

**REPORT TITLE:** Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Specification Policy Review

<b>Meeting:</b>	Licensing and Safety Committee
<b>Date:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025
<b>Cabinet Member</b> (if applicable)	Cllr Amanda Pinnock
<b>Key Decision Eligible for Call In</b>	No No
<b>Purpose of Report</b> This is a follow up report following the decision made by members of the Licensing and Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2024.	
<b>Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is recommended that members agree the further amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Specification Policy having considered the consultation responses.</li> </ul> <b>Reasons for Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 members asked officers to complete additional work in relation to multi-purpose vehicles and provide further information at a future meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Resource Implications:</b> There are no resource implications relating to this report.	
<b>Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> &amp; name</b>	David Shepherd – 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	Kevin Mulvaney – 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?</b>	Samantha Lawton – 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Electoral wards affected:** All

**Ward councillors consulted:** None

**Public or private:** Public

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes, there is no personal information contained in this report.

## 1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report details the further changes to the Council' Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Specification policy following the Licensing and Safety Committees Previous consideration of the responses to the consultation.

1.2 Members are asked to consider and agree to the proposed changes to the policy.

## 2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 At the Licensing and Safety Committee meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024, members agreed to adopt the proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Specification Policy with amendments, being:

- i. That all licensed vehicles, regardless of age be subject to annual testing
- ii. That multi-purpose vehicles continue to be licensed, and sports utility vehicles remain to be barred
- iii. That officers provide further information relating to sports utility vehicles not being licensed at a future committee meeting
- iv. That licensed vehicles be allowed to tow trailers

2.2 Officers have, following this meeting, reviewed the policy further and further amendments have been made to the policy to address the matter relating to Sports Utility Vehicles and to further clarify matters relating to multi-purpose vehicles. The draft policy can be seen at **Appendix 1**.

2.3 Members will note that in relation to Part C of the policy Vehicle dimensions, has been removed from the policy. The reason for the removal of the dimensions is due to the continuous development and changes to vehicles.

2.4 In place of the dimensions the policy now states that the number of passenger seats that can be licensed will correspond with the number of seats shown on the V5 (logbook) minus one (1) seat to account for the drivers seat. If the customer feels the vehicle is not suitable for their needs, then the driver is required to arrange for a suitable vehicle at the request of the customer, at no additional cost, this is something that we would expect currently should a passenger be dissatisfied with any vehicle they are sent; we have just clarified the point in the policy.

2.5 Similarly for SUV (Sport Utility Vehicles) the policy has been amended to state we will accept SUV's. If the customer feels the vehicle is not suitable for their needs, then the driver is required to arrange for a suitable vehicle at the request of the customer, at no additional cost, this is something that we would expect currently should a passenger be dissatisfied with any vehicle they are sent; we have just clarified the point in the policy.

2.6 **Appendix 2** Shows the responses from the consultation regarding SUV's and MPV's for members to consider.

## 3. Implications for the Council

### 3.1 Council Plan

The Council's vision is to be a district that combines a strong, sustainable economy with a great quality of life – leading to thriving communities, growing businesses, high prosperity and low inequality where people enjoy better health throughout their lives.

Public safety is the paramount consideration for the licensing service, licensing policies ensure that public safety is the highest priority, however, the service also considers the impact of the requirements within the policies on the licence holders to ensure the policy requirements are fair and are not unnecessarily constraining.

### **3.2 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications relating to this report.

### **3.3 Legal Implications**

No Legal Implications.

### **3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality**

Climate change is one of the biggest issues we face, increased carbon emissions caused by human activity, such as driving vehicles, are causing the rise in global temperatures. Kirklees Council's vision is to make Kirklees carbon neutral by 2048. Consideration regarding this was taken prior to drafting the policy and the Climate Change and Air Quality Team were involved in pre-consultation discussions.

### **3.5 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**

There are no other implications for the Council.

## **4. Consultation**

4.1 The consultation was carried out for a period of 12 weeks, and it closed on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023. There were 374 respondents to the survey. The results of the survey relating to this report specifically can be seen at **Appendix 2**.

## **5. Engagement**

5.1 Prior to consultation the service carried out 4 drop-in sessions for the hackney carriage and private hire trade to discuss any suggestions they put forward. The sessions were held in 4 venues throughout the borough namely, Cleckheaton Town Hall, Dewsbury Town Hall, Hudawi Centre Huddersfield and Batley Town Hall.

5.2 Discussions were also held with both the hackney carriage and private hire trade association representatives.

5.3 In addition, meetings were held with the Council's Transport Service and the Council's Climate Change and Air Quality Team.

## **6. Options**

### **6.1 Options considered**

Members are asked to consider the amendment within the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Specification Policy, shown at **Appendix 1**, and resolve to adopt the policy.

Options: -

- i. Resolve to adopt the policy as shown at **Appendix 1**
- ii. Resolve to adopt the proposed policy shown at **Appendix 1**, with amendments, please confirm which sections are to be amended and reasons for the decision.

## 6.2 **Reasons for recommended option**

At the meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 members asked officers to complete additional work in relation to multi-purpose vehicles and provide further information at a future meeting.

## 7. **Next steps and timelines**

7.1 Following consideration of the report, if members resolve to adopt the policy it will take effect immediately.

## 8. **Contact officer**

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## 9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

[Agenda for Licensing and Safety Committee on Wednesday 19th July 2023, 10.00 am | Kirklees Council](#)

[Agenda for Licensing and Safety Committee on Wednesday 14th February 2024, 10.00 am | Kirklees Council](#)

## 10. **Appendices**

**Appendix 1** Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Specification Policy

**Appendix 2** Consultation results relating to Multi-purpose Vehicle's (MPV's) and Sports Utility Vehicles (SUV's)

## 11. **Service Director responsible**

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