

From: Doug Davern

Sent: 27 September 2021 18:44

To: Cllr Debbie Harlow <CllrDebbie.Harlow@woking.gov.uk>; Cllr Gary Elson <CllrGary.Elson@woking.gov.uk>; Cllr Ian Johnson <cllrian.johnson@woking.gov.uk>; Cllr Josh Brown <CllrJosh.Brown@woking.gov.uk>; Cllr Ken Howard <cllrken.howard@woking.gov.uk>; Cllr Louise Morales <CllrLouise.Morales@woking.gov.uk>; Cllr Mary Bridgeman <CllrMary.Bridgeman@woking.gov.uk>; Cllr Mohammad Ali <CllrMohammad.Ali@woking.gov.uk>; Cllr Rob Leach <CllrRob.Leach@woking.gov.uk>; Cllr Steve Dorsett <CllrSteve.Dorsett@woking.gov.uk>

Cc: Gareth John <Gareth.John@woking.gov.uk>; Matthew Cobb <Matthew.Cobb@woking.gov.uk>

Subject: Licensing Committee - 5 October 2021 - Amendment to Proposal for the Extension of Deadlines report

Importance: High

Dear Councillors

Further to the publication of the Licensing agenda earlier, I have been asked to provide you with an proposed amendment to the second of the two reports - Proposal for the Extension of Deadlines Relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing following the Covid-19 Pandemic – following consultation by the Licensing team with the Portfolio Holder, Cllr Debbie Harlow.

Please see below the email thread which, at the bottom, sets out proposed extension dates for deadlines relating to the completion of the academic course (from 31 March 2021 to **5 October 2022**); the Euro Emissions Six requirements (from 22 January 2022 to **22 January 2023**); and vehicle compliance with Woking's Hackney ULEV policy (from 31 March 2021 to **31 March 2023**).

The report published earlier today sets out did not include the proposed extension for the third item, ULEV policy, pending discussion with the Portfolio Holder. Now this has taken place, the Licensing team has requested that sections 4.0 and 5.0 of the published report be amended to propose an extension for the ULEV policy (page 49 of the previously circulated agenda pack) as follows:

4.0 The ULEV Standards and Wheelchair Accessibility standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles

- 4.1 Historically there has been much discussion and Licensing Committee discussions on the introduction of a fully wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage fleet, with implementation being deferred and delayed several times following delays from Central Government in actioning the relevant sections of the Equalities Act 2010.
- 4.2 Consequently in 2020 the policy regarding a fully wheelchair accessible fleet was altered to allow drivers the option to replace their vehicles with ULEV vehicles (i.e. vehicles that produced less than 75g/km of carbon). This provided flexibility to the drivers whilst also allowing Woking to meet its Climate Change Emergency requirements.
- 4.3 The agreed policy stated that hackney carriage vehicles must be either Wheelchair Accessible OR meet the ULEV requirements by 31st March 2021. However due to the pandemic an unofficial extension was given, and the deadline was extended until 31st March 2022.
- 4.4 It is therefore proposed to provide an official extension, giving the drivers until 31st March 2023.

5.0 Proposed extension dates in summary

- 5.1 To give drivers a further year to complete the Academic Course, advancing the deadline from 31st March 2021 to 5th October 2022.
- 5.2 To give the Private Hire Drivers a further year to ensure their vehicles meet the Euro Emissions Six requirements from 22nd January 2022 to **22nd January 2023**.

5.3 To give the Hackney Carriage Drivers a further year to ensure their vehicles meet Woking's Hackney ULEV policy from 31st March 2021 to **31st March 2023.**"

A copy of this email will be tabled at the meeting for Members to consider. In the interim, if you have any questions regarding the amendment please contact Matthew and Gareth (cc'd).

Thanks,
Doug