



EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of Report:	Extension of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences following COVID 19		To be marked with an 'X' by Democratic Services after report has been presented
Meeting of:	Full Licensing Committee		
Is this an Executive Decision:	[NO]	Is this a Key Decision:	[NO]
Is this in the Forward Plan:	[NO]	Is the Report Confidential:	[NO]
If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:	[]		



Essential Signatories:

ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE

Monitoring Officer: **Angela Wakefield**

Date Signature

Chief Finance Officer: **Sal Khan**

Date Signature

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Full Licensing Committee

Date: 2021

REPORT TITLE: Extension of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences following COVID 19

PORTFOLIO: Regulatory Services

HEAD OF SERVICE: Mark Rizk

CONTACT OFFICER: Margaret Woolley Ext. No. x1479

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To consider a third request from individual vehicle proprietors to extend the licences of private hire and hackney carriage vehicles following issues brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic.

2.0 Executive Summary

- 2.1 Three individual emails have been received from vehicle proprietors licensed by East Staffordshire Borough Council requesting that consideration be given to extending the life (age limits) of private hire and hackney carriage vehicles for a period of 4 months.
- 2.2 Four month vehicle extensions were granted in April 2020 and November 2020.

3.0 Report

- 3.1 The licensing team have received three separate requests from individual vehicle proprietors that the Council consider a 4 month extension of private hire and hackney carriage vehicle licences.

- 3.2 Currently vehicle licences are issued for 1 year. Private Hire vehicles are allowed to be licensed until they are 7 years old and Hackney carriages may be licensed until they are 10 years old.
- 3.3 The individual vehicle proprietors report that “I am not in a position to replace vehicles due to Covid 19 and lockdown, work has been terribly slow and at present I do not have funds available to purchase a new vehicle and request that you consider my appeal for extension”.
3. Vehicle licences cost £164 per annum.
- 3.7 Over the period May 2021 to December 2021 we have the following numbers of vehicles that will be reaching the 7 and 10 year age limit and therefore proprietors will potentially be bringing on replacement vehicles.
- 3.8
- | | |
|-------------|----|
| May - | 11 |
| June - | 16 |
| July - | 10 |
| August – | 5 |
| September - | 25 |
| October - | 13 |
| November – | 16 |
| December - | 11 |
- 4.0 Relicensing of vehicles (taxi and PHV)
- 4.1 Licensing Authorities are being urged by central government to exercise discretion in dealings with the licensed taxi trade. Guidance states that:
- 4.2 “Licensing authorities should consider ways in which they can use their existing powers to support the trade to continue to operate and provide essential travel. Where licensing authorities are unable to undertake inspections of vehicles to issue a certificate of compliance, they should consider whether their taxi and PHV licensing policies can be amended to accept a recent MOT certificate prior to the renewal a vehicle or proprietor licence.”
- 4.3 It is important to note that any certificate of compliance issued by a licensing authority ceases to be valid for MOT purposes once the vehicle or proprietors licence expires or is revoked; the owners of any vehicles that continue to be used on the road after revocation or expiry must consider whether they need to obtain an MOT certificate in order to do so lawfully.
- 4.4 Drivers are responsible for making sure their vehicle is always safe to drive, a vehicle can be unsafe even if it has a valid MOT certificate or certificate of compliance. Drivers should be aware of their legal obligations; more information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/legal-obligations-drivers-riders>

- 4.5 Options available for the Committee to consider are;
- i To extend the private hire and hackney carriage vehicle licences that reach the 7/10 year age limit as detailed at point 3.8 of this report for a period of 4 months.
 - ii An extension period of 6 months.
 - iii An extension period until the end of December 2021.
 - iv) The Committee may also consider that no extensions should be granted.

5.0 Financial Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: Anya Murray.

- 5.1 The Council recovers its costs in all situations where a vehicle is inspected.

6.0 Risk Assessment and Management

- 6.1 The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

6.1.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):

- 6.1.1.1 These measures will assist and support the taxi trade moving forward

6.1.2 Negative (Threats):

- 6.1.2.1 In the event of any further extension / additions there may be supplementary work undertaken not currently accommodated within the existing fee structure.

7.0 Legal Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team: Angela Wakefield.

- 7.1 There are no significant legal issues arising from this Report.

8.0 Recommendation(s)

- 8.1 That the Licensing Committee consider the information contained within this report.

8.2 Options available to the Committee to consider are;

- i) An extension to private hire and hackney carriage vehicle licences that reach the 7/10 year age limit as detailed at point 3.8 of this report for a period of 4 months.
- ii) A 6 month extension, or
- iii) An extension until 31 December 2021, or
- iv) The Committee may decide to grant no extensions.

9.0 Appendices

- A. Email from Mohammed Yousaf
- B. Email from Umer Adeel
- C. Khalid Mehmood
- D. Licensing Committee report April 2020
- E. Licensing Committee report November 2020