

Report of the Chief Executive

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE SPECIFICATION
– ENGINE SIZE**1. Purpose of report

To seek approval to change the existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy to reduce the minimum engine size requirement for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

2. Background

The current specification for all vehicles as set out in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in terms of cubic capacity (cc) is a minimum of 1500cc. This has been the case since February 2015 when the minimum cc was reduced from 1600 to 1500. However following a recent appeal to the committee, interest has been expressed by members in reducing the requirement to 1400cc. It is proposed that the current specification be amended to specify a minimum of 1400cc. Note. It may be appropriate to allow a small leeway as engine capacity may be nominally 1.4 but in actual fact slightly less. Vehicle capacities may be rounded up to the nearest 100cc. Vehicle with a cc of 1351 may be badged as 1.4 versions of the vehicle.

A number of advances in engine technology have been made since the initial specification was approved. The Vauxhall Astra Estate 1.4i Petrol Turbo offers 148 bhp (Brake Horse Power) and a Skoda Octavia 1.4 gives 150 BHP, both of which compare favorably with the current fleet.

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.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the current vehicle specification be amended to include a minimum of 1400cc or other such cc as may be decided.

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX

The current vehicle specification for both hackney carriage and private hire vehicles is as outlined on pages 12 and 13 of the Council's Hackney carriage and private hire licensing, terms and conditions.

**SPECIFICATION FOR
HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

A VEHICLE MUST HAVE:

1. A minimum engine capacity of 1400cc. (or other cc as may be decided)