

Proposed Amendments to Hackney Carriage Private Hire Vehicle Policy

Section	Policy/Vehicle Specification	Proposal/Amendment	Justification for Amendment
2.6.3 Signage /Advertising/Livery (Private Hire)	Private Hire Vehicles shall display door signs, issued by the Council and fitted as set out in the Conditions of Licence.	Add "Magnetic door signs are not to be used for this purpose".	There have been incidents of magnetic door signs being stolen or falling off Private Hire Vehicles, resulting in the vehicle possibly having to operate without the correct signage until replacements can be obtained. The ability to easily remove and replace magnetic signs introduces the risk for stolen signs to be used illegally on unlicensed vehicles.
2.17.4 Plate Exemption	Each application for exemption will be treated on its own merits for consideration at Licensing Committee.	Remove and replace with "Each application for exemption will be considered by Officers in line with the Private Hire Plate Exemption Policy.	To allow officers to consider each request for exemption on its own merits in line with the introduction of the Private Hire Exemption Policy, approved by Members on 5 th March 2019 and effective from 1 st June 2019.
2.19.5 & 2.19.7 /5.11.5 & 5.11.7 Disciplinary Action	Minor offences which do not put the public at risk or do not call into question the fitness of the licence holder will be dealt with informally under the Council's penalty point warning scheme. The frequency or nature of minor offences may be such that the penalty point warning scheme is not considered appropriate and another sanction is necessary, such as suspension or revocation.	Remove and amend paragraphs 2.19.6 & 5.11.6 to read "Appropriate action will be taken in respect of all licences (vehicle, driver or operator), including where relevant, suspension or revocation, by officers guided by the requirements of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976 (including sections 60 & 68), Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (including section 50), Planning and Public Protection Enforcement Policy, and this Policy. If deemed appropriate Officers may	Members resolved to remove the Penalty Points Scheme and implement the Procedure for the Revocation or Suspension of a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Licence at a Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 4 th December 2019. Officers will report back to Licensing Committee in March 2021 to discuss the comparative effectiveness of the two systems

		refer any matter to the next scheduled Licensing Committee for consideration of appropriate action. Equally, the Licensing committee may request any matter be placed before that Committee for consideration”.	
2.20/ 5.12 Penalty Points Scheme	Penalty Points Scheme	Remove section. Move paragraphs 2.20.1 & 2.20.2 / 5.12.1 & 5.12.2 to form first paragraphs of Section 2.19 and 5.11 as appropriate and rename Sections “Regulatory and Disciplinary Action”	This section refers to the Penalty Points Scheme and it is the view of officers that that 2.20.1/5.12.1 and 2.20.2/5.12.2 should be retained to assist with enforcement.
3.14.1b/6.8.1b Facilities for Wheelchair Users	A ramp or ramps for the loading of a wheelchair and passenger shall be available at all times for use at the nearside rear passenger door. An adequate locking device shall be fitted to ensure that the ramp(s) do not slip or tilt when in use. Provision shall be made for the ramps to be stored safely in the vehicle when not in use	Remove “at the nearside rear passenger door”.	Many new Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles allow for various points of access. Insisting on nearside rear passenger doors being used only restricts the type of vehicles that can be used and may discourage new vehicles being brought on to the fleet.
4.14.2/7.16.2 Collisions	In the event of a licence being suspended due to the nature of the damage, the proprietor shall have the vehicle tested at a nominated testing station and submit the compliance certificate for examination prior to the licence being reinstated.	Remove and replace with “In the event of a licence being suspended due to the nature of the damage, the proprietor shall, at their own cost, have the vehicle tested at DCC Fleet Management and Vehicle Maintenance Centre. Following which, they should submit the Compliance Certificate for examination prior to the licence being reinstated”.	This amendment will ensure that there is a procedure in place for suspended vehicles to be examined and subsequently reinstated by officers.

<p>5.6.3 Signage/Advertising/Livery (Hackney Carriage)</p>	<p>A Hackney Carriage licensed by the Council must carry an illuminated roof mounted sign. The roof sign must state "Taxi/Tacsi" and must be illuminated when plying for hire.</p>	<p>Insert new paragraph "New to Fleet Hackney Carriage Vehicles may (must?) be presented to DCC Fleet Management and Vehicle Maintenance Centre for initial inspection without a roof sign or meter. However, both must be installed and inspected by Licensing Officers prior to a Licence being issued.</p>	<p>Prospective licensees may submit a vehicle for testing without first fitting roof signs and meters. This will mean that, in the event of the vehicle failing the test or being unsuitable, they have not incurred any expense installing the equipment unnecessarily.</p>
--	--	---	--