

LICENSING COMMITTEE



Report subject	Request for amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy
Meeting date	9 March 2023
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The BCP Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle policy was implemented on the 1 June 2021. This replaced the three policies of the previous legacy authorities.</p> <p>The BCP Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade Association (BCP Trade) have made a request to amend the current BCP Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy 2021 in respect to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• increasing the initial maximum licensable age of non-wheelchair accessible vehicles which is currently 3.5 years.• delay the date that all vehicles must meet the Euro 6 emission standard which is currently 31 December 2023.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Members consider the information provided and either.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Agree the amendments to the policy as requested.Make additional amendments to the policy as presented.Make no changes and leave the policy as published.
Reason for recommendations	<p>Members are asked to consider the request from the BCP Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade Association to amend the current BCP Council Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle policy.</p> <p>The request related to the initial age of all vehicles accepted onto the fleet, the BCP trade request this is increased.</p> <p>In addition, the current Policy requires that vehicle licences will not be renewed after 31 December 2023 for vehicles which do not meet the Euro 6 emissions. The BCP trade request that this date is delayed.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Bobbie Dove – Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Jess Gibbons – Chief of Operations
Report Authors	Trudi Barlow – Licensing Office
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The primary and overriding objective of the Taxi and Private Hire Policies is to protect the safety of passengers and other road users. The policy also acknowledges the environmental impacts of the vehicles licenced by BCP Council. As such, requirements were included within the Policy to support climate change measures.
2. The BCP Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Policy came into force on the 1 June 2021. The policy is available on the BCP Council website. The website provides guidance for all the types of application, including forms and vehicle inspection standards. [Information for Taxis and private hire licences](#)
3. Chapter 6 deals with any amendments to the Policy and states that:-
 - 6.1 *This policy is a working document, and the Licensing Authority reserves the right to alter and amend the policy as appropriate to correct errors, inconsistencies, clarify guidance, legislative changes and issue a revised version of the policy at any time.*
 - 6.2 *However, any significant changes to the Policy will only be implemented after a formal consultation process with the trade and public.*
 - 6.2 *Any significant amendment is defined as one that:-*
 - *Is likely to have a significant financial effect on licence holders or*
 - *Is likely to have a significant procedural effect on licence holders or*
 - *Is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the community*

Trade amendments request

4. As outlined in the letter from the BCP Trade (see Appendix1) a request has been made for the committee to consider the amendments to the vehicle policy. The first request is to amend section 7.5 of the policy which refers to the age of vehicles at first licence. This currently reads as follows.

7.5 All vehicles at first licence must be no more than 3.5 years old from the date of first registration and the vehicle engine emissions must meet euro 6 emission standard or higher (or other equivalent standard.) See section 9.
5. The proposed amendment is to increase the age at first licence to 4.5 years in line with the current wheelchair accessible vehicle requirements.
6. The second request is to amend section 9.4 which currently reads:-

9.4 All vehicles licenced by BCP council will meet the Euro 6 emission standard by 31st December 2023. No vehicle licences at renewal will be issued for vehicles which fail to meet this standard after this date.

7. The trade request that the date is amended to read either, the 31 August 2025 or 31 December 2024, which is the date for compliance with new livery requirement set out in section 17.3.
8. Representatives from the trade will be present to deliver their request and answer any questions members may have.

Options Appraisal

9. Members consider the information provided and either.
 - Agree the amendments to the policy as requested.
 - Make additional amendments to the policy as presented.
 - Make no changes and leave the policy as published.

Summary of financial implications

10. Any costs associated with the implementation of the Policy are be covered by the income from the licence and renewal fees received.

Summary of legal implications

11. The legal advisor has reviewed the proposed amendments.
12. The Council must have policies in order to administer the taxi and private hire licensing function and protect public safety.

Summary of human resources implications

13. Not applicable.

Summary of sustainability impact

14. The impact of licensed vehicles has been taken into account and the policy reflects good practice regarding vehicle emission standards. I would add how many vehicles not currently compliant as this will impact on emissions if allowed to remain licenced longer

Summary of public health implications

15. Not applicable.

Summary of equality implications

16. The Policies have been subject to Equality Needs Assessment and the minor amendments do not adversely impact on the previous assessment.

Summary of risk assessment

17. Not applicable.

Background papers

[BCP Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy](#)

Licensing Committee –

[4 February 2021 – Agenda and reports pack](#) - Report is at Agenda Item 6, page 21.

[4 February 2021 - Minutes of meeting](#)

[10 March 2022 - Agenda and reports pack](#) – Report is at Agenda Item 7, page 183.

[10 March 2022 - Minutes of meeting](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Letter from the BCP Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade Association in regard to the request.