

Appendix C - West Suffolk Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Conditions Policy: Additional Proposal 4 (Age of Vehicle Implementation) Survey Summary

Background

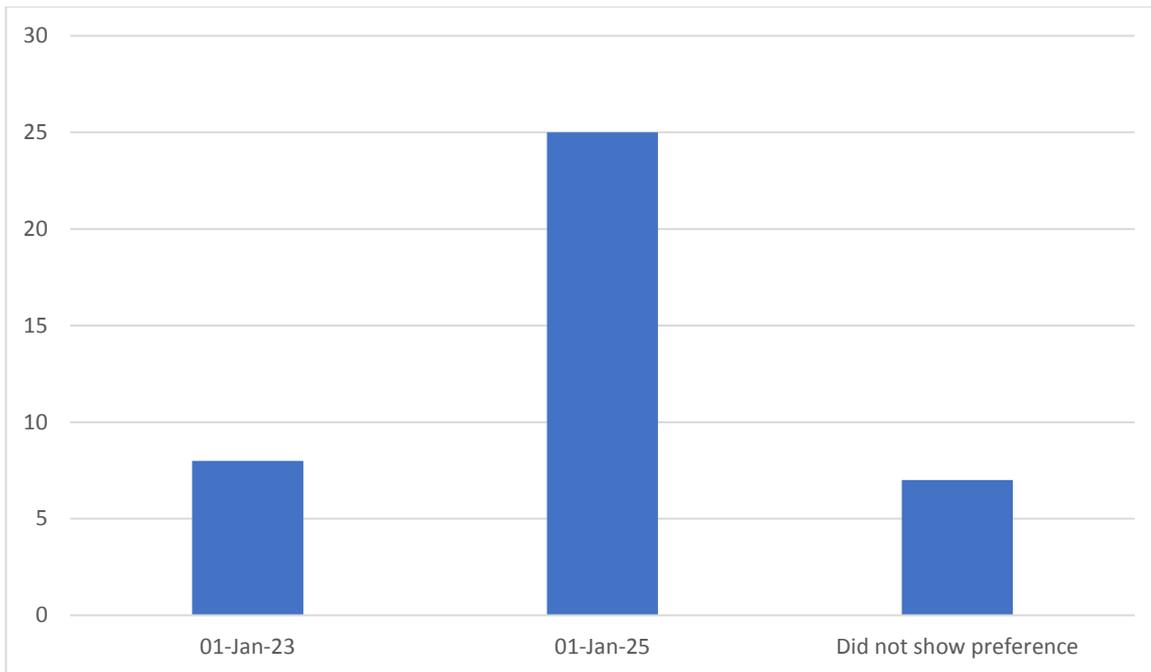
1. Public consultation took place between 27 January and 9 March 2020 on the proposed changes to the West Suffolk Council hackney carriage and private hire conditions policy handbook.
2. Proposal 4 refers to the age of vehicle, with a proposed maximum age requirement of 10 years to all except electric - zero emission vehicles; as well as a maximum age of five years for saloon vehicles upon first registration. In the initial consultation, 47.8 per cent of 92 responses were in favour of this proposal; 41.3 per cent were opposed.
3. From 1 June and 15 June, an additional informal survey was carried out directly with members of the industry to gather feedback on implementation options for proposed changes to the maximum age of vehicle.

Methodology

4. The West Suffolk Council licensing team is in possession of email addresses for 98 per cent of all hackney carriage and private hire drivers in the district. In addition, the team has fostered active and responsive communications via email with West Suffolk drivers.
5. As such, it was possible to engage directly and quickly with members of the industry for this informal survey.

Responses

6. The survey set out two options for dates to implement the proposal from renewal: 1 January 2023; 1 January 2025. Members of the industry were asked to rank these dates in order of preference (1-2).
7. Of the 672 drivers contacted, 40 responded to the survey. 25 responders (62.5 per cent) favoured renewal from 1 January 2025.



Graph that highlights the majority of respondents (25) favoured implementation from 1 January 2025. Eight respondents favoured implementation from 1 January 2023; seven respondents did not show any preference.

- These results were reinforced by nine free text responses, five of which emphasised the impact that COVID-19 has had on the industry and the need for hackney carriage and private hire companies to recover. Other comments also focused on the cost to companies and that self-employed drivers may struggle with the earlier implementation.

Comments - 2025	Frequency of inclusion
Need more time after COVID-19	6
Condition of the vehicle more important than age	5
Cost to industry	2
Self-employed would struggle	1
Questioned consultation process	1

- Conversely, eight responders opted for an earlier implementation date of 1 January 2023. There was only one free text comment, which stated general support for the age of vehicle proposal.
- In addition, seven responders did not state a preference, and each provided a comment to elaborate further. Of the seven free text responses, three stated general opposition to the implementation of a maximum age of vehicle proposal; one suggested an alternative approach through vehicle tests every three months; and one stated that more time was required.

Comments – Did not show preference	Frequency of inclusion
No to maximum age requirement	3
Alternative approach – tests every three months	1
More time required	1