

## Taxi Licensing – Engine Capacity Requirements

Portfolio:	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	All

### Purpose

**To consider a recommendation to reduce the minimum engine capacity requirement from 1600cc to 1300cc for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles and to remove any engine capacity requirement for vehicles powered by an electric hybrid system.**

### Background

1. The conditions and requirements relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles are regulated by the Council under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (The Act).

### Current Position

2. Every district council which adopted The Act, in the mid-1970s, has had the right to set conditions and regulations relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles on the grounds of public safety. One of the conditions set in Surrey Heath relates to a minimum engine capacity of 1600cc being required for all licensed vehicles.
3. Since this time the automotive industry has greatly improved safety standards and the efficiency of power units. Most diesel powered cars are now turbocharged while others now benefit from electrically assisted hybrid engines.
4. This chart lists a sample of 4 door saloon cars which were available to the trade in the mid-1970s:

Make	Model	Fuel Type	Exact Capacity	BHP
Peugeot	504	diesel	1948cc	56
Ford	Cortina 1600GL	petrol	1593cc	73
Vauxhall	Victor SL	petrol	1597cc	79
Hillman	Hunter	petrol	1725cc	79
Morris	Marina	petrol	1799cc	83
Ford	Cortina 2000GL	petrol	1993cc	101
Vauxhall	Victor 2000SL	petrol	1975cc	108

5. As a comparison, this chart shows a sample of cars currently available but are prohibited from being granted a licence due to their engine capacity.

<b>Make</b>	<b>Model</b>	<b>Fuel Type</b>	<b>Exact Capacity</b>	<b>BHP</b>
Toyota	Prius 1.5 VVTi	petrol/hybrid	1497cc	74 + electric
Ford	B-Max 1.5 TDCI	diesel	1498cc	93
Peugeot	5008 1.6	diesel	1560cc	110
Volkswagen	Golf Estate 1.4	petrol	1395cc	123
Kia	Carens 1.6	diesel	1591cc	133
Vauxhall	Zafira Tourer	diesel	1598cc	134
Vauxhall	Zafira Tourer	petrol	1398cc	138
Ford	Galaxy 1.5 Eco	petrol	1499cc	157

6. Other local and Surrey Councils limits are listed for comparison purposes

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Minimum Engine Capacity</b>
Runnymede	1300cc
Spelthorne	1300cc
Woking	1300cc
Guildford	1400cc (not applicable to electric hybrid vehicles)
Waverley	1575cc
Hart	1600cc
<b>Surrey Heath</b>	<b>1600cc</b>
Bracknell Forest	No limit but HC must be wheelchair accessible
Rushmoor	No limit but HC must be approved & wheelchair accessible

7. The current engine capacity limit of 1600cc is considered by Officers to be an unnecessary burden on the taxi trade and to inhibit the trade from using less polluting and more efficient smaller engine, or hybrid electric cars.
8. The provisions of Section 47 (1) and 48 (2) of the Act allow the Council to impose such conditions as may be considered necessary are copied at Annex 1.

### Recommendations

9. The Committee is advised to resolve that the current minimum engine capacity limit for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles be reduced from 1600cc to 1300cc and that any engine capacity requirement for vehicles powered by an electric hybrid system be removed.

Background Papers: None

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