

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services

Licensing Committee – 2 November 2010

Subject: Age Limit of Vehicles operating as Taxis

1. Purpose

- 1.1 A representation from Clydebank Public Hire Association has been submitted asking members to consider allowing replacement purpose built vehicles over 8 years old, which have previously operated as taxis in areas other than West Dunbartonshire, to operate as taxis within West Dunbartonshire.

2. Background

- 2.1 At a meeting of the Licensing Committee on 6 April 2010 members decided to remove the age limit of purpose built taxis so that there is no upper limit for any such vehicle which has been approved as a taxi. The Committee also decided that an age restriction of eight years be imposed on replacement purpose built vehicles except where the vehicle has been operated as a taxi in the West Dunbartonshire area within the preceding 12 months.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The impact of extending the policy to allow vehicles that have been operated as a taxi in the preceding 12 months in another authority will allow taxi operators a wider choice of vehicle when they are looking for a replacement. The turnover of purpose built vehicles within West Dunbartonshire is relatively low.
- 3.2 Taxi Operators would have to provide documentary evidence that any vehicle which they propose to use as a taxi has been operated as a taxi in another authority within the previous 12 months in order that Licensing staff can verify the information with the authority concerned. This information would have to be verified before allowing the vehicle to be used.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1 There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 There is no increased risk to the Council associated with the contents of this report.

7. Equalities Impact

7.1 There are no equalities impact issues.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Members are asked to consider the request from the Clydebank Public Hire Association with regard to extending the current policy to allow replacement vehicles over 8 years old to operate as taxis if they have been used as taxis in the preceding 12 months in another authority.

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Head of Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services

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Background Papers:

1. Letter from Clydebank Public Hire Association - received 10 September 2010.
2. Letter to Clydebank Public Hire Association dated 19 October 2010.

Appendices: N/A.

Wards Affected: N/A.

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