

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 6 AUGUST 2015

THE LICENSING OF TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE CARS TO CARRY SIX PASSENGERS

REPORT BY THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report seeks authority to review the Council's policy on the licensing of taxis and private hire cars to carry over five passengers and to agree interim measures pending the outcome of that review.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) Authorises the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to review the Council's policy on the licensing of and taxis and private hire cars to carry over five passengers; and
- (ii) Agree that, as an interim measure, the Council will licence the vehicles referred to in Appendix 1 to carry the number of passengers referred to therein.

2. BACKGROUND

The Council's Vehicle Inspection Checklist is used to assess the fitness of vehicles to be licensed as taxis and private hire cars. Vehicles are tested when first licensed and annually thereafter. The current Vehicle Inspection Checklist provides as follows:-

"A taxi /private hire shall be either

- (a) a saloon or estate car with four doors, an engine classification of not less than 1600 cc and an internal luggage capacity of not less than 11.5 cubic feet, shall measure at least 48" across the back seat and shall be large enough to carry no fewer than four and no more than five passengers (the seating capacity to be determined in accordance with Regulation 42 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing Regulations 1971); or
- (b) a vehicle permanently adapted to carry up to eight passengers, with transverse seats in an approved layout and use for hire or reward."

Similar provisions are contained in the Conditions applied to taxi/private hire car licences on grant or renewal. Members will note that the current Vehicle Inspection Checklist, and the Conditions, does not actually permit the licensing of taxis/private hire cars to carry over 5 passengers (unless the vehicle has transverse seats in an approved layout). However, the Council does licence certain vehicles for the purpose of carrying over five passengers.

It is submitted that the conditions referred to above are no longer fit for purpose and should be reviewed. It is also submitted that the lack of certainty over which vehicles can and cannot be licensed to carry over five passengers is not transparent.

Discussions have taken place between officers of this Council and Dundee City Council. Dundee City Council employs a more detailed analysis before determining whether to permit a vehicle to carry over five passengers. The list of vehicles which can be licensed by Dundee City Council to carry over five passengers (and the number permitted in respect of each vehicle) is attached as Appendix 1 hereto. It is recommended that, as an interim measure, the Committee agrees to licence the vehicles referred to in Appendix 1 for the purposes of carrying over five passengers (and the number permitted in respect of each vehicle).

The local taxi/private hire trade together with Police Scotland will be consulted prior to a report being submitted to the Committee on the outcome of the review and recommendations in respect thereof.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights issues arising directly from this report.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues contained in this Report fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective.

**SHEONA C HUNTER
CLERK TO THE LICENSING BOARD**

NOTE: No background papers were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

L&DS/SCH/DT

VEHICLES WHICH CAN BE LICENSED TO CARRY SIX PASSENGERS (or more than 6 as highlighted below)

Renault Grand Scenic
Ford Grand C-Max
Renault Trafic - 8 Passengers
Trajet
Citroen Dispatch combi 8 – 8 Passengers
Transit Minibus
Ford Galaxy Zetec
Toyota Verso
Ford Transit connect – 8 Passengers
Vauxhall Zafira –
Citroen C4 Picasso
VW Transporter – 8 Passengers
Peugeot E7
Peugeot Independence
Renault Scenic
Vauxhall Vivaro combi – 8 Passengers
Vauxhall Cavalier
Citroen Berlingo
Renault Master – 8 Passengers
London Taxi TX4
TW200
Nissan Primaster
Fiat Scudo
Peugeot Eurobus – 7 Passengers
Merc Vian Ameinte
Mercedes Viano – 7 Passengers
Renault Ambulance
Peugeot Expert – 7 Passengers
Mercedes Vito – 8 Passengers
VW Sharon
Hyundai i800 – 7 Passengers
Kia Sedona
Seat Alhambra
VW Touran
Hummer H3
Ford Tourneo

Citroen Dispatch – 5 Passengers
VW Caddy – 5 Passengers