



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the **LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE** will be held in David Hicks 1 - Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham RG40 1BN on **WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.00 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Parsonage', with a long, sweeping tail.

Susan Parsonage
Chief Executive
Published on 10 October 2023

Note: Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting or participate in the meeting virtually, in accordance with the Council's Constitution. If you wish to participate either in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams, please contact Democratic Services: democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk

The meeting can also be watched live using the following link:
<https://youtube.com/live/BsF8yNIBuAU?feature=share>

This meeting will be filmed for inclusion on the Council's website. Please note that other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of these images or recordings is not under the Council's control.

Our Vision
<i>A great place to live, learn, work and grow and a great place to do business</i>
Enriching Lives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion excellent education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background. • Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to enable healthy choices for everyone. • Engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of. • Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.
Providing Safe and Strong Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people. • Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to reduce the need for long term care. • Nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish. • Ensure our Borough and communities remain safe for all.
Enjoying a Clean and Green Borough
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play as full a role as possible to achieve a carbon neutral Borough, sustainable for the future. • Protect our Borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas for people to enjoy. • Reduce our waste, promote re-use, increase recycling and improve biodiversity. • Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.
Delivering the Right Homes in the Right Places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future. • Ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, to support and enable our Borough to grow. • Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment. • Help with your housing needs and support people, where it is needed most, to live independently in their own homes.
Keeping the Borough Moving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways. • Tackle traffic congestion and minimise delays and disruptions. • Enable safe and sustainable travel around the Borough with good transport infrastructure. • Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners in offering affordable, accessible public transport with good transport links.
Changing the Way We Work for You
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be relentlessly customer focussed. • Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around our customers. • Communicate better with customers, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough. • Drive innovative, digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.
Be the Best We Can Be
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be an organisation that values and invests in all our colleagues and is seen as an employer of choice. • Embed a culture that supports ambition, promotes empowerment and develops new ways of working. • Use our governance and scrutiny structures to support a learning and continuous improvement approach to the way we do business. • Be a commercial council that is innovative, whilst being inclusive, in its approach with a clear focus on being financially resilient. • Maximise opportunities to secure funding and investment for the Borough. • Establish a renewed vision for the Borough with clear aspirations.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

Councillors

Peter Dennis
Morag Malvern
Mike Smith
Michael Firmager
Shahid Younis

Catherine Glover
Jordan Montgomery
Rachel Burgess
Jackie Rance

Sarah Kerr (Vice-Chair)
Beth Rowland (Chair)
Bill Soane
Abdul Loyes

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
10.		APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.	
11.		MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 June 2023.	5 - 8
12.		DECLARATION OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest.	
13.		PUBLIC QUESTION TIME To answer any public questions. A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions submitted under notice. The Council welcomes questions from members of the public about the work of this committee. Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact the Democratic Services Section on the numbers given below or go to www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions	
14.		MEMBER QUESTION TIME To answer any member questions.	
15.	None Specific	FEES AND CHARGES FOR LICENSABLE ACTIVITY 2024/25 To receive and consider the Fees and Charges for Licensable Activity 2024/25 report.	9 - 28
16.	None Specific	HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND DETERMINATION	29 - 152

To receive and consider the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

17. None Specific

FORWARD PLAN AND DECISION TRACKER

153 - 154

To receive and consider the Committee's Forward Plan and Decision Tracker.

Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent.

A Supplementary Agenda will be issued by the Chief Executive if there are any other items to consider under this heading.

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 22 JUNE 2023 FROM 7.00 PM TO 8.10 PM**

Committee Members Present

Councillors: Beth Rowland (Chair), Sarah Kerr (Vice-Chair), Catherine Glover, Morag Malvern, Jordan Montgomery, Mike Smith, Rachel Burgess, Bill Soane, Michael Firmager, Jackie Rance and Abdul Loyes

Officers Present

Narinder Brar, Head of Enforcement & Safety
Keiran Hinchliffe, Service Manager for Licensing and Processing
Rachel Lucas, Legal Advisor
Madeleine Shopland, Democratic and Electoral Services

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Beth Rowland be elected Chair for the 2023-24 municipal year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Sarah Kerr be appointed Vice Chair for the 2023-24 municipal year.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Peter Dennis and Shahid Younis.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair read out a statement regarding a data breach relating to Appendix C of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy public consultation responses and determination.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30 January 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Councillor Burgess sought an update on the items listed under the forward programme. Keiran Hinchcliffe indicated that the Audit of compliance and enforcement had been circulated via email. The Statement of Licensing Policy had been delayed as it had not been possible to undertake a consultation during the Purdah period. This would now come to the Committee's October meeting.

Members asked that the inclusion of a forward programme in the agenda and an action tracker in the Minutes, be re-instated.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

7. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

8. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND DETERMINATION

The Committee considered the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy public consultation responses and determination report.

During the discussion of this item, the following points were made:

- The report detailed the public consultation regarding the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.
- In July 2020, the Department for Transport had issued Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards (“the 2020 standards”) which stated that Licensing Authorities must use their licensing powers to protect children and vulnerable adults. This Council had already previously implemented a number of the recommendations in its existing policy on its own volition, but the 2020 standards provided the opportunity to further tighten the current licensing scheme.
- Members were informed that the draft policy had been commissioned in collaboration with the Public Protection Partnership in West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest Councils. Wokingham Borough Council would be the first to introduce a reviewed policy.
- Keiran Hinchcliffe took the Committee through the key principles of the policy. This included that vehicles up to five years old (or which had travelled less than 25,000 miles) would be subject to an inspection before grant or renewal, and at 6 months after the date of grant or renewal at one of the Council’s nominated testing stations; that where vehicles were five years or older, or which had travelled more than 25,000 miles, they would be subject to an inspection before grant or renewal and then at 4 20 monthly intervals for the duration of the licence. If an inspection was not carried out in the month that it was due, the licence would be suspended until such a test had been passed. The 10 year age limit (unless in “exceptional condition”) would be repealed; and all vehicles must meet the Euro 5 or Euro 6 emissions standards if they were being submitted for grant or renewal of a licence.
- The Community Transport Manager had asked whether the driver proficiency certificate required would effectively be a second driving test. If so, she was of the view that this could have an impact on the number of drivers for school transport and possibly lead to a shortage. Members were informed that additional requirements around driving proficiency were not part of the statutory provision but would help drive up driving standards.
- There was no statutory definition as to what amounted to a fit and proper person, but Officers were looking to define this and to provide robust guidance.
- Councillor Soane asked whether there would be an exemption for classic cars that would be used for weddings but would not pass the emissions standards. Keiran Hinchcliffe indicated that there would be consideration for such vehicles.
- Councillor Burgess questioned how 4 monthly intervals for testing, if the vehicle was over 5 years old, had been decided upon. She also questioned what the approximate cost would be for drivers. Keiran Hinchcliffe responded that the figures had come from the initial request to the Licensing Lawyers firm, James Button and Co. In terms of fees, these would be set annually and could be in the region of £40-50.
- Councillor Smith expressed concern regarding the lengthening of the inspection period as the vehicles often undertook many miles a year. He questioned whether vehicles would be required to be maintained and serviced in line with manufacturers recommendations.

- Councillor Rowland asked about how the Council compared with other local authorities and was informed that Wokingham was the first of the partnership to move forwards.
- Councillor Kerr asked other local authorities beyond Berkshire and whether anything in the current policy had necessitated changes. Keiran Hinchcliffe stated that the change to the emission standards was the main driver as it meant that older vehicles could now still be licensed should they meet the required emission standards. Maintenance checks would increase.
- In response to a question from Councillor Soane regarding wheelchair accessibility, Keiran Hinchcliffe indicated that guidance would be included in the policy regarding the type and design of vehicles that drivers could buy that would be considered wheelchair accessible. This had been an issue in the Borough in the past.
- Councillor Kerr queried the timing of the adoption of the policy and when the current policy expired. She was informed that there was no set time limit and that the Council had already adopted some of the 2020 Standards. Further benchmarking could be undertaken if required by the Committee, and the results brought back to Members for consideration.
- Councillor Kerr suggested that the report be deferred for two reasons. Firstly, all policies should be considered by the Climate Team to consider climate implications and if it was robust as it could be in this area, and secondly to ascertain how other local authorities defined a fit and proper person. She questioned how the Policy would fit in with the commitments of the forthcoming Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. The Council needed to do all it could to keep people safe.
- With regards to emissions standards, Councillor Loyes queried what percentage of the current school transport vehicles would be negatively impacted by this change to the policy. Keiran Hinchcliffe agreed to look into this further.
- Councillor Burgess commented that the feedback from the Community Transport Manager put the Committee in a difficult position as on the one hand it was important that there was not a shortage of school transport drivers, but on the other should the relevant change not be implemented, it could potentially lead to lower driving standards. Keiran Hinchcliffe stated the guidance was quite ambivalent on the matter and that it was ultimately the decision of the individual local authority whether to implement this element or not. Only new drivers would be required to undertake the driving proficiency certificate and there was only a small number of new school transport drivers each year currently. The existing trade already had this as a provision from when they were first licensed. The standards would match those of Reading Borough Council.
- Rachel Lucas indicated that there was currently a separate policy for licensing community and home to school transport vehicles and that the new policy was intended to encompass these areas and to take the 2020 Standards into account. Keiran Hinchcliffe indicated that school transport drivers would not be required to undertake the knowledge test around the routes, which private hire and Hackney Carriage drivers would.
- Councillor Kerr commented Community Transport served some of the Borough's most vulnerable residents, children, and vulnerable adults, and as such high driver standards needed to be maintained.
- Councillor Montgomery queried why the Council was asking for applicants living outside of the Borough for more than 6 months to produce a certificate of good character, when the Standards asked for those living outside of the area for more than 3 months to produce this. Keiran Hinchcliffe agreed to look into this.
- The Committee agreed to defer the decision to allow further work on the issues raised.

