

Item 4

21st January 2026



Glasgow City Council

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

Report by Director of Legal and Administration

Contact: G McNaught Ext: 74546

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982
Private Hire Cars**

Purpose of Report:

To allow Members to consider amending its policy on the age of private hire cars to include the position where a vehicle has previously been licensed by this Licensing Authority.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to:-

- (1) Note the report;
- (2) Consider amending its current policy on the age of private hire cars as detailed within paragraph 2.1 of the report; and
- (3) If an amendment is approved to the policy, consider whether condition 30 of a private hire car licence requires to be amended as detailed in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide:

Local member(s) advised: Yes No

consulted: Yes No

1 Background

1.1 On 7 June 2006 the Licensing and Regulatory Committee (the “**Committee**”) considered a report by the then Chief Executive regarding the proposed adoption of a policy relative to the introduction of an age limit for vehicles to be licensed as private hire cars. At this meeting the Committee approved:

- (1) a policy relative to the introduction of an age limit of 7 years on vehicles to be licensed as private hire cars;
- (2) the proposed amendment to standard condition 5 of a private hire car licence; and
- (3) the transitional arrangements affecting vehicles currently licensed as private hire cars as detailed in the report.

1.2 The proposed amendment to condition 5 referred to above was:

The holder of a private hire car licence should use as a private hire car any vehicle approved by the licensing authority and that vehicle should not be more than 5 years old from the date of first registration when first licensed by the licensing authority and should be taken out of service and replaced when it becomes 7 years old from the date of first registration.

1.3 At a further meeting on 16 August 2006 the Committee considered a report by the then Chief Executive regarding clarification of the decision by Committee on 7 June 2006 regarding the adoption of the policy referred to above. The Committee at this meeting agreed that as from 1st September 2006, the revised standard condition 5 of a private hire car licence should read as follows for the grant or renewal of such a licence:-

The holder of a private hire car licence shall use as a private hire car any vehicle approved by the licensing authority and that vehicle shall not be more than 5 years old from the date of first registration when first licensed by the licensing authority and shall be taken out of service and replaced when it becomes 7 years old from the date of first registration.

1.4 At a meeting of the Committee on 17 April 2013 the Committee considered a report from the then Executive Director of Corporate Services in relation to a possible review of the policies and conditions at that time relative to the licensing of taxi and private hire vehicles and drivers. This included a review of the 7 Year Age Limitation Policy for the operation of private hire cars. At this meeting the Committee agreed the arrangements for a comprehensive review and consultation to be undertaken by the Executive Director of Corporate Services on the policies and conditions of licence relative to the licensing and regulation of taxi and private hire vehicles and drivers. This included the 7 Year Age Limitation Policy for private hire cars. The Committee also instructed the Executive Director of Corporate Services to report back on the outcome of each stage of the review and consultation with recommendations for any changes to policies and conditions.

- 1.5 At a meeting of the Committee on 13 August 2014, the Committee considered a report from the then Executive Director of Corporate Services on the outcome of the review and consultation on various proposals in relation to the licensing and regulation of taxis, which included the 7 Year Age Limitation Policy. At this meeting the Committee, after consideration, agreed to maintain the 7 Year Age Limitation Policy.
- 1.6 During the Covid 19 pandemic the 7 Year Age Limitation Policy was temporarily relaxed. This relaxation was to help private hire car licence holders during the pandemic as they were experiencing difficulty in sourcing newer vehicles and also loss of income which made it financially difficult for them to purchase newer vehicles.
- 1.7 Following consideration of a report by the Director of Legal and Administration at a Committee meeting on 23 November 2022 on whether or not to reintroduce the 7 Year Age Limitation Policy, the Committee agreed:
 - (a) not to reintroduce the 7 Year Age Limitation Policy for private hire cars at this time; and
 - (b) instructed the Director of Legal and Administration to undertake a review of the said Policy with a view to the upper age limit being increased.
- 1.8 A public consultation was published seeking views on the 7 Year Age Limitation Policy. The consultation was available on the Council's online consultation hub from 15 June 2023 to 11 August 2023 (both dates inclusive). In addition, the online link to the consultation was emailed to the taxi and private hire trade group on 16 June 2023 and 9 August 2023.
- 1.9 At a meeting of the Committee on 20 September 2023, the Committee considered the consultation responses within a report by the Director of Legal and Administration. After consideration, the Committee agreed at this meeting (a) to reintroduce an amended policy regarding the age of vehicles for private hire cars with immediate effect, as detailed in Appendix 1 and (b) that standard condition 30 of a private hire car licence be amended to read as follows for the grant or renewal of such a licence:

The holder of a private hire car licence shall use as a private hire car any vehicle approved by the Licensing Authority and that vehicle shall not be more than 5 years old from the date of first registration when first licensed by the Licensing Authority and shall be taken out of service and replaced when it becomes 10 years old from the date of first registration.

2 Current Position Determining Changes to Existing Policy

- 2.1 Members should be aware that it has been long standing practice within the licensing section that a vehicle, older than 5 years old from the date of first registration, can be used as a private hire car, where the vehicle has previously been used as a licensed private hire car within this Licensing Authority, in the last 12 months, prior to grant. This acknowledges that the vehicle in question has been continually operating as a licensed private hire car in the Licensing

Authority but has not yet reached the 10 year age limit. This has been the position for both grant applications and substitute applications, for several years, and it is a position recognised by the private hire car trade. In light of recent queries to the licensing section on this matter, it is recommended, to provide clarity to applicants and the trade, for Members to consider amending the first paragraph of its policy, to include the additional wording in bold below:

*From 20 September 2023 a vehicle must not be more than five years old from the date of first registration when first licensed by the Licensing Authority under a **private hire car licence**, unless the vehicle has previously been a licensed private hire car within this Licensing Authority in the last year, with the further restriction that when the vehicle is ten years old from the date of first registration it must be taken out of service and replaced.*

2.2 If Committee is minded to amend its policy as detailed above, it is suggested condition 30 of a private hire car licence is amended as detailed below:

The holder of a private hire car licence shall use as a private hire car any vehicle approved by the Licensing Authority and that vehicle shall not be more than 5 years old from the date of first registration when first licensed by the Licensing Authority, unless the vehicle has previously been a licensed private hire car within this Licensing Authority in the last year, and shall be taken out of service and replaced when it becomes 10 years old from the date of first registration.

2.3 Members should note this matter was discussed at the recent Taxi and Private Hire Trade Group meetings on 17 December 2025 and 15 January 2026. No comments were received from the Group on this matter.

3 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: None

Legal: The Licensing Authority is able to amend policy matters relating to private hire cars.

Personnel: None

Procurement: None

Council Strategic Plan: Not Applicable

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts: Not Applicable

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes

2021-25? Please specify.

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

Climate Impacts: Not Applicable

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report?

If yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out.

No

Not applicable

4 Recommendations

Members are asked to:-

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- (2) Consider, amending its current policy on the age of private hire cars as detailed within paragraph 2.1 of this report; and
- (3) If an amendment is approved to the policy, to consider whether condition 30 of a private hire car licence requires to be amended as detailed within paragraph 2.2 of this report.