019	6m
914	31/05/2018	31/05/2018	30/05/2019	8m
913	30/05/2018	30/05/2018	29/05/2019	5yr 11m
912	31/01/2018	31/01/2019	30/01/2020	1yr
911	23/11/2016	LAPSED	22/11/2018	2ye 2m
910	09/11/2016	08/11/2018	08/11/2019	2yr 3m
909	22/06/2016	22/06/2018	21/06/2019	2yr 7m
908	10/09/2016	10/09/2018	09/09/2019	4yr 5m
907	03/06/2013	LAPSED	20/04/2016	7yr 8m
906	18/04/2011	18/04/2018	17/04/2019	7yr 10m
905	No info held			
904	31/07/2008	20/11/2018	19/11/2019	5yr 2m
903	11/06/2008	LAPSED	10/06/2012	10yr 8m
902	No info held			
901	05/05/2005	LAPSED	23/8/2014	16yr 6m

6. It can be seen that whilst take up of the additional hackney carriages has been slow with the maximum initial age limit of one and 2 years, following the amendment to Policy in 2017 an additional 5 vehicles have been licensed, 4 of those being after the Committee refused the request for rear loading vehicles to be included within the Policy.
7. Finally, the current Hackney Carriage fleet comprises 107 vehicles of which 11 are purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicles.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM

Chris Hambly, chris.hambly@fylde.gov.uk, 01253 658422