RESOLVED: That the item be deferred to allow further work on areas of the policy as detailed above.

9. AN APPROACH FOR TACKLING GAMBLING RELATED HARM

The Committee received a report regarding an approach for tackling gambling related harm.

During the discussion of this item, the following points were made:

- Members were reminded that local authorities were responsible for issuing gambling premises licences, monitoring compliance with the terms of these licences and the wider Gambling Act 2005, and taking enforcement action if necessary, and were required to have regard to the Gambling Act's licensing objectives, one of which was protecting children and other people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.
- The Council had not previously undertaken underage sales testing for betting premises.
- It was intended that the findings of the operation would be reported back to the Committee at its October meeting.
- Councillor Soane had previously asked about the Council's policy regarding advertising gambling within taxis, and questioned whether this had been further considered. Keiran Hinchcliffe stated the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy referenced wraps being legal and complying with Advertising Agency Standards Code of Practice. Some Members felt that advertising relating to gambling and alcohol in taxis should be limited.
- Councillor Loyes asked how the Council compared with others, and benchmarking data, in this area.
- Councillor Kerr queried whether Licensing were feeding into the Local Plan Update. Keiran Hinchcliffe commented that there was a low level of gambling premises within the Borough. The impact of these premises could be better assessed following the operation. Councillor Kerr suggested that data from other areas of the Council such as Public Health could help provide a clearer picture of their impact.
- Councillor Smith commented that since the pandemic a lot of gambling had moved online, and that the Committee was limited in how it could influence this area. He felt that the impact of gambling was a Council wide issue and should be looked at corporately, for example the number of suicides attributable to gambling. A whole Council approach was required. Councillor Firmager agreed that the effect on the families of those impacted by gambling should also be taken into consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Statement of Gambling Principles be noted and that it be agreed that officers should initiate an operation in reference to the best practice for the Licensing Authority as identified in Local Government Association guidance.

Agenda Item 15.

TITLE	Fees And Charges For Licensable Activity 2024/25
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Licensing and Appeals Committee on 18 October 2023
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Director, Place and Growth - Giorgio Framalocco

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Fees and charges relating to licenses, permits, and registrations contribute to covering the cost of administering the Council's function as a Licensing Authority.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Committee NOTES the fees set out at **Appendix A** and **Appendix B** as part of the Council's annual fee setting process.
- 2) That the Committee RECOMMENDS to Executive that, in relation to those fees which are within the Council's discretion to set, they are increased in line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI).

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report sets out the Fees and Charges which are proposed for licensable activities in this area of the Council for 2024/25.

No change is proposed in the current fee structure. The proposal is in line with the approach taken by the Licensing Committee last year by increasing fees in line with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI).

The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) is at 6.3% in the 12 months to August 2023. It is proposed that an increase in fees and charges be based on this figure.

Income from licensing fees offset the costs to the Council of administering the licensing service. Shortfalls or excesses should be balanced in following years over a balanced 5 year period of review.

In addition to the processing, enforcement, and management of the service, Licensing Officer's will now administer crime reduction schemes relevant to licensing that could support the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda or other best practice schemes such as Best Bar None accreditation and Purple Flag Status.

Background

1. Licensing Authorities are required to review their fees and charges on an annual basis. A significant number of fees within the licensing field are set by Government Statute or Regulation and, therefore, cannot be changed by the Council (“statutory fees”). These are set out in **Appendix A**.
2. Those fees which are within the Council’s discretion to set (“discretionary fees”) are usually required to be based on an assessment of the costs of administering the service. Including the general management of processing applications, IT infrastructure, office costs, legal support, democratic services, and the enforcement of the regulatory function. These discretionary fees are set out in **Appendix B**.

Analysis of Issues

3. Income from licensing fees should be no more than the costs of maintaining the licensing service. The service should be cost neutral, with fees balancing out over a five year period.
4. The Council has faced considerable cost increases. It is recommended that a 6.3% increase to discretionary fees is necessary to ensure that the costs of processing licence applications are covered. To ensure the administrative management and enforcement of licensing regimes, and any supported licensing related crime reduction initiatives are also adequately covered.
5. The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 6.3% in the 12 months to August 2023. It is proposed that the increase in discretionary fees and charges shown in **Appendix B** should be based on this figure, rounded to the nearest pound for clarity. The Council has no power to increase the fees set by statute or regulation in **Appendix A**.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	A 6.3% increase in discretionary fees in line with CPI to be assessed over a 5 year period.	Funding is through the income of application fees and annual maintenance fees.	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	To be confirmed in fee setting for 2025/26		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	To be confirmed in fee setting for 2026/27		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Proposed fees are set out in detail in the Appendices

Cross-Council Implications

There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Public Sector Equality Duty

An equalities impact assessment is not required at this stage, as no change is being proposed to the current fee structure.

Climate Emergency – This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030

No impact is anticipated to the Council's carbon neutral objective.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

N/A

List of Background Papers

None

Contact Keiran Hinchliffe	Service Enforcement & Safety Service
Telephone No 08933 172 882	Email keiran.hinchliffe@wokingham.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Statutory Fees

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Statutory Fee
Gambling Act 2005		Statutory maximum set by The Gambling (Premises Licence Fees) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007	
Casinos (regional) New Application			£15,000
Provisional Statement			£15,000
Application with Provisional Statement			£8,000
Variation			£7,500
Transfer/Reinstatement			£6,500
Annual Fee			£15,000
Casinos (large) New Application			£10,000
Provisional Statement			£10,000
Application with Provisional Statement			£5,000
Variation			£5,000
Transfer/Reinstatement			£2,150
Annual Fee			£10,000
Casinos (small) New Application			£8,000
Provisional Statement			£8,000
Application with Provisional Statement			£3,000
Variation			£4,000
Transfer/Reinstatement			£1,800
Annual Fee			£5,000
Bingo Clubs New Application			£3,500
Provisional Statement			£3,500
Application with Provisional Statement			£1,200
Variation			£1,750
Transfer/Reinstatement			£1,200
Annual Fee			£1,000

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Statutory Fee
Betting Premises New Application			£3,000
Provisional Statement			£3,000
Application with Provisional Statement			£1,200
Variation			£1,500
Transfer/Reinstatement			£1,200
Annual Fee			£600
Tracks New Application			£2,500
Provisional Statement			£2,500
Application with Provisional Statement			£950
Variation			£1,250
Transfer/Reinstatement			£950
Annual Fee			£1,000
Family Entertainment Centres New Application			£2,000
Provisional Statement			£2,000
Application with Provisional Statement			£950
Variation			£1,000
Transfer/Reinstatement			£950
Annual Fee			£750
Adult Gaming Centres New Application			£2,000
Provisional Statement			£2,000
Application with Provisional Statement			£1,200
Variation			£1,000
Transfer/Reinstatement			£1,200
Annual Fee			£1,000
Lotteries & Amusements New Application			£40
Annual Fee			£20
All licences			£50
Copy of licence			£25

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Statutory Fee
Club gaming or machine permit New Application			£200
Existing holder			£100
Renewal			£200
Annual Fee			£50
Variation			£100
Copy of licence			£15
Club Gaming or Machine Permit (holds a club Premises Certificate under Licensing Act 2003)			£100
Renewal			£100
Notification of intention to make available up to 2 gaming machines on premises which hold on-premises alcohol licence			£50
Application for Gaming Machine Permit (more than 2 machines) on premises which hold on premises alcohol licence (existing holder)			£100
New Application			£150
Annual Fee			£50
First Annual Fee (payable within 30 days of date permit takes effect)			£50
Variation			£100
Transfer			£25
Change of name			£25
Copy of permit			£15

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Statutory Fee
Licensing Act 2003		Set by The Licensing Act 2003 (Fees) Regulations 2005	
Premises licence new Band A – RV up to 4,300			£100
Premises licence new Band B – RV 4,300 to 33,000			£190
Premises licence new Band C – RV 33,001 to 87,000			£315
Premises licence new Band D – RV 87,001 to 125,000			£450
Premises licence new Band E – RV 125,001 and above			£635
Premises Licence – Annual Fee			
Band A			£70
Band B			£180
Band C			£295
Band D			£320
Band E			£350
Personal Licence			£37
Temporary Event Notices (TENs)			£21
Application for copy licence			£11
Application to vary DPS/transfer licence/interim notice			£23
Application for making a provisional statement			£315
Minor variation			£89
Application to disapply mandatory DPS condition			£23

