

PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING POLICY REVIEW

The Licensing Service is considering amending the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy, and wishes to seek the views of the Trade on the proposed changes to the policy set out below:

AGE RESTRICTION AND EUROPEAN EMISSION STANDARDS

In the interests of improving vehicle quality and by default air quality, any application for a **NEW** hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licence will only be granted if the vehicle meets the maximum age requirement of 3 years old at initial application.

The renewal of an **EXISTING** hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licence will only be granted if the vehicle does not exceed the maximum of 8 years old for those vehicles due for renewal in 2019 and beyond.

Vehicles that are due for renewal between January 2017 and December 2018 will not be relicensed if they exceed the 10 years age limit. (e.g. Euro III and Euro IV vehicles) this reflects current policy. This brings us in to line with neighbouring authorities.

Do you agree with the above policy change? Yes/No

Comments

DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE CHECKS (DBS)

To support safeguarding a criminal record check on a driver is an important safety measure. It is a requirement that all applicants undertake a DBS check with the Council at the time of first application and every 3 years thereafter. In order to protect and safeguard the public, the Council is proposing to implement the DBS update service which new applicants and drivers would have to subscribe to, which will allow officers carry out online status checks annually.

Do you agree with the above policy change? Yes/No

Comments

ACCESSIBILITY – WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES (WAVs)

In line with the proposal to move all other forms of licensed vehicles to an age related policy, it is recommended to introduce an age related policy for WAV's. It is proposed that new licences for vehicles will only be granted where the vehicle is no older than 5 years old at the date of initial application and a maximum vehicle age limit of 12 years old before being removed from the fleet. This requirement would take effect at the renewal of the licence in 2019.

The age limit recommended recognises the higher initial cost to purchase a WAV and therefore the need to operate it longer to recover costs. The age limits also serve to promote and encourage WAV's on to the licensed fleet and is favourable compared to neighbouring authorities.

Do you agree with the above policy change? Yes/No

Comments

The Council needs to ensure that the number of WAV's in the fleet does not reduce. Therefore, it is proposed that all WAV's which are currently licensed can only be replaced with a like for like vehicle e.g. a wheelchair accessible vehicle which complies with current policy.

Do you agree with the above policy change? Yes/No

Comments

ADVERTISEMENTS, SIGNS, NOTICES, ETC.

The Council is proposing to amend the Policy which will require all companies/operators to submit ONE application to approve their livery and contact detail adverts for all vehicles. If companies/operators wish to use additional adverts, they will be required to complete a further application for approval.

Do you agree with the above policy change? Yes/No

Comments

VEHICLE ROOF IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

In order help prevent and detect crime for both the licensed trade and members of the public the Council is proposing the introduction of vehicle roof identification stickers for all licensed vehicles.

Do you agree with the above policy change? Yes/No

Comments
