
HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

1.0 Matter for consideration

1.1 To consider the revised hackney carriage and private hire licensing policy.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 To consider the proposed amendments and to recommend that the Executive approves the revised policy.

3.0 Information

3.1 The first Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy came into force in November 2007. At that time the Council gave a commitment to review the policy after the first full year of operation.

3.2 The impact of the policy has been reviewed and its contents revised.

3.3 At its meeting held on the 22nd October 2009, the Public Protection Sub-Committee approved consultation on the draft policy.

3.4 Consultation took place until 3rd March 2010. Copies of the responses are attached. (108 identical responses were received from individuals (letter dated 22nd February 2010) only one copy has been reproduced)

3.5 The draft policy has been revised taking into consideration the comments received. The main changes are:

- The introduction of a separate maximum age for non-wheelchair accessible vehicles (by 2013 the maximum age for purpose built/wheelchair accessible vehicles will be 12 years and for non-wheelchair accessible vehicles 10 years)
- The introduction of Class 2 medicals for all drivers
- Confirmation of the need for all new drivers to undertake the Btec or other Council approved qualification before they can be licensed.
- The introduction of a 3 year driver's licence
- Amendments to the conditions imposed on a private hire operator's licence
- Clarification of the conditions imposed on a private hire driver's licence

3.6 At its meeting held on 8th April 2010, the Public Protection Sub-Committee considered the draft and recommended that the Licensing Committee recommend the policy to the Executive with one amendment that Appendix E, Code of Good Conduct for Licensed Drivers, at No 3 second (b) it be amended to read "remain in or near the vehicle".

4.0 Financial considerations

4.1 Nil

5.0 Legal considerations

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services will be represented to advise the Committee.

Relevant officer:

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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Appendices:

Appendix 3a: Revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Appendix 3b: Consultation responses.

Background papers: None

Websites and e-mail links for further information: None

Glossary: None