

**Vehicle Age Policy Amendment Request**

<b>Timetable</b>	
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Licensing Committee	13 October 2022

<b>Final Decision-Maker</b>	Licensing Committee
<b>Lead Head of Service</b>	John Littlemore, Head of Housing and Regulatory Services
<b>Lead Officer and Report Author</b>	Lorraine Neale, Senior Licensing Officer
<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Wards affected</b>	N/A

**Executive Summary**

The Council's current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy includes a requirement that a vehicle should not have more than 30,000 miles on the clock or be older than 3 years at first licensing. For private hire vehicles, this requirement is from the date of the vehicle registration.

A request has been received from John Iandolo of Express Cabs (Appendix 1) to allow a temporary amendment to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy (Taxi Policy) to allow the relevant date for the purposes of the above policy requirement to be the date of the plate and not the date of registration.

**Purpose of Report**

To consider the request to amend the taxi policy vehicle age restrictions.

**This report makes the following recommendations to the Committee**

1. That consideration be given to a temporary change for the licensing of new vehicles to allow 2019 plates to be licensed until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.
2. That consideration be given to a permanent change to the new vehicle entry level requirements to either amend or remove the criteria of under 3 years old and/or under 30,000 miles.
3. That should either of the proposed amendments be agreed, a short consultation period be approved to allow for feedback from interested parties.
4. That a further report be submitted to the Licensing Committee detailing any feedback and requesting approval of the amended 2021-2026 Taxi Policy and an implementation date if appropriate.

# Vehicle Age Policy Amendment Request

## 1. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
<b>Impact on Corporate Priorities</b>	<p>The four Strategic Plan objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embracing Growth and Enabling Infrastructure</li> <li>• Safe, Clean and Green</li> <li>• Homes and Communities</li> <li>• A Thriving Place</li> </ul> <p>We do not expect the recommendations will by themselves materially affect achievement of corporate priorities.</p>	Head of Housing & Regulatory Services
<b>Cross Cutting Objectives</b>	<p>The four cross-cutting objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage is Respected</li> <li>• Health Inequalities are Addressed and Reduced</li> <li>• Deprivation and Social Mobility is Improved</li> <li>• Biodiversity and Environmental Sustainability is respected</li> </ul> <p>The report recommendations do not materially impact on the achievement of the cross-cutting objectives.</p>	Head of Housing & Regulatory Services
<b>Risk Management</b>	Already covered in the risk section.	Head of Housing & Regulatory Services
<b>Financial</b>	There are no financial implications.	Senior Licensing Officer
<b>Staffing</b>	We will deliver the recommendations with our current staffing.	Head of Housing & Regulatory Services
<b>Legal</b>	There is no statutory requirement to have a policy but Maidstone Borough Council chose to have one as it was felt that a policy	Helen Ward, Lawyer (Contentious),

	ensures a transparent and consistent approach to licensing. The Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards recommends that Authorities have a Policy and that it is regularly reviewed.	Mid Kent Legal Services, 6 September 2022
<b>Information Governance</b>	The recommendations will impact personal information (as defined in UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018) the Council processes.	Information Governance Team
<b>Equalities</b>	The recommendations do not propose a change in service therefore will not require an equalities impact assessment.	Equalities & Communities Officer
<b>Public Health</b>	No public health implications.	Senior Licensing Officer
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	There is no immediate impact on crime & disorder in accepting the recommendations of the report.	Head of Housing & Regulatory Services
<b>Procurement</b>	Not applicable.	Head of Housing & Regulatory Services
<b>Biodiversity and Climate Change</b>	No implications.	Senior Licensing Officer

## 2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Mr Iandolo submitted a request on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 22 for a temporary taxi policy amendment for vehicle ages (Appendix 1). Unfortunately the request was received too late for inclusion at the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 Licensing Committee (Appendix 2).
- 2.2 Mr Iandolo indicates that there is a shortage of new and used cars, that it is difficult to get vehicles under 3 years old and new vehicles can have up to a year's wait for delivery. He makes a suggestion that he believes will assist with the current situation. Also, the Licensing Department have had drivers contact us to inform us that they are having difficulties acquiring vehicles that meet policy requirements but none have been received in recent months.
- 2.3 The request being made by Mr Iandolo is that we licence vehicles according to the plate rather than dates of registration. He would like to licence 19 plates as private hire vehicles. The current registration system involves two releases of plates a year. For plates issued from March to August the vehicle age code is simply the last two digits of the year, e.g. "02" for 2002 or "18" for 2018. If issued from September to February of the following year the

code has 50 added to it, e.g. "52" for 2002 or "68" for 2018. With this new current number plates scheme a buyer can tell the year of a car without having to look it up. 2019 plates are attached to vehicles registered between March and August 2019, so any vehicles registered between March and August 2019 are too old under current policy to be licensed as new vehicles. If a temporary policy change were agreed to allow the licensing of 19 plates until December 2022 then this would assist the trade until the shortages in available vehicles resolves itself.

- 2.4 The [taxi policy](#) currently requires and states at pages 17, 33, 47 and 64 that all vehicles being licensed for the first time (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire) should not have more than 30,000 miles on the clock or be older than 3 years. We could consider changing or removing this entry level criteria completely and just allow the licensing of private hire vehicles up to 6 years old and Hackney Carriage vehicles up to 15 years subject to meeting the requirements of the compliance testing.
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### **3. AVAILABLE OPTIONS**

- 3.1 Agree a temporary Policy change and allow 2019 plates to be licensed up until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022.
  - 3.2 Agree the change or removal of the entry level criteria for new vehicles.
  - 3.3 Do nothing.
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### **4. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 Members consider the contents of the report and determine which policy change option would benefit the trade while the ongoing restrictions from the pandemic continue.
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### **5. RISK**

- 5.1 If the age/mileage policy on entry level vehicles is not amended it could contribute to a serious shortage of available licensed vehicles. This in turn could impact the safety of the public especially during the hours of the late-night economy.
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### **6. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK**

- 6.1 N/A
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### **7. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

- 7.1 Should Members be minded to approve any change to the current Policy, then a consultation with the trade and interested parties would be required.

7.2 All feedback from the consultation would be brought back to this Committee for approval and an agreed implementation date.

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## **8. REPORT APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1: E -mail from J.Iandolo 10.06.22
  - Appendix 2: E-mail from J.Littlemore 13.06.22
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## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy](#)