

**Responses to Private Hire Licensing Policy, Private Hire Operator, Vehicle and Driver's Licence Conditions Consultation**

**Driver's Forum held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014.**

22 drivers attended

<b>Proposed Amendment</b>	<b>Summary of Response</b>	<b>Consideration of Response</b>
<p>Policy 2.13 – On the initial grant of a private hire vehicle, all licences must be less than six years old from the date of registration.</p>	<p>If pass MOT and Council test then why is age policy required?</p> <p>If vehicle roadworthy then vehicle should be licensed. Concentrate on checks rather than the age of the vehicle.</p> <p>No other Council has 6 years as an age policy.</p> <p>If vehicle has to be less than 6 years old then drivers will purchase vehicles with higher mileage as they could only afford these vehicles. The Policy may make less safe.</p> <p>Mileage should be consideration rather than age.</p>	<p>Drivers aware of when they must upgrade their vehicle rather than relying on an Officer decision each year as to whether the vehicle will be licensed. This would put pressure on the driver to replace his vehicle within a month. An age policy allows the fleet to have a set standard which benefits members of the public.</p> <p>Depot check and MOT is 3 times a year. Licensed vehicles carry out excessive miles and not all vehicles are maintained to the standard of a MOT and/or depot check for the remainder of the year. Age policy would ensure that older vehicles that may have older or worn parts would not be on the road so putting members of the public at risk.</p> <p>Benchmarking exercise carried out and policy is in line with other local authorities that have an age policy.</p> <p>Very difficult to produce a policy on mileage. Anticipated that would cause further financial burden on drivers.</p> <p>Concerns acknowledged and it is recommended to amend the Policy to read:</p>

<p>Policy 3.15 – All drivers are required to provide a prescribed certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner and a registered ophthalmic practitioner to the effect that they are physically fit to be the driver of a private hire vehicle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) On initial application; and</li> <li>(ii) Every 3 years* until the age of 70 and every 12 months thereafter.</li> </ul> <p>* Unless the driver is restricted to a shorter period for medical reasons.</p> <p>Policy 3.12 – to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010, the Council requires all drivers to undertake disability awareness training.</p> <p>Application Procedures</p>	<p>Financial impact on drivers as medical expensive and eye test free.</p> <p>Recommended to be 5 years for medical so why reduce to 3 years.</p> <p>Agree with proposal as long as those drivers who have already completed the training are exempt.</p> <p>No comments to make about the new application procedures.</p>	<p>‘On the initial grant of a private hire vehicle, all licences must be less than 8 years old from the date of registration’.</p> <p>The Department of Transport taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice Guidance recommends medicals in line with the DVLA Group 2 medical standards. The DVLA require that medicals are carried out every 5 years. Opticians recommend that eye tests are carried out every two years.</p> <p>It is recommended to amend the Policy to make it a requirement for medicals to be carried out every 5 years and eye tests every 2 years until the age of 65 and every 12 months thereafter. Both medical and eye tests may be required for shorter periods if the driver is restricted for medical reasons.</p> <p>Further detail as to the recommended Policy amendment detailed in Appendix 5</p> <p>It is recommended to make no amendment to Policy as already included.</p> <p>No change to Policy recommended.</p>
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