



LICENSING COMMITTEE
14 March 2024

ITEM 07

Report sponsor: Charles Edwards, Director of Communities
Report author: Angela Rawson, Service Manager, Licensing

Licensing Service Business Review

Purpose – for noting

- 1.1 Derby City Council is the designated Licensing Authority for over 16 areas of statutory licensing, each with its own legislative constraints.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report.

Reason(s)

- 3.1 As a Licensing Authority run on a cost recovery basis wherever possible, it is important that business reviews are carried out on a regular basis not only to secure value for money for the customer but also to ensure that the Licensing Unit is providing an effective and efficient service to users.

3.2

Supporting information

- 4.1 This report not only highlights some of the areas undergoing a business review but also introduces some of the other business elements which may come before the Committee over the next 12 months.

4.2 Service Review – Taxi & Private Hire Licensing

- 4.3 The largest area, and the subject on which we are starting our business review journey, is within the Taxi Licensing element of our business.

- 4.4 As at the time of writing, our Taxi & Private Hire stock consists of:

Private Hire Vehicle (PHV)	786
Hackney Carriage Vehicles (HCV)	167
Private Hire Drivers (PHD)	664
Hackney Carriage Drivers (HCD)	281
Private Hire Operators (PHO)	159

- 4.4 There is evidence to show that there has been a subtle reduction in all areas since 2020 as per the table below.

Year	PHV	HCV	PHD	HCD	PHO
19/20	884	225	761	329	158
20/21	786	190	745	331	170
21/22	756	183	731	318	181
22/23	788	181	669	285	160
23/24	786	167	664	281	159

- 4.5 To ensure that our customers of, and visitors to, Derby are provided with the best possible options, in the long term, we need to grow our stock. This review is intended to root out the challenges facing applicants when applying to us to be licensed.
- 4.6 Whilst our requirements are robust and well in line with Statutory Standards, some of the processes underpinning them may be seen to be outdated and therefore require updating, whether this is by digitalising certain aspects of the testing criteria and/or removing any pinch points in the application process of any subject.
- 4.7 The review will include visits to other Authorities, near and far, to oversee their processes and to source out any good practice we can inherit as part of the review. Making our processes smoother may entice some drivers back to Derby which in turn may have an impact on the problem of cross border hiring as we would have a healthy stock to facilitate the trade customers requirements.
- 4.8 **Challenge and change – Taxi Licensing Age & Emissions Policy**
- 4.9 As some members may recall, in 2019 the Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Strategy 2020 was approved, subject to some amendments relative to the proposed Age & Emissions Policy, a summary of the agreed criteria is:
1. From 1 January 2025 all vehicles over the age of 15 years from the date of first DVLA registration will ordinarily be refused a licence unless the vehicle is in exceptional condition and has been approved for use following an Exceptional Condition Vehicle Check (ECVC).
 2. From 1 January 2025 all newly licensed vehicles will be required to be a minimum of Euro 6 Diesel or ZEC ULEV.
- 4.10 As mentioned in point 1 above, older vehicles will be required to undergo and ECVC, the details of which will be presented to this Committee in due course.
- 4.11 A petition has been received from a group of members of the Hackney Trade requesting further time in which to change their vehicles. This will also come before you for consideration later in the year.
- 4.12 Business review updates will be provided to the Committee on a regular basis and any direct reports will be scheduled in to meetings as required.

Public/stakeholder engagement

5.1 None

Other options

6.1 N/A

Financial and value for money issues

7.1 The cost of the review is funded from the fees of the relevant service.

Legal implications

8.1 This report is for noting

Climate implications

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

Other significant implications

10.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Charles Edwards, Service Director	
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	None