

Report to: General Purposes Committee Meeting – 23 June 2022
 Director Lead: Matthew Finch, Director – Communities & Environment
 Lead Officer: Alan Batty, Business Manager – Public Protection, Extn. 5467

Report Summary	
Reason for Report	For Members to consider changes to the Council’s vehicle age policy in respect of licensed Private Hire Ambulance Vehicles.
Report Title	Review of the Vehicle Age Policy for Private Hire Ambulance Vehicles
Purpose of Report	For Members to consider whether the age policy for Private Hire Ambulance Vehicles should be amended in line with the vehicle age policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.
Recommendations	<p>That all vehicles must be under 9 years of age on first registration and not over 15 years of age on renewal.</p> <p>That vehicles over 6 years of age that fail the licensing vehicle test on structural damage of major mechanical issue will not be licensed.</p> <p>That a purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicle must be under 9 years of age when first licensed and not over 15 years of age on renewal.</p>

1.0 Background

1.1 The Council’s Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy sets out the specification that vehicles must meet in order to be considered for licensing. One of the criteria relates to the age of the vehicles. The policy has always sought to strike a balance between the cost to the drivers of replacing vehicle and that have having modern taxi fleet to service the needs of taxi using population of Newark & Sherwood.

1.2 The vehicle age policy for private hire ambulance vehicles was last considered by committee in 2016. The policy agreed at that time was:

4.5.2 Vehicles operating as private ambulances only must be under seven years of age when first licensed and not over 12 years of age on renewal.

- 1.3 Representations have been received from the two Private Hire Ambulance operators registered within Newark & Sherwood expressing concern over the current policy. The concerns are twofold. Firstly, the cost of second hand vehicles has increased over the past two years and this is causing concern as to the affordability of replacing vehicles when they remain in good condition but have passed the age limit of our policy.
- 1.4 Secondly, at the last General Purposes meeting in March 2022, members agreed that the Council's age policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles be amended to allow vehicles to be licensed for a longer period of time.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 There are compelling reasons why the age policy should be reviewed based on the current second hand vehicle market, the challenges to the private hire ambulance trade and the general improvement in vehicle quality.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the age policy for Private Hire Ambulance Vehicles should be amended in line with vehicle age policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles the as set out below.
- (a) all vehicles must be under 9 years of age on first registration and not over 15 years of age on renewal;
 - (b) vehicles over 6 years of age that fail the licensing vehicle test on structural damage of major mechanical issue will not be licensed; and
 - (c) a purposed built of wheelchair assessable vehicle must be under 9 years of age when first licensed and not over 15 years of age on renewal.

3.0 Implications

No implications have been identified.

Background Papers and Published Documents

NSDC Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy