

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Public Protection Sub-Committee
Date: 18th February 2016
Report for: Decision
Report of: Head of Regulatory Services

Report Title

ALLOCATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE

Summary

The Council has previously determined that 143 vehicle licences is the appropriate number to meet the identified demand for hackney carriages in Trafford. A vehicle licence has now become available and in order to comply with its current policy the Council must now allocate a new hackney carriage vehicle licence.

Recommendation(s)

The Sub-Committee is asked to agree the following:

- (1) to invite expressions of interest by way of a public notice from persons wishing to apply for a new hackney carriage vehicle licence - see Appendix A;
- (2) that the licence will be allocated by way of a draw;
- (3) that the successful person must present a suitable vehicle within 90 days of the receipt of the decision letter, and that there will be no extension to this deadline; and
- (4) that if the vehicle licence is transferred within the first three years, it may only be transferred to a vehicle which is less than two years old.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Joanne Boyle
Extension: 4129

Iain Veitch
Head of Regulatory Services

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Under the Transport Act 1985, the Council may limit the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences it issues for Trafford, provided there is no 'significant unmet demand'. The issue of whether or not there is significant unmet demand is determined through a statistical analysis of the results of a survey.
- 1.2 The Council currently restricts the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences it issues to 143, which is based on previous surveys.
- 1.3 A vehicle licence returns to the Council on the death of the holder or if the holder fails to renew the licence. In November 2015 a hackney carriage vehicle proprietor failed to renew the vehicle licence before the expiry date. (Further detail on the background to this report will be offered in Part II of the Agenda).
- 1.4 It was decided that the Council would consider renewing the licence if the vehicle passed the vehicle compliance test and a formal application was submitted by the 4th January 2016. The vehicle proprietor was advised of this decision; and that there would be no extension to the deadline.
- 1.5 The Council did not receive a renewal application nor was the vehicle presented for testing by the due date; therefore, the hackney carriage vehicle licence expired on the 4th January 2016.
- 1.6 The Council has previously determined that 143 vehicle licences is the appropriate number to meet the identified demand for hackney carriages in Trafford. In order to comply with its current policy the Council must now allocate a new hackney carriage vehicle licence.
- 1.7 The Licensing Section does not maintain a register of interest or waiting list for hackney carriage vehicle licences. Therefore, it is proposed to ask for expressions of interest by way of a public notice in a local newspaper; by advertising on the Council's website and Twitter; and through liaison with operators and trade representatives.
- 1.8 It is proposed that the successful applicant will be chosen by way of a draw.
- 1.9 It is also proposed that any successful applicant must meet the following criteria:
 - The vehicle must be either an LTi, Mercedes Vito Taxi or Peugeot E7 Taxi which is less than 2 years old;
 - The vehicle must be presented for licensing within 90 days of the date the licence is allocated. There will be no extension to this deadline.
 - Within the first three years the vehicle licence may only be transferred to a vehicle which is less than 2 years old.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Sub-Committee is asked to agree the following policy and procedure for the allocation of a new hackney proprietor's licence:

2.1.1. to invite expressions of interest from persons wishing to apply for a new hackney carriage vehicle licence by way of a public notice see Appendix A;

2.1.2 that the licence will be allocated by way of a draw;

2.1.3 that the successful person must present a suitable vehicle within 90 days of the receipt of the decision letter, and that there will be no extension to this deadline; and

2.1.4 that if the vehicle licence is transferred within the first three years, it may only be transferred to a vehicle which is less than two years old.