

<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed adoption of 6 monthly licences for hackney and private hire vehicles	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Licensing Committee	<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
<b>Report of:</b>	Public Protection Manager	<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Communities and Customers
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: no
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required:	No	Attached: no
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<b>1.</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
1.1	That Licensing Committee approves the adoption of 6 monthly licences for hackney and private hire vehicles.

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To inform Licensing Committee of the outlined proposals

## 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

- **A connected and successful Rossendale that welcomes sustainable growth:** our priority is to ensure that we are well connected to our residents, key partners and stakeholders. We want to make the most of every pound we spend and we are always looking for new and innovative ways to make the resources we do have, work harder for us.
- **A proud, healthy and vibrant Rossendale:** our priority is to ensure that we are creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant place for people to live and visit.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

## 5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

5.1 The Town Police Clauses Act 1847 laid down the legislation in relation to the licensing of hackney carriages and stated in Section 43 that licences should only be issued “for one year only from the day of the date of such licence”

This was taken to mean that a licence could only be issued for a period of 12 months.

5.2 The Town Police Clauses Act 1889 Section 5 amended that requirement to;

*Licences may be granted for short periods. Any licence may be granted under the principal Act to continue in force for such less period than one year as the Commissioners may think fit, and shall specify in the licence.*

5.3 In relation to the licensing of private hire vehicles, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 4 states

*Every licence granted under this section shall;  
remain in force for such period not being longer than one year as the district council  
may specify in the licence*

- 5.4 Currently, the Licensing Authority issues licences for both hackney carriages and private hire vehicles for 1 year.
- During the term of the licence there is a requirement for every vehicle to be MOT and Rossendale tested after 6 months, so that the safety and mechanical integrity of the vehicle is maintained to the highest standards.
- 5.5 Although the 6 month test is a requirement of the licence being issued, it is becoming increasingly obvious that a number of vehicle proprietors are failing to adhere to the condition meaning that passenger safety is being compromised.
- 5.6 Enforcement officers are increasingly engaged in checking and suspending vehicles which have not been tested, and more and more vehicle owners are being referred to Licensing Sub Committee for failing to comply with the condition.
- 5.7 To ensure that the standard of vehicles is maintained to the highest standards, and to make vehicle proprietors more accountable for the condition of their cars, it is proposed to replace the 12 month licence with a 6 month licence for both hackney and private hire vehicles.
- 5.8 The vehicle will need to be tested on each occasion the vehicle is licensed, and this will not be issued without an up to date test certificate. The onus will then be placed upon proprietors to ensure the vehicle is tested, as without that, a licence will not be issued or renewed.
- 5.9 The total licence fee will not be increased to facilitate this change, and will remain at its current level, but paid in two instalments.
- 5.10 To facilitate the change the design of the vehicle plates will be altered to allow the plate to be re-used on more than one occasion. This is achieved by using high impact adhesive date labels to indicate the date when the vehicle is licenced to. This can be changed on renewal of the licence and will reduce the number of plates currently sent for re-cycling.

## **COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

### **6. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

- 6.1 There are no material financial implications arising from the proposed amendments.

### **7. MONITORING OFFICER**

- 7.1 All legal implications are covered within the body of the report.

### **8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

- 8.1 This is a minor amendment to the current Taxi Licensing policy

### **9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The issue of 6 monthly vehicle licences will bring a number of benefits. Firstly to ensure

that vehicles are tested every 6 months and standards of safety are maintained and secondly to reduce the amount of vehicle plates used and subsequently sent for recycling.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
No background papers	