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Statutory Fee
Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016		Set by The Environment Agency (Environmental Permitting) (England) Charging Scheme	
Scheduled Processes			
Standard Process			£1,650
Service Stations (PVI & PVII			£257
Dry Cleaners			£155
Vehicle Refinishers			£362
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant			£1,650
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant for the 3rd to 7th applications			£985
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant for the 8th and subsequent applications			£498
Substantial changes			
Standard Process			£1,050
Reduced Activities			£102
Annual Subsistence Charge (Statutory)			
Standard Process - Low			£772
Medium			£1,161
High			£1,747
Service stations PVR2 - Low			£113
Medium			£226
High			£341
VR and other reduced fees - Low			£228
Medium			£365
High			£548
Dry cleaners/PVR1 - Low			£79
Medium			£158
High			£237

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Statutory Fee
Medium			£1,034
High			£1,506
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant for 2nd permit - Low			£646
Medium			£1,034
High			£1,506
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant for 3rd to 7th permit - Low			£385
Medium			£617
High			£924
Mobile Screening & Crushing Plant for the 8th and subsequent permits - Low			£198
Medium			£316
High			£473
Late payment charge	If invoice issued & not paid within 8 weeks		£52
Transfer			£169
Partial Transfer			£497
Partial Transfer Reduced Fees			£47

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Statutory Fee
Private Water Supplies		Maximums set in Schedule 5 Private Water Supplies Regulations 2016	
Risk assessment - Every 5 years. Charged per hour, simple risk assessment and report typically 5 hours	Every 5 years.	Stat maximum £500	£65/hour
Private water and pool samples - Includes cost of testing	Includes cost of testing	Stat maximum £500	£60
Investigation - Includes cost of testing Carried out in the event of a test failure - this does not include any required analysis costs.	Carried out in the event of a test failure, can be substituted by the	Stat maximum £100	£100
Granting an authorisation	risk assessment - this does not include any required analysis costs.	Stat maximum £100	£100
Analysis – Regulation 10 (1) a. to e. Where a supply provides <10m ³ /day or serves <50 people and is used for domestic purposes	Where a supply provides <10m ³ /day or serves <50 people and is used for domestic purposes	Stat maximum £25	£25
Analysis,- Regulation 8 and 9 Taking a sample and delivery to the laboratory.	Charge for a visit, taking a sample and delivery to the laboratory. Typically 2.5 hours	Stat maximum £100	£100
Petroleum Licences (Trading standards)		Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations 2014 / The Health and Safety and Nuclear (Fees) Regulations 2021	
Not exceeding 2,500 litres			£44
Not exceeding 50,000 litres			£60
Exceeding 50,000 litres			£125

APPENDIX B

DISCRETIONARY FEES

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Current Fee	Proposed Fee from 01 April 2024
Animal Licenses		The granting fee includes initial inspection and mid-term inspection totalling 4 hours (unless stated differently). Inspections required beyond this due to additional visits, aborted visits will be charged at an additional fee		
Animal Boarding Establishment new - (dogs and cats)			£648	£689
Animal Boarding Establishment renewal - (dogs and cats)			£584	£621
Animal Boarding Establishment new - single species (dogs or cats)			£519	£552
Animal Boarding Establishment Renewal - single species			£454	£483
Home Boarder New			£299	£318
Home Boarder Renewal			£266	£283
Home Boarder - Franchisee New			£227	£241
Home Boarder - Franchisee Renewal			£195	£207
Home Boarder - Assessment of host in franchisee licence New			£130	£138
Home Boarder - Assessment of host in franchisee licence Renewal			£130	£138
Dog Day Care New			£648	£689
Dog Day Care Renewal			£584	£621
Dog Breeding Establishment New			£648	£689
Dog Breeding Establishment Renewal			£584	£621
Dog Breeding Establishment (domestic dwelling) New			£519	£552

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Current Fee	Proposed Fee from 01 April 2024
Dog Breeding Establishment (domestic dwelling) Renewal			£454	£483
Sale of pets new			£519	£552
Sale of pets renewal			£454	£483
Animal for Exhibition New			£648	£689
Animal for Exhibition Renewal			£584	£621
Riding Establishment				
Riding establishment inspection (plus fee per horse) New			£519	£552
Riding establishment inspection renewal			£454	£483
Inspection fee per horse, for the first 10 horses			£16	£17
Inspection fee per horse, for next 11-50 horses			£11	£12
Inspection fee per horse, for every horse 51 & over			£9	£10
Other Fees				
Variation to animal licence			£246	£262
Replacement licence fee (lost or stolen paperwork, change of name, etc.)			£62	£66
Re-evaluation of star rating (inclusive of one visit)			£123	£131
Transfer due to death of licensee			£62	£66
Wild animals and zoos				
Dangerous Wild Animal Consent	2 years		£506	£538
Zoo Licences (new & renewals)	Up to 6 years		£2,271	£2,414

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Current Fee	Proposed Fee from 01 April 2024
Taxi Licences		Cost recovery. Change would require consultation with licensees		
Hackney Carriage Vehicle – New & renewal	Based on 2019/20 fee of £290 prior to Covid discount		£319	£339
Private Hire Vehicle – New and renewal			£319	£339
Private Hire Vehicle with Dispensation			£319	£339
Temporary Vehicle Licence	Up to 3 months		£255	£271
Driver licence - New & Renewal	3 years		£298	£317
Conversion of driver licence to another type			£88	£94
Private Hire Operators (PHO)				
NEW Private Hire Operator				
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 1			£519	£552
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 2			£600	£638
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 3			£681	£724
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 4			£762	£810
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 5			£843	£896
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 6			£924	£982
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 7			£1,005	£1,068
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 8			£1,086	£1,154
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 9			£1,167	£1,241

NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 10			£1,248	£1,327
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 11			£1,329	£1,413
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 12			£1,410	£1,499
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 13			£1,491	£1,585
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 14			£1,572	£1,671
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 15			£1,653	£1,757
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 16			£1,734	£1,843
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 17			£1,816	£1,930
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 18			£1,897	£2,017
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 19			£1,978	£2,103
NEW Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 20+			£2,059	£2,189
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator				
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 1			£389	£414
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 2			£470	£500
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 3			£551	£586
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 4			£632	£672
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 5			£713	£758

RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 6			£794	£844
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 7			£875	£930
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 8			£956	£1,016
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 9			£1,037	£1,102
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 10			£1,119	£1,189
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 11			£1,200	£1,276
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 12			£1,281	£1,362
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 13			£1,362	£1,448
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 14			£1,443	£1,534
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 15			£1,524	£1,620
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 16			£1,605	£1,706
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 17			£1,686	£1,792
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 18			£1,767	£1,878
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 19			£1,848	£1,964
RENEWAL Private Hire Operator Licence Number of Vehicles: 20+			£1,929	£2,051

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Current Fee	Proposed Fee from 01 April 2024
Other Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Charges				
Variation to PHO licence			£65	£69
Transfer of vehicle to new owner			£130	£138
Change of vehicle			£81	£86
Replacement Licence			£45	£48
Replacement Badge			£45	£48
Replacement Vehicle Licence Plate			£65	£69
Knowledge Test			£81	£86
Missed Appointment			£41	£44
Disclosure and Barring Service Check (DBS)			£98	£104
Advertising on a Hackney carriage - New			£52	£55
Advertising on a Hackney Carriage - Renewal			£35	£37
Change of address (PH & HC)			£15	£16
Backing Plate			£29	£31
Medical Exemption from carrying an assistance dog			£24	£26
Refund Processing Fee			£65	£69
Change of vehicle registration			£63	£67
Age of vehicle Inspection – initial & renewal			£65	£69

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Current Fee	Proposed Fee from 01 April 2024
Scrap Metal Dealers		Cost recovery for assessment and administration of the application		
Scrap Metal Site Licence	3 Years		£551	£586
Scrap Metal mobile collector licence	3 years		£293	£311
Scrap Metal - Variation of Licence			£404	£429
Scrap Metal - change of site manager			£75	£78
Scrap Metal - copy of licence			£12	£13
Scrap Metal - Change of Name			£40	£43
Skin Piercing & Treatments				
Skin Piercing & Dermal Treatments Individual	Individual		£198	£210
Skin Piercing & Dermal Treatments Premises	Premises		£310	£330
Skin Piercing & Dermal Treatments Joint Application	Joint application		£496	£527
Pre-application work, hourly rate	Min. 1 hour		£65	£69
Street Trading Consents				
Street Trading Consent Annual Fee	Annual Fee		£1,514	£1,609
Street Trading Consent 6 months	6 months		£885	£941
Street Trading Consent Monthly Rate	Monthly Rate		£251	£267
Variation fee			£100	£106
Refund for Street Traders if application withdrawn	If application withdrawn		£127	£135

