

Briefing Note



VEHICLE AGE LIMIT (HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE)

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Purpose

To update the Regulatory Committee on a change of policy authorised by the Cabinet Member in June 2020.

Background

On 25 November 2019 a private hire operator attended the Regulatory Committee and requested that the 6 year vehicle age limit for new licenses be removed from Council (MKC) policy. The private hire operator stated that his company found it difficult to fund/source vehicles for school transport that were less than 6 years old. The Committee referred the matter to the Chair and Taxi Licensing Manager (TLM) for further consideration.

Issue/Implications/Key Considerations

In response to this request and the economic impact of Covid-19 on the licensed trade, the Taxing Licensing Lead wrote to the Chair/Vice Chairs of the Regulatory Committee and Cabinet Member in May 2020 requesting that the 6 year age policy for new vehicle licences be removed. The TLM made the request on the following grounds:

- Vehicle proprietors that had surrendered their licences due to the Covid-19 pandemic were at present prevented from being re-licensed by MKC if their vehicle was over 6 years old (and less than 10). Many former vehicle proprietors had indicated they would return but could not do so due to the age policy.
- If the age limit was removed then those out of district vehicles aged from 7-9 years could be licensed with MKC. This would bring those vehicles into the Council's policy framework and help replace lost fee revenue caused by licence holders leaving the trade due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Many of these outside vehicles currently work in Milton Keynes and are operated by Skyline.

Next Step

The Cabinet Member, under delegated powers, considered the views of Taxi Licensing, Head of Transport, and Chair/Vice Chairs of the Regulatory Committee and decided as follows from 1 June 2020:

- If a vehicle has been previously licenced by MKC from 1 March 2020 then it may be re-licensed if it is under 10 years of age. Existing Hackney Carriage/Private hire vehicle licence holders can licence a new vehicle up to 10 years old.
- A vehicle not previously licensed by MKC can be licensed only if it is a Hybrid (low emission) vehicle and is less than 10 years old.
- In all other circumstances the Council will not grant a new licence in respect of a vehicle that is over six (6) years of age.