

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for City Services – Councillor J Innes

29 January 2018

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 and therefore two temporary plates/licences are required 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.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for City Services is recommended to:

Approve that four temporary hackney carriage vehicle plates/licences will be issued for a period of twelve months from the point of issue; two for the Nissan ADV Dynamo and two for the London Electric Vehicle Company (LEVC) (formerly London Taxi Company) ,

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful background papers:

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 over the next 3 years and later this year OLEV will announce top up grant funding to support the taxi trade with purchasing purpose built taxis.
- 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. LEVC intend to start a trial of ten of these TX's this summer of which at least one vehicle will be trialled in Coventry. As previous LEVC models the TX has disabled access and the 180 degree turning circle.
- 1.5 The Nissan ADV Dynamo is an all-electric vehicle. There are four variants of their vehicle; a private hire vehicle, a private hire vehicle with disabled access, a hackney carriage vehicle with disabled access and a hackney carriage vehicle with disabled access and the 180 degree turning circle. Electric Blue provides integrated charger and electric vehicle services, powered by renewable energy. ADV/Electric Blue wish to trial two of their hackney carriage vehicles with disabled access and the 180 degree turning circle in Coventry.
- 1.6 Both LEVC and ADV/Electric Blue will source Coventry licensed hackney carriage drivers to undertake the trials.

2. Recommended proposals**2.1 Proposal**

To approve that four temporary hackney carriage vehicle plates/licences will be issued; two for the Nissan ADV Dynamo and two temporary hackney carriage vehicle plates/licences for the LEVC TX for a trial period only. Once issued it is proposed that these licences will last for a maximum of 12 months.

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 Services

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 & 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.

Report author(s):**Name and job title:**

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Martin Yardley	Deputy Chief Executive (Place)	Place	25/10/2017	16/01/2018
Councillor J Innes	Cabinet Member for City Services	-	25/10/2017	16/01/2018

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