



Report No: Public Agenda Item: **Yes**

Title: **Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles**

Wards Affected: **All**

To: **Licensing Committee** On: **7 November 2013**

Key Decision: **No**

Change to **No** Change to **No**  
Budget: Policy  
Framework:

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## **1. What we are trying to achieve**

- 1.1 This report is to advise and update Members of their aspiration to make 5% of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fleet wheelchair accessible by 2018.

## **2. Recommendation(s) for decision**

- 2.1 That Members note the progress made to date and agree that a further report be submitted to them in 6 months time which evaluates whether the current increasing percentage trend of wheelchair accessible vehicles is maintained.

## **3. Key points and reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 By the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Torbay Council is the Licensing Authority in respect of Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles and their drivers within Torbay.
- 3.2 On the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 Licensing Committee agreed to amend the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy to include an aspirational target of 5% of both fleets being wheelchair accessible. This has been achieved. See Appendix 1.
- 3.3 It is recommended that this is reviewed after the next renewal period in April 2014 to ascertain if the current incentive agreed by Licensing Committee on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 is continuing to increase the percentage of wheelchair accessible vehicles in the fleet. This was to allow wheelchair accessible vehicles a life of ten years as a licensed vehicle compared to eight years for all other vehicles.

**For more detailed information on this proposal please refer to Appendix A.**

**Frances Hughes**  
**Executive Head Community Safety**

## **Appendix A – Supporting information to Report**

### **A1. Introduction and history**

A1.1 By the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Torbay Council is the Licensing Authority in respect of Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles and their drivers within Torbay.

A1.2 On the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 Licensing Committee agreed to amend the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy to include an aspirational target of 5% of both fleets being wheelchair accessible by 2018.

A 1.3 This has been achieved. As of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 6.8% of the Hackney Carriage Fleet (11 out of 169) and 7.2% of the Private Hire Fleet (21 out of 293) were wheelchair accessible.

A1.4 It is recommended that this is reviewed after the next renewal period in April 2014 to ascertain if the current incentive agreed by Licensing Committee on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 is continuing to increase the percentage of wheelchair accessible vehicles in the fleet. This was to allow wheelchair accessible vehicles a life of ten years as a licensed vehicle compared to eight years for all other vehicles.

### **A2. Risk assessment of preferred option**

#### **A2.1 Outline of significant key risks**

There are no significant risks.

### **A3. Options**

A3.1 To agree to the recommendation or to set a higher aspirational figure.

### **A4. Summary of resource implications**

A4.1 There are no resource implications for the Council

### **A5. What impact will there be on equalities, environmental sustainability and crime and disorder?**

A5.1 There are no environmental sustainability or crime and disorder issues. This is an equalities issue and positive progress is being made.

### **A6. Consultation and Customer Focus**

A6.1 There was public and trade consultation on the new Policy in 2012 and as part of the Unmet Demand study in 2011.

### **A7. Are there any implications for other Business Units?**

A7.1 There are no significant implications for other business units.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Minutes of Licensing Committee 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013

**Documents available in members' rooms**

None

**Background Papers:**

The following documents/files were used to compile this report:

None