

REPORT OF THE DIVISIONAL OFFICER
LICENSING, FOOD & SAFETY
TO THE GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
12th August 2016

REQUEST TO REMOVE MINIMUM ENGINE SIZE/CAPACITY CONDITION

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A number of verbal requests have been received by the Licensing Section to remove the engine size restriction specified in the hackney carriage, private hire and restricted private hire vehicle conditions.
- 1.2 The current conditions have been in place since 2005 but have been subject to changes approved by the Licensing Committee as necessary.

2.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 Current hackney carriage, private hire and restricted private hire vehicle conditions require that the engine capacity of the vehicles shall not be less than 1500cc.

3.0 THE PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Due to the advances in car manufacturing since 2005, some licensed proprietors are concerned that the engine size restriction specified in the vehicle conditions is now out of date and request that this restriction is removed.
- 3.2 The removal of this restriction would mean that all vehicles would be considered on merit regardless of engine capacity.

4.0 Considerations

- 4.1 In view of the requests made, discussions have been held with an officer from the Central Transport Unit (CTU) regarding the suitability of the removal of the engine size restriction from the vehicle conditions. The officer has confirmed that as a result of the advances in car manufacturing removal of the restriction regarding engine size would be supported. The officer will be present at Committee to answer any technical questions Members may have.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that after consideration of this report and hearing from the officer from the Council's Central Transport Unit, that the condition requiring that the engine capacity of the hackney carriage, private hire and restricted private hire vehicles must be not less than 1500cc is removed.

The Licensing Committee's instructions are requested.

Background Papers:	None
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