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Current Fee	Proposed Fee from 01 April 2024
Dog Warden Services				
Stray Dog recovered		Fees based on cost recovery. Vets fees separate.	£82	£87
Stray Dog – kennel charge in addition to recovery charge			£16.50 per day max £82	£17.40 per day max £87
Dog fouling fixed penalty charge		Fixed penalty	£82	£87
Miscellaneous stray dog activities e.g. taxi, relocating, microchipping			£65	£69
Private Sector Housing				
Inspection of Housing Premises for Immigration purposes			£127	£135
Enforcement Notices served under Housing Act 2004		On a cost recovery basis	£442	£470
HMO Licence NEW		Set on a cost recovery basis for the costs of (a) the administration and processing of the application and (b) for the general management and enforcement of the scheme	£1,323	£1,406
HMO Licence RENEWAL			£885	£941
Copy of HMO Register	Hourly charge	Housing Act 2004	£65	£69

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Current Fee	Proposed Fee from 01 April 2024
Caravan Site Licences		Cost recovery for administering and monitoring site licences - a fee fixed by the authority under Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960		
Caravan Site licence new			£484	£514
New Caravan Site pitch licence			£18	£19
Caravan Site Licence Transfer			£204	£217
Alteration of Caravan Site conditions			£375	£399
Caravan Site Annual fee per pitch			£15	£16
Enforcement Notice under Mobile Homes Act 2013			£442	£470
Deposit, vary or deleting Caravan Site rules			£129	£137
Variation of Caravan Site licence			£127	£135
Mobile Homes Regulations 2020		The Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager of Site to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020 (“the Regulations”) permit the Council to charge a fee		
Application Fee – Fit and Proper Test		Any application taking more than two hours to process will be charged at an additional hourly rate of £59/ph	£130	£138
Annual Fee – Fit and Proper Test			£65 per hour	£69 per hour

	Note	Regulatory Framework	Current Fee	Proposed Fee from 01 April 2024
Other fees	Hourly rate applies minimum of 2 hours			
Environmental Information Request - Individual, Non-Commercial			£130	£138
Environmental Information Request - Commercial and Government			£130	£138
Civil Actions (Class A – Fee Discretionary)			£130	£138
Safety Certification and administration	Hourly rate applies minimum of 2 hours		£130	£138
Pre-Application Advice, hourly charge			£65	£69
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme rescore	2 hours		£130	£138
General Business Advice (Non Primary Authority)	Hourly rate		£65	£69
Resident Request for Advice	Hourly rate		£65	£69
Hourly charge			£65	£69

TITLE	Hackney Carriage And Private Hire Licensing Policy Public Consultation Responses And Determination
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Licensing and Appeals Committee on 18 October 2023
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Director, Place and Growth - Giorgio Framaliccio

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Hackney Carriage (“taxi”) and Private Hire Licensing Policy (“the policy”) outlines a set of proposed standards and procedures to be used to process and determine applications for driver, vehicle, and operator licenses by Wokingham Borough Council (“the Council”).

The proposed policy is based on the principle that anyone using a licensed vehicle must be able to trust the driver; be assured the vehicle is safe; and trust any operator or driver to keep their information safe.

RECOMMENDATION

The Licensing and Appeals Committee to:

- i. **DETERMINE** the revised policy, either approve it or make recommendations for amendment to the Director of Place & Growth for policy introduction on 01 December 2023.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

- a) The Department for Transport (DfT) recommends Licensing Authorities make publicly available a cohesive policy document that brings together all their procedures on taxi and private hire vehicle licensing. This should include but not be limited to policies on convictions, a ‘fit and proper’ person test, licence conditions, and vehicle standards.
- b) In July 2020, DfT issued Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards (“the 2020 standards”) which state that Licensing Authorities must use their licensing powers to protect children and vulnerable adults. This Council has already previously implemented a number of the recommendations in [its existing policy](#) on its own volition but the 2020 standards provide the opportunity to further tighten the current licensing scheme.
- c) This draft policy was commissioned in collaboration with the Public Protection Partnership in West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest Councils. Wokingham Borough Council will be first to introduce a reviewed policy.
- d) The Licensing and Appeals Committee is invited to comment on the draft policy following public consultation and consider relevant responses.

Appendix A	Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
Appendix B	Summary of principle features of the draft policy
Appendix C	Consultation responses
Appendix D	Green Metro Cars Submission

Background

1. The Council is, under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Licensing Authority responsible for regulating the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trades operating in the Borough. The terms Hackney Carriage, or taxi, usually refer to vehicles which are licensed to ply for hire and pick people up from the roadside or a rank. The origin of the term “Hackney Carriage” is believed to stem from the centuries-old word “hackney” (or “hack”) being a horse of medium size, intended for ordinary riding at moderate pace, and often available for hire. When attached to a carriage they were first licensed in 1662 on payment of a fee, as a consequence of their increasing number.
2. In contrast, Private Hire Vehicles are only permitted to pick up pre-arranged bookings and are not permitted to be hailed to stop by a passenger who has not pre-booked. However, in this report “taxi licensing” is intended to mean both Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles.
3. At [Licensing and Appeals Committee on 6 October 2020](#) members considered a report which set out the work required to review the existing policy in line with recommendations made by the Department for Transport (DfT) [Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards \(July 2020\)](#). Members agreed to receive further reports detailing changes to the policy and licence conditions to comply with the statutory standards.
4. West Berkshire and Bracknell Forest Councils have undertaken to implement formal policies and commissioned this work to [James Button & Co](#), solicitors, who are experienced in Licensing law and were also commissioned to review the existing Wokingham policy at the same time.
5. This policy aims to protect the public and build public confidence in the licensed taxi trade, by promoting:
 - safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and the prevention of crime and disorder
 - vehicle safety, comfort and accessibility
 - environmental sustainability
 - Wokingham Borough as a place to live, work and visit
6. The Council recognises the important role that taxis play in enabling people to travel. In doing so they also have a role in portraying the image of the borough. The Council recognises that the majority of licence holders operate to a good standard and want to provide the best possible service to their customers. This policy should, therefore, help the trade and the local economy thrive.
7. The draft policy is attached as **Appendix A**.

8. The principal features of the draft policy are summarised in **Appendix B**.

Analysis of Issues

9. The [Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards \(July 2020\)](#) was published by the Secretary of State for Transport under [section 177\(1\) of the Policing and Crime Act 2017](#) and sets out a framework of policies that licensing authorities must have regard to when exercising their functions. It states that:

- reports on child sexual abuse and exploitation made clear that weak and ineffective arrangements for taxi and private hire vehicle licensing leave children and the public at risk, and
- licensing authorities should publish their consideration of the measures contained in the Standards, and the policies and delivery plans that stem from these.

10. The principal changes contained in the 2020 standards are:

- a) Fit and proper test - There is still no statutory definition of what amounts to a 'fit and proper' person for the purposes of the legislation, but there is now much more robust guidance in the new standards
- b) Administration - There should be sufficient training and adequate resource for all those involved with making licensing decisions. Any functions that are delegated should be set out in a clear scheme of delegation and whilst less contentious matters can be resolved by authorised officers, it is recommended that more serious matters are dealt with by committee
- c) Whistleblowing - It is recommended that authorities have effective internal procedures for staff to raise concerns and procedures in place for any concerns to be dealt with openly and fairly
- d) DBS checks - Subscription to the DBS Update Service by drivers and operators at their own expense and the records reviewed every six months.
- e) Overseas convictions – certificates of good character should be obtained where an applicant has previously lived outside the UK for more than 3 months
- f) Convictions policies - All authorities should have a clear policy that takes a particularly cautious view of any offences against individuals with special needs, children and other vulnerable groups, particularly those involving violence, those of a sexual nature and those linked to organised crime
- g) Complaints against licensees - All authorities should have robust complaint recording systems and take action if necessary
- h) Mandatory safeguarding awareness training for all drivers. Training should include 'County Lines' drug trafficking awareness

- i) Literacy and numeracy - All licence holders to demonstrate proficiency in English language. Drivers should be able to provide correct change and produce a legibly written receipt upon request
- j) Enforcement - Suspension and revocation of driver licences. The guidance clarifies situations in which revocations and suspensions may be used. Drivers should be made aware of relevant policies
- k) Local consultation - It suggests it is good practice to consult when proposing significant changes in local licensing rules.

Policy consultation

- 11. The results of the policy consultation are attached as **Appendix C**.
- 12. The majority of feedback has come from local residents. There is majority agreement and support for all measures detailed in the consultation questions.
- 13. One respondent has brought the following to the attention of elected members:
- 14. "I have read the policy and would like to make some suggestions. Clause 3.29 states 6 months inspection for less than 5 years old vehicles and 3 inspections for more than 5 year old vehicles. I strongly disagree with this change as it will put us under more financial pressure. I think you should keep this as 1 inspection for less than 5 year old and 2 inspections for more than 5 year old and add a clause for 3 inspections for more than 10 year old vehicles."
- 15. A response has also been received from Wokingham Borough Council's Community Transport Manager, Rebecca Brooks:
- 16. "2.6 – Can we have further information on the required "driving proficiency certificate" please? If this is a second driving test, CTU can't support this for school contracts, as it is causing a massive delay in getting new drivers through. In the meantime our costs are going up due to limited supply of licenced drivers (drivers are asking for higher and higher wages by playing one company off against another). At the moment there is also a high risk that there will be insufficient supply of drivers to allow us to fulfil our statutory duty for September 23 on school transport."
- 17. Members are encouraged to discuss and take a view on the above consultation responses. Both of the above measures raised are local policy and not a standard introduced by the DfT statutory guidance, ultimately these two issues raised are for the Licensing Committee to determine their own approach to these consultation responses.
- 18. At the meeting of the Licensing Committee on 22 June 2023, members requested further information on aspects to the policy and for it to be circulated with the Climate Emergency Officer. An update will be provided orally at committee meeting on these matters.

