



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
19 DECEMBER 2007

Report of the Interim Director of Environmental Services

REVIEW OF MAXIMUM AGE LIMITS FOR LICENSED DRIVERS

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To consider the request received and decide whether or not to amend the current licensing conditions in relation to the maximum age limits of drivers.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Following a discussion about the age limits of drivers at a recent trade meeting, the Chair has requested that members consider reviewing the current requirements. Existing restrictions on age limits are set out in two sets of licensing conditions, one for hackney drivers and one for private hire drivers. Essentially, these require that drivers are aged between 21 and 70 years old. The relevant excerpts from the hackney carriage/private hire drivers conditions are attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The current limits have been in place for some time and were originally set following guidance issued at the time by the Department for Transport. These have worked well and provided clear criteria for both the drivers and the Council.
- 2.3 The current guidance suggests that local authorities may adopt a more relaxed approach if they believe it is appropriate. This could extend to removing the maximum age limit for drivers provided that regular medical checks are made. There is already a requirement for every driver between 21 and 65 years old to have a medical examination every five years and drivers between 65 and 70 years old are required to have a medical examination every year. This requirement for an annual examination could just simply be extended to those drivers over 70 years old if Members decided to remove the maximum age limit.

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Background papers:	None
List of Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Excerpts from the Current Drivers Licensing Conditions

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising directly.

Legal

2. None arising directly.

Personnel

3. None arising directly.

Equalities impact

4. The report aims to set out a fair and consistent way of considering age limits for hackney carriage and private hire licensed drivers.

Corporate priorities

5. The contents of this report support the priority of **giving excellent services and value for money.**

EXCERPTS FROM THE CURRENT DRIVERS LICENSING CONDITIONS

Driver's Age Limit

To hold a hackney carriage/private hire licence the person shall have attained 21 years of age but have not attained 70 years of age.

Medical Fitness

The driver shall:

- (a) Upon application, be medically examined by a registered general practitioner at the doctor's practice where they are registered and be certified fit to perform the duties of a hackney carriage/private hire driver.
- (b) If aged under 65, be medically examined every 5 years by a registered general practitioner at the doctor's practice where they are registered and be certified fit to perform the duties of a hackney carriage/private hire driver.
- (c) If aged between 65 and 70, be medically examined annually by a registered general practitioner at the doctor's practice where they are registered and be certified fit to perform the duties of a hackney carriage/private hire driver.
- (d) Be required to undergo additional examinations at more frequent intervals, if recommended by a registered general practitioner or at the request of the Principal Licensing Officer.
- (e) Notify the Council in writing of any medical condition which arises after the issue of the licence and may affect their ability to drive safely.