

Cabinet Member for City Services

2nd July 2018

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor J Innes

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

All Wards

Title:

Temporary Hackney Carriage Vehicle Plate/Licence(s)

Is this a key decision?

No – Although the matter may affect all Wards in the City, it is not anticipated that the impact will be significant

Executive Summary:

On the 19 September 2011 the Cabinet Member introduced a limit/cap on the number of hackney carriage vehicles that could be licensed by Coventry City Council to 859. Coventry City Council currently license this number, however on the 29 January 2018 the Cabinet Member agreed for two temporary plates/licences to be made available for the Nissan ADV Dynamo vehicle and two temporary plates/licences for the London Electric Vehicle Company (LEVC) [formerly London Taxi Company] TX manufacturers to assess their newly manufactured vehicles on a 12 month basis once licensed. LEVC would like to utilise their two temporary plates/licences in order to offer their vehicles to licensed drivers on a two-weekly basis (the drivers plated vehicle being held in storage at LEVC during this period) for a 12 month period. In addition LEVC would like a further two temporary plates/licences on the same basis issued for a 12 month period so that they are able to provide four electric hybrid TX vehicles to replace existing diesel hackney carriage vehicles.

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to approve that a further two temporary hackney carriage vehicle plates/licences will be issued for a period of twelve months from the point of issue for the London Electric Vehicle Company (LEVC) (formerly London Taxi Company) ,

List of Appendices included:

None

Background papers:

None

Other documents:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:

Temporary Hackney Carriage Vehicle Plate/Licence(s)

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 On the 19 September 2011 the Cabinet Member introduced a limit/cap on the number of hackney carriage vehicles that could be licensed by Coventry City Council to 859. Coventry City Council currently license this number of vehicles therefore if Coventry City Council wishes to license new vehicle makes and model for a trial period a temporary licence/plate would need to be approved.
- 1.2 The problems associated with poor air quality and older diesel vehicles are well documented. The City Council are keen to support the taxi trade in a movement to cleaner vehicles.
- 1.3 To assist with this, Coventry has recently been successful in a bid for £1.2m from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) Taxi Scheme to deliver electric vehicle charging infrastructure to the city for electric taxis. This will deliver up to 39 rapid chargers at 50kw by the end of 2019. The Joint Air Quality Unit (JACU) are funding the leasing of the four trial LEVC electric hybrid TX vehicles along with licence fees, inspection costs and a contribution cost for insurance.
- 1.4 The London Electric Vehicle Company's (LEVC) TX is a hybrid. It uses an all-new Volvo three-cylinder petrol engine as a generator for a large battery pack and electric motors – allowing a pure-EV range of over 70 miles. It also features six passenger seats and is fully wheelchair compatible. As previous LEVC models the TX has disabled access and the 180 degree turning circle.
- 1.5 Once LEVC is in a position to commence the scheme the Taxi Licensing Office will contact willing licensed drivers to participate and pass their contact details to LEVC.

2. Recommended proposals**2.1 Proposal**

Approve that a further two temporary hackney carriage vehicle plates/licences will be issued for a period of twelve months from the point of issue for the London Electric Vehicle Company (LEVC) (formerly London Taxi Company).

3. Results of Consultation Undertaken

None

4. Timetable for implementing these decisions

Subject to approval of the recommendations this will commence immediately.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Resources**5.1 Financial implications**

Taxi Licensing is a ring fenced budget within the Place Directorate. The cost will be paid by the licensed proprietor. Any on-going impact will be addressed in future fee reviews.

5.2 Legal implications

The Council is entitled to adopt and maintain policies in respect of taxi and private hire licensing. Such policies should inform and guide decision making and promote consistency. They should not be binding nor should they prevent the exercise of discretion in a particular circumstance where an exception may be appropriate.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

It will help to facilitate improvements in the taxi services available to the people of Coventry, which will contribute towards ensuring that people in wheelchairs are correctly and safely secured in hackney carriages and the taxi drivers licence skills are proficient; making the city a safer place.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Through established reporting and governance arrangements.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

Having Coventry City Council licensed drivers suitably assessed as to their driving capability and competence in using wheelchairs will have a beneficial effect on passengers and the general public in Coventry.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

Licensing non-diesel vehicles will help promote; the reduction in carbon emissions from transport, a cleaner environment, and advocate improved air quality.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

Improvements in taxi services will benefit partner and other organisations, in terms of improving the safety, availability and value for money of taxis in Coventry.

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Place

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| Councillor J Innes | Cabinet Member for City Services | - | 18/06/2018 | 18/06/2018 |

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