

## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Public Protection Sub-Committee  
**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
**Report for:** Decision  
**Report of:** Head of Regulatory Services

### Report Title

**PRIVATE HIRE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES – EXTENSION TO TEMPORARY EXEMPTION FROM CURRENT AGE POLICY**

### Summary

On the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the Sub-committee approved a proposal to temporarily waive the exceptional condition (age) test for existing private hire wheelchair adapted vehicles which provide transport for children and vulnerable adults with SEND. The exemption was to be effective until the first licence renewal date falling after the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. This was to ensure compliance with the agreed implementation date of the new age standards for existing licensed vehicles introduced by the GM Minimum Licensing Standards.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 the Council agreed to amend the implementation date for the hackney carriage and private hire age and emissions standards for existing Trafford licensed vehicles, which were proposed as part of the Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards project and adopted by Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The Council resolved that the compliance date should be extended from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026, and that there should also be a contingency (through a delegated decision) to further extend this compliance date to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2027 if appropriate.

### Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:

1. Note the contents of the report; and
2. Approve the proposal to extend the temporary waiver of the exceptional condition (age) test for existing private hire wheelchair adapted vehicles which provide transport for children and vulnerable adults with SEND to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.
3. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Place in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods, to approve a further extension to the temporary waiver of the exceptional condition (age) test in respect of vehicles detailed in paragraph 2; in line with any future changes to the implementation date for the hackney carriage and private hire age and emissions standards for existing Trafford licensed vehicles.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 On the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the Sub-committee approved a proposal to temporarily waive the exceptional condition (age) test for existing private hire wheelchair adapted vehicles which provide transport for children and vulnerable adults with SEND. The exemption was to be effective until the first licence renewal date falling after the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. This was to ensure compliance with the agreed implementation date of the new age standards for existing licensed vehicles introduced by the GM Minimum Licensing Standards. Copy of report of the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.2 On the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 the Council agreed to amend the implementation date for the hackney carriage and private hire age and emissions standards for existing Trafford licensed vehicles, which were proposed as part of the Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards project and adopted by Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- 1.3 The Council resolved that the compliance date should be extended from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026, and that there should also be a contingency (through a delegated decision) to further extend this compliance date to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2027 if appropriate.

### **Statutory Duty to Provide Transport**

- 1.4 The Trafford Travel Co-ordination Unit (TTCU) continue to have concerns about the impact of MLS on the delivery of the Council's duty to provide transport for children and vulnerable adults with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- 1.5 In order to allow the Council to consider the implications of the MLS on the provision of transport for children and young people with SEND further; it is proposed to extend the temporary waiver of the exceptional condition test for existing private hire wheelchair adapted vehicles until the introduction of the new vehicle standards from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. This will provide some certainty for TTCU and their contractors with older vehicles that they will continue to be licensed.
- 1.6 The exempted vehicles will still be required to pass the Council's six monthly compliance test (MOT).
- 1.7 Any new to license vehicle must meet the new Minimum Licensing Standards from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 which requires fixed age standards with no exceptions.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Sub-Committee:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report; and
- 2.2 Approve the proposal to extend the temporary waiver of the exceptional condition (age) test for existing private hire wheelchair adapted vehicles which provide transport for children and vulnerable adults with SEND, to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.
- 2.3 Delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Place in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Neighbourhoods, to approve a further extension to the temporary waiver of the exceptional condition (age) test in respect of vehicles detailed in paragraph 2; in line with any future changes to the implementation date for the hackney carriage and private hire age and emissions standards for existing Trafford licensed vehicles.

APPENDIX A – Public Protection Sub-Committee Report dated 20/01/2022