



REPORT TO:	Licensing Committee
DATE:	6 th December 2017
LEAD OFFICER:	Head of Planning and Public Protection
CONTACT OFFICER:	Senior Technical Officer (Licensing) licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk 01824 706433
SUBJECT:	Proposed amendments to the existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Specifications

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 For Members to consider amendments to the existing hackney carriage and private hire vehicle specifications as detailed in Appendix A.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 At a special Licensing Committee in September of this year, Members requested that Officers review the current specification policy, in particular the vehicle seating specification and report back as soon as practicable.

3. POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION

3.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and Town Police Clauses Act 1847.

4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 As a reminder to Members, the existing hackney carriage and private hire vehicle policy, together with vehicle specification and conditions, was approved at the December 2016 committee meeting, following extensive consultation, and came into effect on the 1st of July this year.

4.2 Members will also recall that a special Licensing Committee was convened in September of this year, to consider a request to deviate from the existing hackney carriage and private hire vehicle policy and specification. A copy of the minutes are included in your agenda pack for your information.

- 4.3 The request was to consider the suitability of a vehicle to be licensed as a hackney carriage vehicle, in particular, to the available leg room for passengers.
- 4.4 The vehicle under consideration did not meet the current minimum leg room requirements, as set out in 3.10.1 and 6.4.1 of the existing vehicle specification, and it was brought to Members attention that a large proportion of the existing licensed fleet would be removed from the road due to not meeting this requirement. Consequently members found that the policy had unintended consequences on the industry and appeared unduly restrictive, and therefore approved the request for the vehicle to be licensed.
- 4.5 Members further requested a review of the seating specifications as soon as practicable.
- 4.6 Officers have therefore reviewed the existing specification where it relates to any sizing or dimensions. Officers also identified some areas of the specification which they felt required clarity
- 4.7 For Members information the proposed amendments can be viewed in the table found at Appendix A.

5. **CONSIDERATION**

- 5.1 Approving the changes would mean no restriction on the type of vehicle accepted on fleet, save for example, age or specialist vehicles.
- 5.2 Removing specific sizing requirements and replacing with subjective opinions could lead to inconsistencies in approvals.

6. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 For Members to consider all the information contained in this report and approve the amendments as detailed in Appendix A, to come into force with immediate effect.