

LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2019

Present: Councillor D Bagshaw, Chair

Councillors: E Cubley
T A Cullen
D Grindell
R D MacRae
J C Patrick
D D Pringle
M Radulovic MBE
P D Simpson
I L Tyler

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E H Atherton and R I Jackson.

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 24 September 2019 and 15 October 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

22 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE SPECIFICATION – ENGINE SIZE

The Committee considered the proposed amendments to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in terms of cubic capacity (cc). The current specification for all vehicles was a minimum of 1500cc. This had been the case since February 2015 when the minimum cc was reduced from 1600 to 1500. However, interest had been expressed by members in reducing the requirement to 1400cc. Vehicle capacities may be rounded up to the nearest 100cc.

RESOLVED that the current vehicle specification be amended to include a minimum of 1400cc.

23. WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES IN THE TAXI FLEET LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847

There was no legal requirement for Licensing Authorities to make a proportion of Hackney Carriages or Private Hire Vehicles wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV). It was for individual authorities to consider and decide as appropriate. There was no legal definition of a WAV. However, it was generally accepted that that a WAV was a

vehicle designed or adapted to allow a wheelchair user to access and be transported in the vehicle without leaving the wheelchair and convey them in a safe and comfortable manner. Wheelchair friendly vehicles were those which allowed wheelchair users to remove themselves from the wheelchair and sit in the vehicle in the same manner as other passengers.

The Committee discussed the report and was informed that all licensed vehicles in Broxtowe were wheelchair friendly and only one was wheelchair accessible. Members considered that any changes to Policy should be gradual and that a consultation be held involving as many as possible, including Town/Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Forums.

RESOLVED that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, following a wide reaching consultation, consider incentivising new and existing Hackney Carriage proprietors to licence by way of age extensions and/or financial benefits.