

LICENSING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**22 MARCH 2017**

REPORT TITLE	HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCES
REPORT OF	MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR DELIVERY

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update Members regarding the current position relating to the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences that are available to receive applications and for Members to consider a revised allocation procedure for allocating Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Members consider a revised allocation procedure for allocating available Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 There are currently 31 Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences available and a number of enquiries have been received regarding applications for new Licences. The current allocation procedure costs approximately £600.00 to administer each time licences become available.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 There is no provision for other options to be considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 23 January 2012 Members of this Committee resolved to impose a limit of 289 on the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences that could be issued by the Council. The limit was set at 289 following recommendations made by Halcrow Group Limited who undertook an independent study of the demand for hackney carriages in Wirral during June 2011.
- 3.2 Following a period of public consultation Members of the Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee resolved at their meeting on 25 September 2012 that a random selection process be approved for the allocation of available licences.
- 3.3 Members also resolved that the random selection process will be made using a computer programme at appropriate future meetings of the Licensing Panel. The current procedure is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Officers have sought to allocate Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences that have become available due to the proprietors of these vehicles either not renewing these licences or surrendering them. Officers have followed the procedure for allocating these licences adopted by this Committee. The last process was undertaken between 1 December 2016 and January 2017. This resulted in three applications being submitted.
- 3.5 At the time that the current procedure was adopted by this Committee it was anticipated that licences would only become available infrequently and would subsequently require a process to manage a number of applications that would be higher than the number of licences available. This has not been the case and as stated above following the last process the Council received three applications which were allocated in accordance with the resolution made by this Committee on 19 November 2014
- 3.6 The current process of allocating licences which includes writing to every licence holder and publishing a notice in the local newspaper costs approximately £600 and results in a very low number of applications being received, a number which is far less than the number of licences available. It is proposed that the Council maintain a notice on the Council's website advising the public of the number of licences that

are available at any one time and that licences are subsequently issued to applicants that meet the criteria for licensing Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

- 3.7 Members are asked to consider amending the current allocation process to that detailed in Appendix 2.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are costs implications to undertake the current allocation procedure.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A decision of the Committee may be subject to legal challenge.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

7.0 RISKS

- 7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

This is not a matter that requires consultation.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Current allocation procedure

Appendix 2 – Proposed allocation procedure

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee	19 November 2014