



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Environment & Operations
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Environment & Operations
DATE:	3 March 2023

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Environment & Operations
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WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
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SUBJECT: Revised Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy testing frequency
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report proposes to revise the Council's current policy on testing frequencies for licenced vehicles.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member approves the following changes to the existing testing frequency for licensed vehicles:

- 1) Vehicle licences will normally be issued for twelve months for vehicles aged less than five years and for six months for vehicles aged five years or over.
- 2) Where a vehicle aged five years or over passes the Council's vehicle test on first presentation it will be eligible for an eight month licence, instead of the standard six month licence.

3. BACKGROUND

The Council's Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing policy was comprehensively reviewed during 2022 and a revised draft policy is due to be presented to Council Forum in March 2023 for adoption.

The testing of vehicles however is an Executive function. As part of the broader consultation exercise undertaken with the trade and other stakeholders on the revised policy, a proposal to amend the vehicle testing frequencies was discussed.

This proposal seeks to incentivise the trade to invest in newer vehicles by granting a twelve month licence for all vehicles aged up to five years, instead of the current three years.

It also proposes to grant an eight month vehicle licence, rather than a six month licence to those applicants with vehicles aged five years or over, whose vehicle passes the Council's 'taxi test' on first presentation.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

None identified

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Once approved this decision will be reflected in the wording in section 4 of the draft Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Based on current fleet data, the extension of the twelve month licences would capture c. 40 vehicles and see a loss of revenue in licensing fees and testing fees of c. £6,500.

The additional two months on vehicle licences will defer the income from vehicle renewals for two months.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Once adopted, members and officers of the Licensing Authority must have regard to the revised testing frequencies when determining private hire and hackney carriage vehicle applications.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications arising directly from this revision.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

There was a comprehensive 8 week consultation with the trade and other stakeholders on this and other proposed changes to the Council's Policy.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Niky Barrett
DATE:	3 February 2023
BACKGROUND PAPER:	