

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

<b>Background Papers:</b>	<b>Special General Licensing Committee 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014</b>
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**REPORT OF THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER**  
**LICENSING, FOOD & SAFETY**  
**TO THE GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE**  
**20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014**

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

**1.0 Background**

- 1.1 As Members will be aware, increasing numbers of applications are being reported to the General Licensing Committee for decision as they do not comply with the Council's current licensing criteria relating to the type and age of vehicles.

**2.0 Current Position**

- 2.1 Existing vehicle licence criteria dictate the standards of vehicle required by the local authority before consideration of a licence. Such documents ensure that a proprietor has clear guidance prior to making an informed choice of the type of vehicle to purchase. It is important however, that local authorities do not strictly apply these criteria and that all applications for a licence are dealt with on their individual merit.
- 2.2 Currently, hackney carriage vehicles must be brand new before a licence is granted or replaced.
- 2.3 Current criteria for licensing private hire and restricted private hire vehicles state that vehicles will not be accepted for licensing on the first occasion more than two years after the first date of registration. Those vehicles purchased from new will be re-licensed on merit but if a vehicle when first licensed is of any age up to two years old from date of first registration it will be re-licensed on merit until it is six years old.
- 2.4 During the period June 2013 to May 2014, 27 vehicle applications were presented for consideration by the General Licensing Committee due to the type and age of the vehicle not complying with current conditions.
- 2.5 All of the 27 vehicles were granted a licence on their individual merit following inspection by Members of the Committee.

**3.0 Proposal**

- 3.1 An increasing number of applications to licence and to replace existing vehicles that do not comply with the Council's current age criteria are being received by the Licensing Section with many more expected over the next few weeks. In view of this and as all applications to licence an older vehicle reported to Licensing Committee in the previous 12 months have been granted, it is proposed that officers of

the Licensing Section be authorised to grant such applications under delegated powers . This authorisation only to apply in circumstances where the application complies with all licensing criteria with the exception of the age of the vehicle. The vehicle must also pass the Council's inspection.

- 3.2 Vehicle applications received that do not comply with other current licensing criteria will be reported to the General Licensing Committee for inspection and consideration.

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 It is recommended that 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 the vehicle passing the Council's inspection and meeting all other application criteria.

**The Licensing Committee's instructions are requested.**

**Background Papers:       None**  
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