19. A further response to the Policy consultation has been received by Green Metro Cars. These include aspects concerning Medical Reports, Driver Assessment, and Safeguarding Training. This is attached as **Appendix D**. A representative of Green Metro Cars has requested to attend the Licensing Committee meeting to discuss his views on the revised policy before Members.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
This report introduces a revised taxi licensing policy following public consultation. There are no financial implications.

Cross-Council Implications
Community Transport have submitted a consultation response.

Public Sector Equality Duty
Self-employed people of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity are strongly represented among drivers and operators in the taxi and private hire trade. Customers of the trade are strongly represented by young women, people with disabilities and older people, and generally by people who do not own a car. For these reasons, it is important to ensure that this remains a profitable sector. An equalities impact statement will be completed prior to the implementation of a new policy on 01 December 2023.

Climate Emergency – <i>This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030</i>
A thriving taxi trade will contribute to carbon neutral objectives by assisting to reduce reliance on personal vehicle transport. The policy has been sent to the Climate Emergency Officer for review, an update will be provided at the committee meeting.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department for Transport (DfT) <u>Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice Guidance (March 2010)</u>• DfT <u>Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards (July 2020)</u>

Contact Keiran Hinchliffe	Service Enforcement & Safety Service
Telephone No 07933 172 882	Email keiran.hinchliffe@wokingham.gov.uk

Appendix B Summary of principle features of the draft policy

Drivers (pages 3 to 13)

- 1) A licence will not be issued until the appropriate fee is paid
- 2) The Council issues dual or combined drivers' licences. These enable a licensee to drive a Hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licensed by the council
- 3) Drivers' licences will be granted for a period of 3 years unless an applicant requests a licence for a one-year period. An application for the renewal of a licence must be made prior to the expiry of the licence, and in sufficient time to enable it to be processed and renewed before the existing licence expires
- 4) Licensees must comply with their duties under the relevant parts of the Equalities Act 2010
- 5) Public protection will be the overriding consideration whenever the council considers taxi licensing matters
- 6) Licences are only granted to people who satisfy the council that they are fit and proper people to hold such a licence. It is for the applicant to demonstrate that they are a fit and proper person, and not for the council to prove that they are not
- 7) Unacceptable behaviour can lead to licences can be suspended, revoked or not renewed. There are rights of appeal against suspensions and revocations, together with refusals to grant and conditions attached to the licence
- 8) Every application for a licence must be accompanied by satisfactory evidence of the following:
 - a. A full UK, Northern Ireland, European Economic Area ("EEA") or Exchangeable driving licence (held for a period of at least 1 year prior to the date of application)
 - b. Evidence of the right to live and work in the country
 - c. An authenticated form of photographic identification
 - d. An enhanced criminal record check (DBS) including the child and adult barred list
 - e. A certificate of current medical fitness to DVLA Group 2 standard
 - f. The required post-qualification driving experience and the required level of competency
 - g. Sufficient ability to speak English and to understand spoken English to provide the service that they wish to be licensed for
 - h. That where specified the applicant has completed safeguarding awareness training

- i. To have passed a practical driving and wheelchair assessment before applying for a dual driving Licence. These assessments must be passed again every 6 years
 - j. A good knowledge of Wokingham Borough and the surrounding area. They will be required to pass a test on this knowledge prior to a licence being issued. This test must be passed again every 6 years
 - k. The requirements for operators and vehicles that only undertake school or community service contracts are the same as for all other private hire operators and vehicles but will be excluded from the requirement to undertake a knowledge test as they will be undertaking journeys on fixed routes.
 - l. A good knowledge of the Highway Code. This test must be passed again every 6 years.
 - m. To have undergone training in the assistance of disabled persons, to a standard acceptable to the Council. Refresher training will be required every three years.
 - n. Completion of a course in Safeguarding, Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE) and County Lines
- 9) The applicant will be given three attempts to pass each of the required tests to become a licensed driver. If they have not passed after the third attempt no new application will be accepted for a period of three calendar months
- 10) Where a licence is found to have been obtained using false or incomplete information enforcement action may be taken, and the matter may be reported to the police
- 11) The council provides information to the National Register of Taxi Licence Refusals and Revocations (NR3), a mechanism for licensing authorities to share details of individuals who have had a licence revoked, or an application for one refused.

Vehicles (pages 13 to 27)

- 12) No vehicle will be licensed unless it
- a. has undertaken and passed the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Test, at a Council nominated garage
 - b. has provision for every passenger to wear a seat belt. A sign must be displayed inside the vehicle requiring seat belts to be worn.
- 13) Vehicles up to five years old (or which have travelled less than 25,000 miles) will be subject to an inspection before grant or renewal, and at 6 months after the date of grant or renewal at one of the Council's nominated testing stations.
- 14) Where vehicles are five years or older, or which have travelled more than 25,000 miles, they will be subject to an inspection before grant or renewal and then at 4

monthly intervals for the duration of the licence. If an inspection is not carried out in the month that it is due, the licence will be suspended until such a test has been passed. The 10 year age limit (unless in “exceptional condition”) is repealed.

- 15) All vehicles must meet the Euro 5 or Euro 6 emissions standards if they are being submitted for grant or renewal of a licence
- 16) All Hackney Carriage vehicles must be wheelchair accessible in accordance with the specification. Wheelchair accessible Private Hire Vehicles must also comply with the specification
- 17) All applications for grant or renewal of vehicle licences must be accompanied by documentary evidence that the vehicle has been regularly serviced and maintained in line with the manufacturer’s servicing schedule
- 18) Detailed standards for vehicles are on pages 16 to 27 in the draft policy

General

- 19) Policy in relation to Private Hire Operators is on pages 28 to 33
- 20) Policy on Enforcement and Appeals is on page 34
- 21) Criminal Convictions Policy is on pages 36 to 45
- 22) Penalty Point Scheme is on pages 46 to 57
- 23) Code of Conduct is on pages 58 to 69
- 24) Licence Conditions:
 - a. Hackney Carriages - pages 70 to 78
 - b. Private Hire Vehicle - pages 79 to 87
 - c. Operators pages - pages 88 to 98

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WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL



HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

2023 - 2028

*"The purpose of the Council's Licensing Service is to protect the public." –
Councillor Ian Shenton*

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Foreword by Cllr Ian Shenton Executive Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure



“The purpose of Wokingham Borough Council as a Licensing Authority is to protect the public. We will do this by administering stringent processes with regards to applications for driver, vehicle, and operator licenses in our borough. This includes the checking of criminal records, DVLA Licence records, Tax Code checks, requiring medical reports for drivers, and checking their right to work.

“We manage a Local Area Knowledge Test for new drivers, require a certificate of driving proficiency, assess standards of English speaking and listening, and require training for all drivers covering disability awareness and safeguarding.”

“As the eyes and ears of the community, our licensed drivers have an important role to play in understanding signs of abuse and reporting them to Thames Valley Police and to Wokingham Borough Council.”

“As a Licensing Authority, we aim to enforce against non-compliance with the licence conditions by way of the Penalty Points System and delegated officer decisions to action licence suspensions and revocations, and refuse licence applications. All of which can be democratically reviewed on application to the Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee. The Council will also take prosecutions concerning breach of licence conditions or cases of unauthorised plying for hire.”

“We will contribute to the protection of the public and clean air by regulating the type of vehicle that can be licensed in the Wokingham borough.”

Councillor Ian Shenton

Executive Member for Environment, Sport, and Leisure

1.0 Introduction

SCOPE

1.1 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles play a vital role in an integrated transport system. They provide services in situations where other forms of transport are not available or usable.

1.2 This document sets out the policy that Wokingham Borough Council (“the Authority” or “the Council”) will apply when making decisions about applications and details the requirements that will need to be met before any licence is issued by the Council. This policy applies to the following:

Hackney Carriages

1.3 A vehicle available to transport members of the public that has no more than 8 seats for passengers, which is licensed to stand at designated taxi ranks and on the street and/or be hailed in the street by members of the public within their designated zones. This is called “plying for hire”. They may also undertake pre booked journeys.

Private Hire Vehicles

1.4 These are licensed to carry no more than 8 passengers and must be booked in advanced through a licensed Private Hire operator. They cannot stand or ply for hire nor use any designated taxi ranks.

