

Report of the Chief Executive

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE SPECIFICATION – ENGINE SIZE1. Purpose of Report

To consider a request from the taxi trade to amend the current specification of hackney carriage and private hire vehicle engine capacity as outlined in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy (the Policy).

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to CONSIDER and RESOLVE the request accordingly.

3. Detail

The current specification for all vehicles as set out in the Policy in terms of cubic capacity (cc) is a minimum of 1400cc. This has been the case since 3 December 2019 when the minimum capacity was reduced from 1500cc to 1400cc.

It has been requested from members of the taxi trade that the Committee considers reducing the minimum capacity further.

A number of advances in engine technology have been made since the specification was approved in 2019. BHP (Brake Horse Power) produced by engines as a ratio to the capacity is now more efficient and allows for smaller engines (less than 1400cc) with turbos which are more fuel efficient rather than some of the larger cubic capacity engines.

Vehicles less than 1400cc could be accepted providing they are not less than 90 BHP or 67.1KW (this can be found on the vehicle log book V5 under reference P2).

All vehicles must comply with all other specifications listed as customer safety and comfort is the Council's primary concern.

Such a move would assist the Council in continuing to seek ways to reduce carbon emissions and improve the environment as smaller, more fuel-efficient cars will have a much smaller carbon footprint.

If the committee is minded to approve such vehicles the policy would be amended as set out in appendix 1. An Equality Impact Assessment is attached as appendix 2.

The following sentence would also be deleted from paragraph 6 as Nottingham does not have a Clean Air Zone.

“These levels are in line with Nottingham City Council’s Clean Air Zone proposals due to take effect in 2019”.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, although the change in parameters could generate a nominal increase in vehicle applications and income.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The legal and policy considerations are contained within the report, therefore there are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

6. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

No comments

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

No comments

8. Climate Change Implications

Reducing engine sizes is an effective way to reduce carbon emissions. Smaller engines use less fuel, produce fewer carbon emissions and help to improve overall fuel efficiency.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any [OFFICIAL (SENSITIVE)] information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

N/A

11. Background Papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Paragraph 6.3

From 13 June 2018 all petrol vehicles licensed for the first time by Broxtowe Borough Council will be required to meet the following Euro Emission Standard

- Petrol vehicles Euro 5

From 13 June 2018 all diesel vehicles licensed for the first time by Broxtowe Borough Council will be required to meet the following Euro Emission Standard

- Diesel vehicles Euro 6

From 26 September 2017 all electric vehicles will be required to meet the following Euro Emission Standard

- Zero emission vehicles Minimum 67.1kW

Note: Hybrid vehicles will be required to have a minimum of 90 Brake Horse Power

Policy Appendix I

A VEHICLE MUST HAVE: -

1. A minimum of 95 Brake Horse Power and:

- Diesel vehicles Euro 6 Compliant
- Petrol vehicles Euro 5 Compliant
- Zero emission vehicles Minimum 63.1 KW

Note: Hybrid vehicles will be required to have a minimum of 90 Brake Horse Power