

**DECISION OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 6PM, ON
THURSDAY, 7 JULY 2022,
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, BRIDGE STREET**

4. PROPOSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY -RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION AND ADOPTION OF FINAL POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED:

The Licensing Committee considered the Proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy Responses to Consultation and Adoption of Final Policy and Implementation.

The Committee **RESOLVED** (unanimously) to recommend the policy to Council for approval subject to the agreed amendments. The recommendations approved included:

- I. Adopt the revisions in policy as recommended by DfT (Department for Transport) Statutory Guidance and Officers.
- II. Retain the current decision-making process as set out in section 2.5.4.1 (a), (b) and (c) of the Council's Constitution subject to the amendment to part (b) as follows:
(b) to approve advertising in or on purpose-built Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles subject to there being no advertising of alcohol or tobacco related products and the advertisements complying with the code of acceptance except where the Officer is of the opinion that an application should be considered by Licensing Committee.
- III. To commence a consultation process in relation to considering mandating the installation of CCTV in licensed vehicles, with a final decision to be taken by the Committee at a future date.
- IV. A motion was proposed and seconded to change the age limit of 5 years instead of 4-year-old petrol/diesel to be accepted into the trade. Following a vote, (4 for, 7 against) the motion was **DEFEATED**. The Committee therefore agreed to the Officers recommendation to Adopt the revised vehicle restrictions giving 'acquired' rights to vehicles licensed before 26 July 2022 for 4 years old petrol/diesel vehicles to be accepted into the trade
- V. Agreed the maximum age limit beyond which a ZEV would not be licensed at 20 years old.
- VI. Set the maximum CO2 level at 105g/km to be considered as a ULEV in relation to the policy.
- VII. Retain Aragon as the Council's only appointed testing station.
- VIII. Requirement for licensed vehicles to display internal and external signage.
- IX. Recommended adoption to full council of the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy, subject to the above amendments.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION:

The policy was required to be reviewed and revised as appropriate and at least every 5 years. The amended policy is consistent with changes in primary legislation, Statutory Guidance and best practice. It is aimed to improve safety standards without being burdensome to licence holders or applicants.

An up-to-date policy strengthens the council's position in the event of challenge.