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LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

19 OCTOBER 2023

SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

The following papers have been added to the agenda for the above meeting.

These were not available for publication with the rest of the agenda.

Kevin Gibbs
Executive Director: Delivery

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8. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY	3 - 4
To consider the draft policy following the consultation undertaken in 2022 and to agree any modifications arising from that consultation and agree the way forward in terms of the adoption of the policy.	

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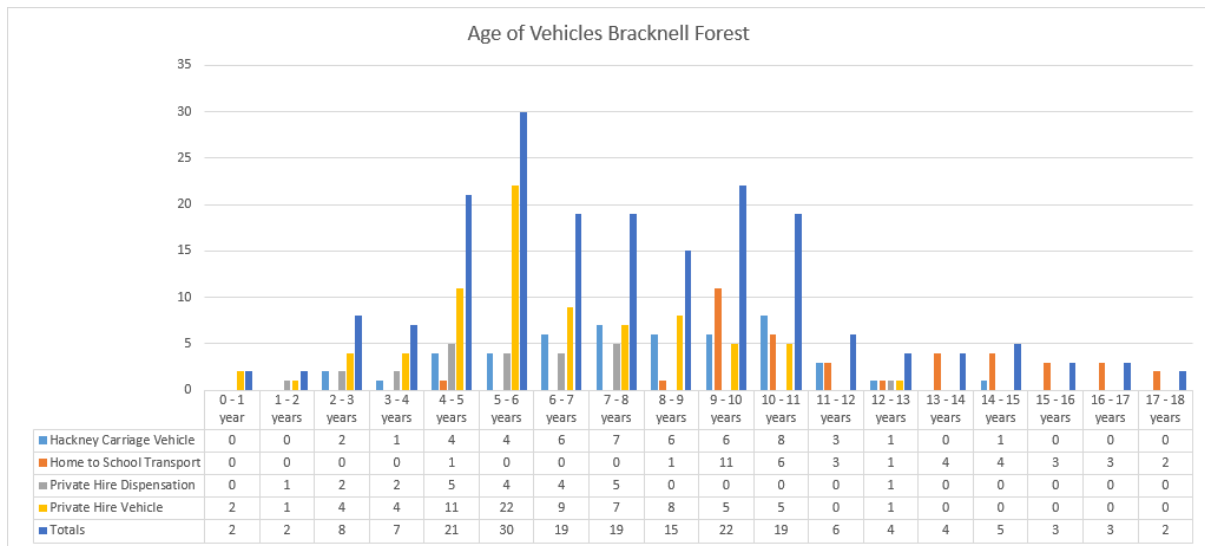
Bracknell Forest Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Recommendations for Age & Emissions of vehicles

The purpose of these recommendations are to ensure our licenced Private Hire and Hackney carriage vehicles are in line with other Local Authorities in minimising emissions. It is recognised that the age of vehicles and the exhaust emission specification are critical to the level of pollutions emitted. Bracknell Forest Council would like to improve air quality and reduce emissions from the taxi and private hire fleet, so standards relating to the exhaust emissions are introduced in addition to the requirements regarding the age of vehicles.

Current Vehicle Age Profile as at September 2023

The following is breakdown of licensed vehicles by age and type of licence held:



By way of a summary:

- 60% of licensed vehicles currently meet Euro 6 (2016) standards
- 29% meet at least Euro 5 (2011) standards
- 11% meet neither

Current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
Age of vehicles

Vehicles up to 5 years old from date of first registration will be subject to an annual inspection.

Once a licensed vehicle reaches 5 years old it will be subject to 6 monthly inspections thereafter.

For vehicles solely engaged in Home to School transport the same regulation applies, unless it is demonstrated that the vehicle is covering less than 8000 miles a year.

Vehicles up to five years old from the first date of registration or which have travelled less than 25,000 miles since that date will be subject to an inspection before grant or renewal, and at six months or 25,000 miles whichever occurs first after the date of grant or renewal at one of Bracknell Forest Council's nominated testing stations.

The maximum age of a vehicle that may continue to be licensed is 8 years from date of first registration for private hire vehicles and 10 years for hackney carriages.

No Emissions policy in place

Recommendations

Age of Vehicles

At first application- vehicle will not be granted in respect of vehicles that were first registered (or, in the case of imported vehicles, manufactured) more than 5 years prior to the date that the application is made.

At renewal –The following criteria for emission standards will apply:

Emissions Standards

In order before the vehicle licence to be renewed vehicles must meet the following emissions criteria.

- 1) **For any vehicle renewing in 2027/28** – the vehicle must be compliant with Euro 5 emissions standards. Vehicles will therefore be a maximum of 16 years old.
- 2) **For any vehicle renewing in 2029/30** – the vehicle must be compliant with Euro 6 emissions standards. Vehicles will therefore be a maximum of 15 years old.
- 3) **Where vehicles do not meet the relevant emissions criteria the proprietor may;**
 - Have the vehicle adapted/ modified to meet the standard and provide evidence of this; or
 - Replace the vehicle with one that meets the emission standard.

Notwithstanding, that each application will be considered on its own merits.

Please note the following advice to be added to the policy, following the decision:-

If the licence of a currently licenced Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle is allowed to EXPIRE, then any subsequent application will NOT be considered as a renewal.

This means that where an existing vehicle licence expires the subsequent application will be treated as a first time application and the standards and criteria relating to first time application will be applied.