

SUMMARY

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

Following the three months of public consultation which ended on 31st May, 2007, and having held open meetings with both the Hackney and Private Hire representatives, the views of all parties have now been distilled into a refined set of proposals.

These proposals are to be regarded as the final document which will now be considered by the Public Protection Sub – Committee and the Council's Executive by late summer, 2007.

A schedule of implementation dates will be drawn up as some recommendations can be introduced earlier than others.

For ease of understanding, the main points can be listed as follows:

Age Policy

15 years for all vehicles commencing in JANUARY 2008 and reducing annually by one year until 2013 when the maximum age will be 10 years.

Purpose Built Fleet.

No change. A list of approved vehicles will be maintained by Blackpool Council Licensing Service.

Extras

Will be retained.

Fire Extinguishers

It will no longer be necessary to carry a Fire Extinguisher.

First Aid Kits

To be carried for the personal use of the driver and anyone requesting a First Aid Kit. This places no requirement on the driver to administer First Aid to a third party.

Frequency of Inspections

- 1 - 3 years old - 1 inspection per year plus M.O.T.
- 3 - 5 years old - 2 inspections plus M.O.T.

Over 5 years old - 3 inspections plus M.O.T.

The costs of tests 2 and 3 (if required) will be substantially less than the annual relicensing inspection and all tests will be extended to include emission testing.

Taxi Meters

In purpose built London - style vehicles the meter is to be located in the vehicle head - lining above the drivers eye line.

In saloon cars the meter is to be located above the dash height.

Vehicle Signage

Hackneys - No Change

Private Hire Vehicles - Signage to read " No Booking - No Ride. Not insured unless Pre - Booked "

Fleet Liveries / Hackney Base Colour

No Change

How Am I Driving ?

Displaying these signs will be a requirement for all licensed Hackneys and Private Hire vehicles.

Anonymous complaints will receive no attention.

Taxi Sharing Scheme

The present routes will be correctly signed as soon as practicable prior to consideration of the scheme being extended.

Training

For all new drivers a B-Tech qualification will become a licensing requirement prior to 2008.

For existing drivers - a B- Tech will be a licensing requirement within 3 years and will be an essential requirement for a Blackpool Council contract.

Driving Standards Agency Driving Qualification

No change - This proposal cannot be justified.

Criminal Records Bureau Checks

The current frequency is to be maintained. Annual C.R.B. checks will be retained for APPROPRIATE offences at the discretion of the Public Protection Sub - Committee.

Disciplinary Penalty Points

This proposal is NOT TO BE INTRODUCED.

Private Hire Operators Records

Details of bookings to remain as they are.

Mini Bus/ MPV SEATING

No change. Vehicles must comply with the Approved Vehicles List.

Stretched Limousines

To be licensed as proposed.

Dress Code

As proposed.