

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL
COUNCIL – 3 OCTOBER 2016

Recommendation from the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 July 2016:-

Length of Driver Licences (Minute 14)

The Committee considered bringing in a policy that decisions relating to the length of a hackney carriage/private hire drivers licence would not ordinarily be taken by individual Officers acting under delegated authority.

The Council issued licences to the drivers of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. The legislation provided that such licences should usually be issued for a three year period. However the Deregulation Act 2015 allowed a licence to be issued for a lesser period, as specified in the licence “as the district council think appropriate in the circumstances of the case”;

In order to ensure a degree of consistency and for the protection of individual Officers acting under delegated authority, the Committee was asked to agree that where an applicant sought to have a licence for less than the normal three year period the Hackney Carriage Committee would ordinarily consider the “appropriateness in the circumstances of the case” and decide whether a licence should be granted for a lesser period.

The Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Council that where an applicant makes a case for a licence to be issued for less than the normal three year period the matter of “appropriateness in the circumstances of the case” should ordinarily be decided by the Hackney Carriage Committee and that Officers prepare a policy document covering potential circumstances where this discretion might be considered appropriate.