

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**MISCELLANEOUS LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

**12 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION REGARDING DRAFT HACKNEY CARRIAGE  
AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY  
SERVICES**

**(Contact: Michelle Bignell Tel: (01993) 861000)**

(The decisions on this matter will be resolutions)

**1. PURPOSE**

To request that a full consultation exercise be carried out with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade on the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. Once the consultation has been completed, a further report will be submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration of approval of the new Policy for implementation from 1 April 2018.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (a) That the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy be approved for public consultation;
- (b) That, following consultation, a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration of approval in March 2018

**3. APPENDICES**

**Appendix A** – Current Handbook for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers, School Contract Drivers, Proprietors and Operators

**Appendix B** – Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

**Appendix C** – Oxfordshire Councils MOT and age limit information

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1. The Council exercises control over Taxi and Private Hire operations in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (the 'Act').
- 4.2. Under the 'Act', there is no requirement to have a written policy in place with regards to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing.
- 4.3. Licensing authorities can choose to do this so that there is a guidance document in place for Applicants, Members and Officers to work from. This helps to:
  - Guide the Applicant through the application process
  - To provide clear guidelines on what is required for Driver, Vehicle and Operator licences
  - Give necessary guidance to Members to make informed decisions on applications e.g. convictions policy
  - To ensure a fair and open way of carrying out the issuing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences in West Oxfordshire

4.4. A copy of the current handbook is attached at Appendix 'A'.

## 5. PROPOSAL

5.1. The proposed amendments to the current Policy include:

- Amending the upper age limit for Hackney Carriage vehicles
- The implementation of a maximum age limit at first licensing
- Vehicles over 5 years old to provide 6 monthly MOT certificates
- Changes to medical requirements
- Removal of door stickers on Hackney Carriage Vehicles

5.2. It is proposed, with the agreement of the Sub-Committee, to run a full 12 week consultation from October to December 2017.

5.3. Consultation responses will be collated by Officers and will be fed back to the Sub-Committee with any necessary changes in March 2018.

5.4. The revised Policy will take effect from 1 April 2018.

### **FURTHER DETAILS**

#### 5.5 The amendment of the upper age limit of Hackney Carriage Vehicles

Currently, the upper age limit for Hackney Carriage vehicles in the West Oxfordshire District is 10 years. It is proposed to align this with Private Hire vehicles to 15 years.

There will be an exception to this rule. Wheelchair accessible vehicles, electric vehicles and vehicles built for purpose (e.g. London style cab) will be exempt due to the cost of the vehicle and that the vehicles are built for the purpose of licensed work.

Please see Appendix 'C' for information of age limits for other Oxfordshire Authorities.

#### The implementation of a maximum age limit at first licensing

5.6 Vehicles that are over 5 years of age will not be licensed with West Oxfordshire District Council.

#### 5.7 Vehicles over 5 years old to provide 6 monthly MOT certificates

It is proposed that all licensed vehicles over 5 years old must provide an MOT every 6 months.

These MOT's will be able to be obtained from any MOT approved garage. This will test the vehicles mechanical safety twice a year.

Please see Appendix 'C' for information of age limits for other Oxfordshire Authorities.

#### 5.8 Changes to medical requirements

It is proposed to follow the same requirements as the DVLA for lorry and bus drivers. The medicals will be required:

- On application
- Every 5 years 45 – 65 years
- Every year 65 years and above

Currently, the requirement is:

- On application
- Every year 65 years and above

It is, and will remain, a requirement of the licence holder to inform the licensing authority of any medical condition.

#### 5.9 Removal of door stickers on Hackney Carriage Vehicles

The requirement for door stickers on Hackney Carriage Vehicles will be removed. This will take effect from 1 April 2018.

All Hackney Carriage vehicles must be fitted with a roof sign compliant with our requirements by 1 April 2019.

Vehicles will be permitted to retain door stickers to reduce possible damage to the vehicle but these will not be replaced.

### **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

### **7 RISKS**

There are no risks directly linked to this report.

### **8 REASONS**

The Council exercises control over Taxi and Private Hire operations in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to ensure that vehicles, operators and drivers meet the required standards in order to protect the public.

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