

Cheltenham Borough Council

Licensing Committee – 1 September 2021

Temporary Adjustment to Licensed Vehicle Insurance Requirements

Report of the Licensing Team Leader

1. Executive Summary and Recommendation

- 1.1 In 2017, the authority's executive approved a policy that requires all licensed hackney carriages to be wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) by 31 December 2021.
- 1.2 As such, non-WAV licensed hackney carriage vehicles that renew their licences in 2021 are issued with shortened licences (to 31 December 2021).
- 1.3 The authority's current requirements demand a full annual insurance policy as a licensing requirement.
- 1.4 Proprietors of these non-WAV hackney carriage vehicles with shortened licenses understandably do not want to pay for expensive annual insurance policies.
- 1.5 The committee is therefore asked to consider a temporary policy change to allow shorter term insurance requirements for drivers affected by shortened licences.
- 1.6 **The Committee is recommended to:**
 - 1.6.1 **Approve the changes to the authority's licensing policy as outlined in paragraph 2.5;**
 - 1.6.2 **Approve the changes for a limited period to 31 December 2021; and**
 - 1.6.3 **Delegate authority to the Licensing Team Leader to implement these changes as necessary.**

1.7 Implications

Legal

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2. Proposed Policy Revisions

- 2.1 The authority's taxi and private hire licensing policy imposes a requirement as follows:

"All vehicles must have a current, valid, *annual policy of insurance* at all times appropriate to the vehicle, the certificate for which must be carried in the vehicle at all times and be made available for inspection on request by any authorised officer of the Council or any Police Officer."
- 2.2 Implementing the authority's wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) policy, certain non-compliant vehicles' licences were shortened to comply with the implementation date of 31 December 2021.
- 2.3 In light of this, officers are seeking consent from the committee to temporarily change the annual policy of insurance requirement so that vehicle proprietors with shortened licences do not have to comply with the annual policy of insurance requirement.

- 2.4 Instead, for these vehicle proprietors, a monthly insurance requirement will be imposed. The requested policy change for this group of affected drivers will be temporary to 31 December 2021.
- 2.5 For the avoidance of doubt, the revised policy requirement will be include an additional provision as follows:

“The authority will agree, on a case to case basis, shorter insurance requirements for licensed hackney carriage proprietors with shortened vehicle licences as a consequence of the WAV policy requirement.

All other vehicles must have a current, valid, *annual policy of insurance* at all times appropriate to the vehicle, the certificate for which must be carried in the vehicle at all times and be made available for inspection on request by any authorised officer of the Council or any Police Officer.”

3. Delegation

- 3.1 Part 3C, Committee Functions, of the authority’s constitution delegates authority to the Licensing Committee to “Adopt and amend standard conditions for hackney carriage and private hire licences”.

Background Papers

Service Records

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