Private Hire Operators

1.5 Operators are required to take and record the bookings for Private Hire vehicles, and records must be made available for inspection. The Private Hire operator is responsible for the actions of the drivers that they use and the condition of the vehicles that they use.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers

1.6 Licensed individuals who have undertaken certain tests and checks. Only a licensed driver can drive a licensed vehicle.

School or Community Service Contracts

1.7 The requirements for operators and vehicles that undertake school or community service contracts issued by the Council’s Corporate Transport Services Department are the same as for all other Private Hire operators and vehicles, except that drivers who only undertake work as part of such a contract will be excluded from the requirement to undertake a knowledge test. All other requirements remain in place. This alteration from the usual policy recognises that these drivers will be undertaking journeys on fixed routes and can only use their Private Hire driver’s licence when the vehicle is undertaking such a contract.

LEGISLATION, BYELAWS, GUIDANCE AND POLICY

1.8 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire activity are governed by the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. In addition, the Council has byelaws relating to Hackney Carriage activity (Appendix Nine). The Council will have regard to guidance issued by the Department for Transport. Each application will be considered on its own merits, considering all the relevant circumstances, legislation, guidance, and this policy

1.9 Once a licence has been granted, the licensee will be subject to the conditions attached to the licence and (in the case of drivers) the code of conduct.

1.10 A licence will not be issued until the appropriate fee is paid and cleared funds have been received by the Council.

OBJECTIVES

1.11 The Council is responsible for the regulation of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing within the borough of Wokingham, aiming to protect individuals, businesses and the environment and promote public safety. Public protection will be the overriding consideration whenever the Council considers Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing matters.

1.12 The Council will seek to promote the following objectives:

- The protection of the public, safeguarding children and the vulnerable
- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The health and safety of drivers and members of the public
- Vehicle safety, comfort and access for protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010
- The establishment of professional and respected Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trades
- Access to an efficient and effective public transport service
- The protection of the environment

1.13 Holding a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver, vehicle or operator licence is a privilege and a responsibility. At all times a licensee's behaviour and conduct must be of a high standard. The Council will consider all aspects of an applicant and licensee's behaviour; not simply when they are using their licence, although unacceptable behaviour whilst using the licence will be seen as an aggravating factor.

THE FIT AND PROPER TEST

1.14 Licences are only granted to people who satisfy the Council that they are fit and proper people to hold such a licence. Being a fit and proper person is not simply a question at the time of the application; it is a continuing requirement, and if at any time the conduct or behaviour of the licensee falls below that acceptable standard, action may

be taken against the licence. There is no legal definition of the term 'fit and proper' However, in determining whether a person is fit and proper to hold a licence, those tasked with determining applications are effectively asking the following questions:

Drivers

1.15 Would you (as a member of the licensing committee or other person charged with the ability to grant a driver's licence) allow any person for whom you care, to travel alone in a vehicle with this person?

Operators

1.16 Would you be comfortable providing travel plans, movements of family or other sensitive information to this person and feel safe in the knowledge that such information will not be used or passed on for criminal or unacceptable purposes?

Proprietors

1.17 Would you be comfortable allowing this person to have control of a licensed vehicle that can travel anywhere, at any time of the day or night without arousing suspicion and be satisfied that he or she would not allow it to be used for criminal or other unacceptable purposes?

1.18 The safety of all members of the public and in particular children, young people and vulnerable adults is paramount. In order to assess the suitability of an applicant (and to inform decision makers when answering the questions above), the Council will undertake checks and apply the processes it considers necessary to ensure that licences are not issued to, or used by, unsuitable people and that the public are not exposed to persons with a history of inappropriate behaviour which may question the person's 'fit and proper' status;

1.19 When applying for a licence, or at any point during the time in which they hold a licence, a person is required to declare all:

- Convictions and offences dealt with by way of fixed or financial penalty or Formal Caution
- Matters currently the subject of criminal investigation or pending prosecution.

1.20 The 'fit and proper' test is not solely based on convictions and the Council can take into account intelligence provided by the police or other agencies. The evidential threshold is based on the balance of probabilities which is lower than for a criminal conviction (beyond reasonable doubt) and can take into consideration conduct that has not resulted in a criminal conviction. This means that if the Council believes (on the information available) that an applicant is more likely than not to fail the fit and proper person test, they should not grant a licence.

1.21 Similarly, the disclosure of convictions, cautions, other formal action or behaviour which has not led to a convictions, may not automatically bar a person from being granted a licence, renewing a licence, or retaining a licence. This will depend on whether the person can satisfy the Council that they are ‘a fit and proper person’ to hold a licence. See Appendix One: Criminal Convictions Policy

1.22 If a person fails to provide satisfactory evidence that they are ‘a fit and proper person’, or if there is good reason to question or doubt the evidence provided, then this can amount to good reason to refuse, revoke or suspend a licence.

EQUALITY ACT 2010

1.23 The Council will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010. In addition, licensees must comply with their duties under the relevant parts of the legislation. In particular, they should not withhold a service purely due to one or more of the protected characteristics in the Act ¹.

DATA PROTECTION

1.24 All information provided by applicants will be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations, and any other relevant legislation. The Council has data-sharing protocols with local authorities, the police, immigration and border service, social services, and other bodies. This allows information to be shared where there is a risk to public safety or criminal activity.

APPEALS

1.25 There are rights of appeal against actions officer actions such as suspending, revoking, refusing to grant or renew a licence or attaching conditions to the licence. Details of any right of appeal will be contained in the written notification of the Council’s decision.

STATUS

1.26 In exercising its regulatory functions, the Council will have regard to this policy document and the objectives set out above. The Council will have regard to all other strategies, policies and guidance in its decision making. Notwithstanding the existence of this policy, each application or enforcement measure will be considered on its own merits. Where it is necessary for the Council to depart from its policy, clear and compelling reasons will be given for doing so.

¹ Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation

IMPLEMENTATION

1.27 This policy is effective from 01 April 2023 unless otherwise stated. The Council expects licence holders to comply with its terms from that date.

1.28 The Council will keep this policy and appendices under review and will consult where appropriate on proposed revisions to the policy with appendices amended when required under delegated powers.

1.29 From the effective date this policy will override and supersede all existing policies in relation to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing.

2.0 Policy in relation to Dual Driver and Private Hire Driver Licenses

GENERAL

2.1 A Dual Driver licence enables a licensee to drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle. A Private Hire Driver Licence only enables a licensee to drive a Private Hire vehicle.

2.2 Driver licenses will be granted for a period of 3 years unless an applicant requests a licence for a one-year period.

2.3 Dual Driver Licence holders will be required to comply with the current Wokingham Borough Council Hackney Carriage Byelaws in addition to the Code of Conduct detailed in this policy. A copy of these byelaws can be seen at Appendix Nine.

2.4 Where a licence is found to have been obtained using false or incomplete information enforcement action may be taken, and the matter may be reported to the police.

2.5 Driving as a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage driver without a valid Private Hire or Dual Driver licence is a criminal offence.

PRE-REQUISITES TO MAKING AN APPLICATION

2.6 It is the policy of the Council that every application for a licence to drive a Hackney Carriage and/or Private Hire vehicle must be accompanied by satisfactory evidence of the following matters and that applications that are incomplete will not be deemed to have been made until such time as they are complete:

- A full UK DVLA, Northern Ireland, European Economic Area (“EEA”) or Exchangeable driving licence (held for a period of at least 1 year prior to the date of application)
- Evidence of the right to live and work in the UK
- An enhanced criminal record check (DBS) with a check of the children and adult barred list
- A certificate of their current medical fitness to DVLA Group 2 standard
- That the applicant meets the required post-qualification driving experience and demonstrates the required level of competency with a driving proficiency certificate
- That the applicant has sufficient ability to speak English and to understand spoken English to provide the service that they wish to be licensed for
- That the applicant has completed safeguarding and disability awareness training
- Proof of address (e.g. bank statement, utility bill less than three months old)
- A photograph

2.7 All applicants, aside from those who are renewing their licence, will have three calendar months from the initial interview to complete the application process. After this time any incomplete application will be closed, and any subsequent application will be

treated as a fresh application.

2.8 This time limit can be extended in exceptional circumstances, with the prior approval of an authorised officer of the Council.

2.9 The applicant will be given three attempts to pass each of the required tests to become a licensed driver. If they have not passed after the third attempt no new application will be accepted for a period of three calendar months from the date of the last test. If a new application is then made after the three months, the applicant will be required to pass all the tests required by the Council at the time of the new application.

2.10 An application for the renewal of a licence must be made at least 30 days prior to the expiry of the licence, to allow sufficient time to enable it to be processed and renewed before the existing licence expires. If this is not the case, it will be treated as a new application, but the licence holder can make representations in writing to the Council giving reasons in support of a request that an application, made after the expiry of the licence, to be treated as a renewal application.

2.11 However, permission will only be granted when exceptional circumstances exist, and the application has been made no more than 5 working days after the expiry date. An authorised officer will determine whether exceptional circumstances exist.

FITNESS AND PROPRIETY

2.12 Before the Council will grant or renew a driver licence, the applicant or licence holder must satisfy the following requirements.

