

DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE	20 JULY 2016	5
LICENSED VEHICLE EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY POLICY			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY

Fylde Borough Councils current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy imposes a maximum age limit of 12 years on hackney carriages and private hire vehicles. An independent hackney carriage proprietor and driver has submitted a request requesting that this age limit be reviewed.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the report determines whether to adopt an Exceptional Quality Policy.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy came into force in 2006 introducing a vehicle age limit of 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 Committee is therefore requested to consider the report and determine whether to introduce an Exceptional Quality Vehicle Policy, a draft of which is shown in appendix 1.

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 yet remain affordable to disabled people.
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		Town Hall

Attached documents

1. Draft policy