

DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	17 OCTOBER 2016	14
LICENSED VEHICLE EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY POLICY			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

At a meeting of the Public Protection Committee held on the 20th July 2016, the Committee considered an item regarding the introduction of a Licensed Vehicle Exceptional Quality Policy for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles which have attained the maximum age limit of 12 years, set by Fylde Borough Council, but are considered to be in an exceptional condition.

Following a full discussion Committee **RESOLVED** to:

Recommend the Exceptional Quality Vehicle Policy for approval by full Council, subject to the addition of an overriding criterion that in order to benefit from the new policy, vehicles will need to undergo and pass an emissions test.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council considers the recommendations of the Public Protection Committee and adopts the Licensed Vehicle Exceptional Quality Policy.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy was introduced in 2006 and set the maximum age at which a vehicle will be generally licensed at 12 years.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	√
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	√
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	√
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	√

REPORT

1. Sections 47 and 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 considers the licensing of hackney carriage vehicles (S47) and Private Hire Vehicles (S48) and allows Local Authorities to attach conditions to the licences as is felt reasonable necessary.
2. As such, Fylde Borough Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy states that all vehicles shall be less than twelve years old from the date of manufacture. There is no minimum age limit for vehicles on first application.
3. A request has been received from a current hackney carriage proprietor and driver to relax this age limit and introduce an Exceptional Quality policy. The driver suggests that such a policy may benefit the larger executive style vehicles and may also encourage proprietors to look to replace their existing vehicles with wheelchair accessible vehicles. It is understood there is a reluctance within the trade to purchase such vehicles due to the initial set up cost and the 12 year rule.
4. The Council does have a policy whereby additional hackney carriage licences will be issued to vehicles which are wheelchair accessible, purpose built and less than 2 years old but as suggested above, currently they have to be removed from the fleet when they are presented for licensing and are older than 12 years. Such a policy would be beneficial as it would continue to apply the age limits whilst acknowledging the efforts of proprietors in maintaining their vehicles.
5. The matter was considered by the Public Protection Committee on the 20th July 2016 who resolved to *recommend the Exceptional Quality Vehicle Policy for approval by full Council, subject to the addition of an overriding criterion that in order to benefit from the new policy, vehicles will need to undergo and pass an emissions test.*
6. The criterion referred to by the Public Protection Committee has been included within the Policy shown in appendix 1 and Council are therefore requested to consider the approval of the introduction of the Exceptional Quality Vehicle Policy.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None arising directly from the report.
Legal	None arising directly from the report.
Community Safety	None arising directly from the report.
Human Rights and Equalities	The introduction of such a policy may encourage investment in DDA compliant vehicles.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from the report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from the report.

LEAD AUTHOR	TEL	DATE	DOC ID
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy	2006	Town Hall

Attached documents

1. Draft Licensed Vehicle Exceptional Quality Policy