IDENTITY

2.13 To prove their identity, all applicants must provide a photographic driving licence or passport or national identification card).

2.14 Applicants from outside the UK must provide:

- a passport with a valid stamp from the Home Office to say that they have leave to remain in the Country indefinitely or
- a passport with a valid UK visa, which allows the holder to work as a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage driver (student visas will not be accepted), and which has at least six calendar months remaining at the time of application.

2.15 A licence will only be granted until the expiry of the visa and will only be renewed or extended with the production of the passport and another valid visa issued by the Home Office. The Council reserves the right to verify, at any time, a licence holder's entitlement to remain in the UK. We will not accept letters issued by the Home Office when a visa application is pending.

2.16 To comply with the Immigration Act 2016, the Council is required to check eligibility to live and work in the UK for all applicants for driver and operator licenses. This could include the Council checking immigration status with the Home Office. Applicants will be

required to provide evidence of this on request. Examples of acceptable documentation include a British or Irish passport, or visa with the right to stay and work in the UK, permanent residence permit, work permit with a passport with correct authorisations, a UK birth certificate together with an official document giving the NI number such as a P45 or P60, or a biometric immigration document indicating a right to stay indefinitely in the UK or a right to do the work in question. For EU, EEA, and Swiss Passport Holders, you must now submit both a copy of your passport and proof of pre-settled status.

2.17 For applicants with a limited time to remain in the UK, the licence will only be granted for the period of permission to remain and may only be granted for a shorter period. If an applicant has extended leave to remain (pending a decision) the licence cannot be granted for more than six months, and again may only be granted for a shorter period. The licence may be extended should the applicant's right to remain in the UK be made permanent.

2.18 If a licence holder loses the right to remain in the UK during the currency of a licence, the licence ceases to have effect and the licence (and badge for drivers) must be returned within 7 days.

DISCLOSURE & BARRING SERVICE CHECKS (DBS)

2.19 Applicants must provide an Enhanced DBS Certificate (Disclosure & Barring Service) which includes a check of the Adult and Child Barred Lists which is no more than one calendar month old at the date of submission of the certificate.

2.20 Applicants/licensees will also have to sign up to the DBS update service to enable the Council to make periodic checks. Any driver that does not sign up to this service will only be granted a licence for 6 months and a fresh enhanced DBS check will be required on every application for a new licence.

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT

2.21 As DBS checks do not cover convictions in countries outside the United Kingdom, any applicant who has lived abroad for any period of more than 6 months from the age of 18 must also provide a Certificate of Good Conduct from the appropriate Embassy or High Commission and it must be in English. The Council may undertake checks to ensure the authenticity of any such documentation. If this cannot be provided, then the application will be refused.

2.22 Nothing in this policy shall preclude a licence holder from being required to undergo a further DBS check at any time as directed by an officer of the Council.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS

2.23 In relation to the consideration of previous convictions and cautions recorded against applicants and licence holders, the Council has adopted the policy set out in Appendix One. Applicants who would like to discuss what effect a conviction or caution

might have on their application, can contact the Taxi Licensing Service at licensing@wokingham.gov.uk

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

2.24 Each applicant, on first application and at the intervals indicated below, must complete a medical examination by the applicant's own GP (or a GP within their own practice) at the applicant's expense. The GP must certify that the applicant meets group 2 medical standards. Once a licence has been granted, medical examinations will be required at the following intervals in the table below.

AGE	FREQUENCY
First Licensing	And thereafter from age 45
45 years to 65 years	Every 5 years
65 years +	Annually

2.25 A medical examination may be required at any other time, as determined by the GP, or as requested by an officer of the Council. In addition, if an applicant or current driver has been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes requiring insulin a medical compliance form will need to be completed and issued to your doctor on a yearly basis.

2.26 If the licence holder cannot obtain a medical report from their own GP surgery and can provide written evidence that this is the case, they may submit a privately obtained medical report provided that they obtain a copy of the patient's medical summary to take to their appointment. A private medical report which was not completed with a summary of the patient's medical summary to hand will not be acceptable.

DRIVING LICENCE

2.27 Applicants must have held a full UK, Northern Ireland, European Economic Area (EEA) or exchangeable driving licence (a person can only use an exchangeable licence for 12 months, after which it must be exchanged for a UK licence) for at least 12 months prior to application (this excludes the holding of a provisional licence). A photocard driving licence meeting these requirements must be submitted with the application form (including renewal applications) and will be checked against the DVLA information issued. Any prospective applicant who does not hold a photocard driving licence must obtain one before the application is made. The address on the DVLA licence must be the same as the addresses on any other paperwork submitted with the application. We may carry out spot checks on a random basis to ascertain any changes to the status of the DVLA licence.

PRACTICAL ASSESSMENTS FOR LICENSED DRIVERS AND APPLICANTS

2.28 All applicants are required to have passed a practical driving and wheelchair assessment before applying for a Dual Driver Licence. Acceptable courses are currently provided by Blue Lamp Trust. The Council will accept written evidence of passing the providers assessment that is not more than 3 months old at the date of application.

2.29 If an existing driver is subject to enforcement action in relation to their driving, more than once within a period of 12 calendar months, including road traffic convictions, they will be required to undertake the practical driving assessment within three calendar months. The licence may be suspended until such time as this test has been passed.

2.30 Details of our current providers will be issued on application or will be issued to a driver requiring undertaking the practical driving assessment as part of enforcement action.

SPOKEN AND WRITTEN ENGLISH

2.31 It is essential for public safety that all licensed drivers are able to communicate by speaking and reading in English at an appropriate level. This is equivalent to level B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference for reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

PROOF OF ABILITY IN ENGLISH (SPEAKING AND LISTENING)

2.32 The Council does not accept Entry Level 1 or Entry Level 2. Only Entry Level 3 and above. The government has provided a list on [what qualification levels mean](#). This is the equivalent of B1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

2.33 Ecctis (www.ecctis.com) is a UK national agency for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills. We will accept an English Language Assessment completed by Ecctis showing the applicant has a qualification equivalent to Entry Level 3 English.

2.34 The Council reserve the right to refuse to accept a certificate of qualification as proof of an applicant meeting a requirement if the Licensing Authority is not satisfied as to the authenticity of the certificate, or the quality/reliability of any part of the process that lead to the certificate being issued or the Licensing Officer has concerns of an applicant's ability.

2.35 If a Licensing Officer has concerns over the applicant's ability, the Council may direct an applicant to complete a LanguageCert assessment to assess an applicant's speaking and listening skills.

2.36 Alternatively, a speaking and listening assessment which consists of a 11-13 minute conversation can take place at the Council's offices.

2.37 The assessment will be undertaken by a secure video or telephone link to our service provider, LanguageCert, and it will cost £36 when taken for the first time and £16 for a re-sit (2022 prices).

2.38 Please see [LanguageCert's](#) website for more information about the test and what to expect on the day. All applicants are advised to review this information prior to sitting the test.

READING AND WRITING ASSESSMENT

2.39 The Council do not have a specific reading and writing assessment. This element forms part of the application, and knowledge test.

2.40 If a Licensing Officer has concerns over the applicant's ability, the Council may direct an applicant to complete an SERU assessment to assess an applicant's reading and writing skills.

KNOWLEDGE OF AREA

2.41 All applicants are expected to have a good knowledge of Wokingham Borough and the surrounding area. New applicants will be required to pass a test on this knowledge prior to a licence being issued.

2.42 This requirement does not apply in relation to applicants for Private Hire drivers' licenses to undertake only school or community contracts.

HIGHWAY CODE AND RELEVANT LEGISLATION

2.43 All Applicants are expected to have a good knowledge of the Highway Code and the relevant provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847. This is tested as part of the local area knowledge test, or separately for School Contract Drivers, along with questions on relevant legislation such as licensing law. This is a requirement for all new drivers.

TRAINING IN THE ASSISTANCE OF DISABLED PERSONS

2.44 All applicants must be able to show that they have undergone training in the assistance of disabled persons, to a standard acceptable to the Council. Refresher training will be required every three years.

SAFEGUARDING, CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION (CSAE) AND COUNTY LINES TRAINING

2.45 All new applicants for a driver licence must complete safeguarding, child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE) and county lines training prior to the issue of a licence. Existing drivers must complete the training prior to the next renewal of their licence. Refresher training will be required every 3 years.

TEST OF FITNESS AND PROPRIETY

2.46 Once a valid application has been made, the Council will decide as to whether or not the applicant/licensee is fit and proper person to hold a Dual Driver or Private Hire driver

licence. The same test will be used in respect of any existing driver whose criminal convictions or behaviour fall below the Council's standards. The test used will be:

Without any prejudice, and based on the information before you, would you allow a person for whom you care, regardless of their condition, to travel alone in a vehicle driven by this person at any time of day or night?

2.47 This will be determined on the balance of probabilities, and if the Council is of the view that the applicant or licensee does not satisfy this test, a licence will not be granted, or action will be taken against the licence.

CODE OF CONDUCT

2.48 The Council has a Code of Conduct for taxi drivers. All drivers must always adhere to this. Failure to do so may lead to action being taken against the driver's licence.

