

TABLE OF MAJOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE POLICY AND SPECIFICATION – APPENDIX 2

Section	Proposed Condition	Existing Condition	Justification for proposal
VEHILCE POLICY			
1.6	To apply for a new vehicle licence, the applicant must be able to supply a suitable vehicle and provide proof that the applicant can maintain the vehicle. The applicant must also provide a statement, including documentary evidence, as to why they believe there is a demand for another Hackney Carriage vehicle in the County	N/A	Licence holders continually inform the Council that there are too many licensed hackney carriage vehicles within the County and that the standard of some new to fleet vehicles are unacceptable due to cheaper vehicles being bought to be licensed. To allow Officers to be confident that the vehicle will be in a safe condition at all times ie production of a projected maintenance plan.
2.3	All Hackney Carriage vehicles will be black	N/A	To easily identify a Hackney Carriage vehicle from a Private Hire vehicle.
2.4	All existing licensed vehicles will have “grandfather rights” up to 5 years after the implementation of this policy, by which time all existing licensed vehicles must be able to comply with 2.3 above eg all vehicles that are not black must have been replaced with one that complies with 2.3 above. This will only be relevant to vehicles that have had a continuous licence. Vehicles that are not renewed before the expiry date of the existing licence will be treated as a new vehicle and 2.3 above will apply. This also applies to any vehicle that is transferred or replaced eg vehicle that has been involved in a road traffic collision	N/A	The Council acknowledges that by proposing an immediate colour restriction will have financial burdens on existing licence holders, it is therefore considered necessary to allow a lead in time for existing licence holders.
4.2	All vehicles licensed under a new application must be a maximum of 3 years old and, if compliant with the requirements for licence, shall therefore be granted a vehicle licence until the age of 10 years, whereupon the vehicle must be replaced with one of a maximum age of 3 years. This also applies to any vehicle that is transferred/replaced or that have been involved in a road traffic collision	N/A	Hackney Carriage vehicles are used for hire and reward purposes and as such are subject to much higher annual mileages and more arduous driving, thus affecting their general wear and tear. To maintain a safe and reliable fleet of hackney

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			vehicles, they should be replaced on a regular basis.
4.3	All existing licensed vehicles will have “grandfather rights” for 5 years after the implementation of this policy, by which time all existing licensed vehicles must be able to comply with 4.2 above eg all vehicles aged 10 years or over must have been replaced with one of a maximum age of 3 years. This will only be relevant to vehicles that have had a continuous licence. Vehicles that are not renewed before the expiry date of the existing licence will be treated as a new vehicle and 4.2 above will apply	N/A	The Council acknowledges that by proposing an immediate age restriction will have financial burdens on existing licence holders, it is therefore considered necessary to allow a lead in time for existing licence holders
5.6	Vehicles that are presented for their MOT and Compliance in a condition that would result in a failure, will be subject to a re-test fee, to be determined by the Designated Testing Station	N/A	It is evident that some vehicles that are presented for MOT and compliance, are using the testing regime as a form of pre-test and any identified failures are then rectified and the vehicle is re-presented for a further test , at no extra cost, once all the works identified have been carried out. Vehicles should be compliant at all times therefore presented in a condition fit for passing the MOT and compliance
6.4	Only one advertise is permitted on Hackney Carriage vehicles. Details of any signs or advertising shall be submitted to the Senior Technical Licensing Officers for due consideration as to content. If the advertising is not approved by the Officer then the advertising request will be referred to the Licensing Committee for its consideration	Any proprietor wishing to use or sell space on the vehicle for the advertising of another company must first apply to the Council with a draft advert	Some hackney carriage vehicles are covered in advertising, which can distract the vehicle from actually being recognised as a licensed vehicle. The Council is also looking toward easily identifying licensed hackney carriages by proposing one colour for all.
11.1	Hackney Carriage Vehicles are prohibited to tow a trailer	N/A	Hackney Carriages can use taxi ranks. By allowing vehicles to tow a trailer would reduce space on a taxi rank. There is a potential for increased accidents. Vehicles

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			should have adequate luggage space within the vehicle for any eventuality.
12.1	A licence will be suspended if, upon reporting an accident to a vehicle, the Council is of the opinion that the damage caused materially effects the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle or the comfort or convenience of passengers carried therein	N/A	Public Safety and a professional image.
VEHICLE SPECIFICATION AND CONDITIONS			
1.1	All vehicles shall have an appropriate “Type Approval” which is either a European Whole Vehicle Type Approval (EWVTA) or UK Low Volume Type Approval (UKLVTA)	Any conventional 4 or 5 door saloon or estate car, purpose built London Cabs, or other purpose built or adapted taxis of suitable mechanical and bodily condition, irrespective of colour.	Department for Transport recommend Local Authorities accept all “type approval”. In addition it is important that all passengers with disabilities have access to all types of vehicles.
11.	<p>MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLE</p> <p>The vehicle and all its fittings and equipment shall at all times when the vehicle is in use or available for hire, be kept in an efficient, safe, tidy and clean condition* and all relevant statutory requirements (including in particular those contained in Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations shall be fully complied with.</p> <p>*Clean condition is defined as follows: “All body panels to be of uniform colour and finish throughout, unless otherwise authorised by the Council in writing, and to be washed and polished to a high standard. Windows to be clear and smear free inside and out. Carpets and seating to be vacuumed and to be without cuts, tears or staining”</p> <p>Every licensed vehicle must be maintained in a safe and clean condition at all times and is subject to such examinations as are required by the Council.</p>	N/A	Vehicle maintenance is a crucial part of running a licensed vehicle. Without a robust maintenance regime, the operator is potentially putting passengers and other road users/pedestrians at risk. Having a routine maintenance plan should assist licence holders as a well maintained vehicle will reduce big repair bills and in turn keeping licensed vehicles on the road for licence holders to earn a living

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	<p>Seats must be fully sprung, free of stains, tears, cigarette burns or repair and not threadbare. Floor coverings must not be unduly worn and present no trip hazards. Household carpeting or similar is unacceptable and must not be used. Upholstery (headlining and side panel coverings) must be free of ingrained grime, factures and maintained in the manufacturers original style.</p> <p>Without prejudice to the obligations imposed by 12.1 to 12.3 above and without prejudice to any other inspections as stipulated by the vehicle manufacturer, the proprietor of the licensed vehicle shall ensure that as a minimum the compliance of routine maintenance inspections must be adhered to, and such inspections shall be recorded and retained (for a minimum of 18 months) and kept available for immediate production to an Authorised Officer of the Council or Police Officer on request.</p> <p>Please note that the requirement to inspect the licensed vehicle as imposed by the above condition does not release the proprietor of the vehicle for his obligations to carry out further daily inspections to ensure compliance with the above conditions</p>		
20.1	<p>The vehicle should not carry children in pushchairs; the pushchair should be folded up and stored. If the vehicle does not have the correct child restraint then the child should be placed on the rear seat only. Children under 3 years old may travel unrestrained. Children aged 3 years old or over must use an adult seat belt as in accordance with Road Traffic Act (further details can be found at www.dft.gov.uk/think/focusarea/children/childincar)</p>	N/A	<p>It has been noted, some licensed vehicles allow children to be left in their pushchairs whilst travelling in a licensed vehicle. In the unfortunate case where a vehicle is involved in a road traffic collision or even if a vehicle has to break suddenly, a pushchair and the child can potentially causing serious harm/death to any passengers, other road users and obviously to the child. All road users transporting children have to comply with the Road Traffic Act.</p>

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