

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Javaid – Taxi Licensing

Supporting Statement by Cllr Javaid

SERVICE PROVIDERS

These service providers offer services across the country as suppliers of licensed vehicles and work closely with Licensing Authorities, Taxi Drivers, and insurers to provide courtesy cars to Taxi drivers on behalf of insurers. They facilitate the trade when accidents happen with replacement vehicles, when drivers' vehicles are in for long mechanical repair or with the requirement of newer vehicles to be licensed. The service is used because some drivers find it challenging to afford expensive replacements.

SERVICES

Providing licensed taxis that are maintained and insured and ready to be driven by licensed taxi drivers to rent or as replacement courtesy vehicles is the main objective of these service providers.

GENERAL PRACTICE

This is the current practice in our neighbouring boroughs. A public hire vehicle license is usually issued in the company name, and then the company assigns a licensed taxi driver to that vehicle, which is then informed to the council.

CURRENT PRACTICE

Our Practice has changed over the last few years, where we insist that the service provider use a proxy for their managed cars, which is creating complications for Vehicle license holders, Drivers, and the taxi trade.

ISSUE

-This practice is not well thought out, and it is limiting the options for our local drivers to work. There are two main issues with this practice. Firstly, taxi drivers who cannot afford a new car and want to rent a licensed taxi are limited in their options due to this practice. Secondly, it takes too long to license a new vehicle as a courtesy car (replacement vehicle in case of an accident), affecting the availability of the service and income for the taxi driver.

-If a proxy is used to obtain a license, and the company notifies who is driving the vehicle to the council, if the driver removes his stickers from the car, the points are going on the Proxy's license, even though he was not the driver at the time of the alleged offence.

-If the Proxy was on holiday and a plate was required, it would hinder the company from obtaining a plate, which, in all fairness, is creating barriers and making it difficult for no reason.

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