**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date / time of meeting: |  |
| Location of meeting: |  |
| Members to attend: | Cllr Green  Cllr Hamilton  Cllr Hancock  Cllr Nathan  Cllr Wooldridge |
| Co-opted trade representatives to attend: |  |

1. Current position age policy – SRBC:

Licensing Policy (as amended Nov 2017)

**6.9 Hackney Carriage Vehicle Age Limits**

The Council operates an age policy in respect of licensed vehicles and since its introduction, the travelling public of South Ribble have benefitted from more reliable vehicles which are fitted with better safety features and are more environmentally friendly.

The Council will where appropriate, issue Hackney Carriage Licences to vehicles which:

1. Are no older than 4 years, when first presented for licensing
2. In respect of purpose built taxis (i.e. Peugeot E7, Euro taxi) or other wheelchair accessible vehicles are no older than 6 years, when first presented for licensing

Vehicles in (a) above, which have been continuously licenced by South Ribble, will no longer be eligible for renewal once they are 8 years old.

Vehicles in (b) above, which have been continuously licenced by South Ribble, will no longer be eligible for renewal once they are 12 years old

The Council operates an age policy in respect of licensed vehicles and since its introduction, the travelling public of South Ribble have benefitted from more reliable vehicles which are fitted with better safety features and are more environmentally friendly.

**7.8 Private Hire Vehicle Age Limits**

The Council will where appropriate, issue Private Hire Licences to:

a) Saloon/estate vehicles which are no older than 4 years, when first presented for licensing,

b) Larger MPVs, minibuses and other wheelchair accessible vehicles which are no older than 6 years, when first presented for licensing.

Vehicles in (a) above, which have been continuously licensed by South Ribble, will no longer be eligible for renewal once they are 8 years old.

Vehicles in (b) above, which have been continuously licensed by South Ribble, will no longer be eligible for renewal once they are 12 years old.

In summary:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **HC** | | **PH** | |
|  | From | To | From | To |
| **Saloon** | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| **WAV** | 6 | 12 | 6 | 12 |

1. Current position age policy – other Lancs authorities

Research undertaken by Pendle BC in 2015 shows range of approaches across the County:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Authority** | **Age Limit** | **Additional conditions applied** |
| Blackburn | No age limit | None – tested every 6 months. |
| Burnley | Saloons and small MPVs – no lower age limit and licence to 8 years  Large MPVs and minibuses – 5 to 10 years  Wheelchair accessible, large MPVs and minibuses – 5 to 12 years  Hackney carriage black cabs – 3 to 12 years | N/A |
| Chorley | No age limit | All vehicles required to meet same standards regardless of age – currently being reviewed. |
| Fylde | Up to 12 years for all vehicles | One test a year. |
| Hyndburn | 7 to 10 years | Three tests per year from 8 years old. Hackneys must have a swivel seat. |
| Lancaster | No age limit | Any vehicle over 10 years must be in outstanding condition and must be inspected and approved by licensing officers – then tested every 4 months. |
| Preston | No age limit | None – tested twice a year. |
| Ribble Valley | No age limit | Tested three times a year when over 7 years old. |
| Rossendale | 7 to 10 years, minibuses and purpose built hackney carriages up to 12 years | Tested twice a year and minibuses/purpose built hackney carriages three times a year. |
| South Ribble | Saloons 4 to 8 years and purpose built/minibuses 6 to 12 years. | None - tested twice per year |
| West Lancs | Private hire 6 to 15 years and HC all wheelchair accessible 4 to 18 years. | None |
| Wyre | No age limit | All vehicles required to meet same standards regardless of age – tested once a year. |

Burnley, Rossendale and West Lancs have a differentiated age policy similar to SRBC

1. Government guidance

**TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING: BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE (DfT March 2010)**

Age Limits. It is perfectly possible for an older vehicle to be in good condition. So the setting of an age limit beyond which a local authority will not license vehicles may be arbitrary and inappropriate. But a greater frequency of testing may be appropriate for older vehicles - for example, twice-yearly tests for vehicles more than five years old.