

At a meeting of the Licensing Committee held in Zoom Virtual Meeting on Friday 30 April 2021 at 2.00 pm

Members

Councillor Ron Munby MBE (Chair)
Councillor Mary Bainbridge
Councillor Daniel Horsley
Councillor Alan Smith
Councillor Will Wilkinson

Councillor Adrian Kirkbride (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Allan Daniels
Councillor Elaine Lynch
Councillor Alan Tyson

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carmel Bell, Councillor Peter Gaston, Councillor Malcolm Grainger, Councillor Peter Kendall, Councillor Stephen Stoddart and Councillor Lynda Williams

Staff Present

G Collinson, L Jardine and J Morgan

418. Minutes

The minutes of the following meetings were signed as a correct record;

Licensing Panels held on 26 February 2020 and 30 September 2020.

Licensing Regulatory Panels held on 14 August 2020, 27 August 2020, 25 September 2020, 30 October 2020 and 11 November 2020.

419. Declaration of Interests

None declared

420. Questions

None received

421. Frequency of vehicle testing - Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles

The Senior Licensing and Compliance Officer presented the report to members to consider proposed amendments to the testing regime, outlined in the Vehicle Age Policy, which covers hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

Members were advised of the amendments to the policy;

- Removing the requirement for a report to be carried out by an engineer for vehicles aged four years and over
- Increasing the number of vehicle tests for vehicles aged four years and over from twice per year to three times per year.

- The following wording is proposed to replace clause 4 of the existing Vehicle Age Policy: “Once licensed if a vehicle is over four years of age from the first date of registration or reaches four years of age from the first date of registration within the duration of its licence, a vehicle test is required no later than four months following the commencement date of the vehicle licence and no earlier than 28 days before that date (First Four Month Test Date). For example, if a vehicle turns four on 29 March, it must be tested by 29 July at the latest, but no earlier than 1 July. Following the First Four Month Test Date, subsequent tests must be completed no later than four months following the previous test and no earlier than 28 days before each subsequent four-month test is due to be undertaken. Tests to be undertaken by the Council’s contractor. Failure to comply with this requirement will lead to the suspension of the vehicle or refusal to renew the vehicle licence”.
- Approving delegated powers for the suspension/revocation of vehicle licences for failure to undertake or pass the required tests for the Legal & Licensing Manager, Senior Licensing & Compliance Officer and the Licensing & Compliance Officer.

Members were also shown the current Vehicle Age Policy to compare this with the suggested amendments.

The Senior Licensing and Compliance Officer then provided an overview of the report, including the background to the proposed amendments to the policy.

Members asked questions in relation to vehicle testing and costs.

Members agreed to amend the Vehicle Age Policy as per officers recommendations.

422. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Screens

The Senior Licensing and Compliance Officer presented the report to members to approve the installation of partition screens in hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, to help protect licenced drivers during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Members were also provided with an overview of the proposed ‘Screen Installation Policy’ and its content.

The installation of screens will be at the discretion of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers.

Members asked questions in relation to car insurance, and the materials used for the partition screens.

Councillor Lynch moved the motion to approve the recommendations as stated in the report.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Daniels.

Members voted by assent and the motion was carried.

Resolution

Recommendations approved as per officers report.

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm