

REPORT OF THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER
LICENSING, FOOD & SAFETY
TO THE GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
17th DECEMBER 2014

REQUEST FOR AUTHORISATION TO GRANT VEHICLE APPLICATIONS
OUTSIDE OF CURRENT AGE CRITERIA

1.0 Background

- 1.1 As Members will be aware, authorisation was given to licensing officers on 20th June 2014 to grant vehicle applications outside of the current age criteria, as long as the vehicle met all other required licensing criteria, had passed the Council's inspection test and was under 5 years old. A copy of the previous report is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.2 Due to the increasing number of applications of this nature, the General Licensing Committee on 14th November 2014 requested that consideration be given to authorising licensing officers to grant vehicle licences for any vehicle outside of the current age criteria.
- 1.3 In addition a number of vehicles have been reported for Committee decision as they do not comply with the condition that requires them to be specially adapted for the use for school transport purposes. This condition states:

"An application to licence a restricted private hire vehicle for school transport purposes will only be considered for a new contract that requires a vehicle of a certain type or design that would not be licensed as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle. Schools transport officers will be consulted on all applications received"

2.0 Current Position

- 2.1 Since the decision made at the Special General Licensing Committee on the 20th June 2014, a further 15 vehicle applications have been presented for consideration to the General Licensing Committee as the vehicles have not complied with the age criteria and/or the requirement to be specially adapted.
- 2.2 14 of these vehicles were granted a licence on their individual merit following inspection by Members of the Committee. One vehicle was refused at Committee but this vehicle did not comply with other criteria namely that the vehicle was left hand drive and lacked seatbelts in the vehicle. In total 41 licences have been granted for vehicles that do not meet the current age criteria.

- 2.3 Following a discussion at the General Licensing Committee on 22nd August 2014, officers now request an up to date vehicle history check and full service history where available.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that :

i) Members authorise officers of the Licensing Section to grant vehicle licences in respect of vehicle applications that do not comply with the current age criteria for licensing vehicles subject to:

- a) the vehicle passing the Council's inspection;
- b) submission of an up to date vehicle history check;
- c) submission of the full service history for the vehicle where available;

and

- d) the vehicle meeting all other application criteria;

and

ii) the condition that requires restricted private hire vehicles to be specially adapted for school transport purposes be removed.

The Licensing Committee's instructions are requested.

Background Papers:	Special General Licensing Committee 20th June 2014
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