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF TAXI LICENCE REVOCATIONS AND REFUSALS

2.49 The Council provides information to the National Register of Taxi Licence Refusals and Revocations (NR3), a mechanism for licensing authorities to share details of individuals who have had a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver licence revoked, or an application for one refused. This is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Council – that is, assessing whether an individual is a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver licence.

2.50 Where a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver licence is revoked, or an application for one refused, the Council will automatically record this decision on NR3.

2.51 All applications for a new licence or licence renewal will automatically be checked on NR3. If a search of NR3 indicates a match with an applicant, the Council will seek further information about the entry on the register from the Council which recorded it. Any information received because of an NR3 search will only be used in respect of the specific licence application and will not be retained beyond the determination of that application.

2.52 The information recorded on NR3 itself will be limited to:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Address and contact details
- National Insurance number
- Driving licence number
- Decision taken
- Date of decision
- Date decision effective

2.53 Information will be retained on NR3 for a period of 25 years.

2.54 This is a mandatory part of applying for a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver licence. Further details can be found on the Council's website

2.55 Information will be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act (DPA) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Any searches, provision, or receipt of information of or under NR3 are necessary for the Council's statutory licensing functions of ensuring that all drivers are fit and proper to hold the applicable licence. It is not intended that any NR3 data will be transferred out of the United Kingdom.

LICENSES AND BADGES

2.56 Drivers are issued with two badges and an armband. One of the badges must be displayed in the armband which must be worn on the left-hand arm of the driver, so it is visible to passengers in the vehicle. The other badge must be displayed within the vehicle, so it is visible to passengers. Both the badges and the armband remain the property of the Council and must be returned immediately on expiry, suspension, or revocation of the licence.

EQUALITY ACT 2010

2.57 Drivers must comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. These are carrying assistance dogs with their passenger and (in the case of a listed wheelchair accessible vehicle) providing mobility assistance to wheelchair bound passengers. This does not apply to drivers who have been granted an exemption from those requirements by the Council.

2.58 In addition, all drivers at all times must ensure that they do not discriminate against any person for any reason related to a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 ².

ACTION AGAINST A LICENCE

2.59 Section 61 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 allow the Council to suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a licence if the licensee has been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, indecency, violence; failure to comply with the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847; failure to comply with the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; has been convicted of an immigration offence or had to pay an immigration penalty, or any other reasonable cause.

² Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation

APPEALS

2.60 There is a right of appeal against a decision by an officer to refuse to grant, impose a licence condition, suspend, or revoke a licence. In the first instance, appeal can be made to the Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee. Notification of appeal is required to be made to Democratic Services at democraticservices@wokingham.gov.uk. This must be within 21 days of the decision.

2.61 Appeal against a decision of a Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee may be made to a Magistrates' Court, and further right of appeal to the Crown Court in relation to any refusal to grant or renew a driver's licence, or suspension or revocation of a driver's licence. An appeal against any such decision can also be made directly to the Magistrates' Court, and the same time limits apply. Full details will be contained in any decision notice.

ALLEGATION OF SERIOUS MISCONDUCT

2.62 Allegations of serious misconduct can be referred to officers for an emergency decision under delegated authority. Officers can take a decision to revoke a licence in the interests of public safety with immediate effect. This can then be appealed to the Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee or directly to the Magistrates' Court (as per 2.56 & 2.57 above) but the driver will not be able to continue working during the appeal period.

2.63 A suspension or revocation can take immediate effect if that is necessary in the interest of public safety under section 61(2B). This will be clearly detailed in the decision notice.

SURRENDERING A LICENCE WHILST UNDER INVESTIGATION

2.64 If any licence holder seeks to surrender their licence whilst they are under investigation for a criminal offence or other conduct that could result in the suspension or revocation of their licence, we will usually refuse to accept the surrender; continue with the investigation and determine the outcome.

3.0 Policy in relation to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licences

SINGLE LICENSES

3.1 Applications will not be accepted if the vehicle is already licensed by any other licensing authority (Council or transport for London).

CHARACTER OF THE APPLICANT/PROPRIETOR

3.2 In addition to the vehicle itself, the Council will take the character of the applicant or existing proprietor into account when determining an application for the grant or renewal of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle licence. Applicants for the grant or renewal of a vehicle licence must produce a basic DBS certificate which is not more than 1 month old and provide details of all convictions (spent and live), cautions, fixed penalty notices, parking fines, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Community Protection Notices, injunctions, restraining orders and any other matter affecting their character on the application form and statutory declaration. This requirement does not apply if the applicant already holds a driver's licence issued by the Council.

3.3 The Council will then use the following test to determine whether the applicant/licensee is a suitable person to hold a vehicle licence:

Without any prejudice, and based on the information before you, would you be comfortable allowing this person to have control of a licensed vehicle that can travel anywhere, at any time of the day or night without arousing suspicion, and be satisfied that they would not allow it to be used for criminal or other unacceptable purposes, and be confident that they would maintain it to an acceptable standard throughout the period of the licence?

3.4 This will be determined on the balance of probabilities, and if the Council is of the view that the applicant or licensee does not satisfy this test, a licence will not be granted, or action will be taken against the licence.

GENERAL

3.5 The Council will not accept applications in relation to vehicles, which are licensed as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle with another local authority or Transport for London.

3.6 A valid application for the renewal of a licence, including all the required original documentation, must be made at least 30 days prior to the expiry of the current licence or it will be treated as a new application. A valid application is one which is complete in all respects and can be processed immediately. Photocopies of documents will not be accepted. If the application is not made in time to enable the vehicle test to be undertaken and all relevant processes to be completed before the expiry of the current vehicle licence, there will be a period during which the vehicle will be unlicensed and cannot be used as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle. If the application is not

made before the expiry of the current licence, but is made within 5 working days after expiry, the licence will only be renewed in exceptional circumstances. Using a vehicle, as a Private Hire vehicle or Hackney Carriage, when it does not have a valid Private Hire vehicle or Hackney Carriage proprietors' licence is a criminal offence.

3.7 Where a licence is found to have been obtained using false or incomplete information enforcement action may be taken.

3.8 It should be noted that once a licence has been granted, that licence relates to that vehicle. The licence and the vehicle must be owned by the same person and cannot be separated. In this context, "ownership" includes leasing a vehicle from a leasing company, but not from an individual or any former or current licensee. Evidence of such ownership will be required to accompany the application and on every renewal.

3.9 If a licensee wishes to change their vehicle during the currency of the licence, the existing licence must be surrendered, and a new application made for the replacement vehicle.

3.10 A licensee can transfer the licence to another person during the currency of the licence, and the Council will acknowledge that transfer and register the new licensee. The character of the new licensee will be considered when application is made to renew the licence and may be considered before that time. If the Council is not satisfied that the new licensee is a fit and proper person the licence will not be renewed or, in the case of an earlier review, action will be taken against that licence.

3.11 In order for an application to be considered the applicant must submit the following to the licensing authority:

- The completed vehicle licence application form
- Application Fee
- As the vehicle cannot be separated from the licence, the vehicle must be owned or leased by the licensee. Proof of ownership of the vehicle must include:
- The original of the Vehicle Registration Document (Log Book/V5) certificate of registration for the vehicle (the new keeper's supplement section of the V5 document will be accepted in the case of vehicles that are not licensed at the time that the application is made, and the vehicle has recently been purchased by the applicant (documentary evidence will be required). Licenses will not be renewed unless the full V5 document is made available to the Council at the time of application).
- Receipt for the purchase of the vehicle, or documentary evidence of any leasing arrangement with a vehicle leasing company must also be provided where the applicant does not own the vehicle. Any lease must be from a commercial leasing company, and leasing arrangements from individuals will not be accepted.

- The original insurance or insurance cover note for the vehicle. The document must state that the vehicle is insured for use as a Hackney Carriage or as a Private Hire vehicle (as appropriate).
- Confirmation from the Council appointed garages that the vehicle has passed the Council test and vehicle examination requirements
- Current MOT Certificate

VEHICLE TYPE AND DESIGN

3.12 All vehicles which are the subject of a licence application must have an appropriate ‘type approval’ which is one of the following:

- European Whole Vehicle Type Approval
- British National Type Approval
- Provisional GB Type Approval
- GB Type Approval or
- Individual Vehicle Approval

3.13 All vehicles which are the subject of a licence application must be manufactured or adapted to carry up to 8 passengers not including the driver; this number includes any passengers who may be seated in wheelchairs if the vehicle can transport such passengers. Where a vehicle has been altered, adapted, or modified ONLY Type Approval Certificates granted after alteration, adaptation or modification will be accepted.

3.14 With the exception of vehicles modified to carry wheelchairs, vehicles which have been modified in any way from the manufacturer’s standard construction will not be considered suitable for licensing purposes. Exceptions may be made depending upon the nature of the modification.

3.15 Any vehicle which resembles a Hackney Carriage licensed by the Council will not be considered for licensing as a Private Hire vehicle.

VEHICLE STANDARDS

3.16 No vehicle will be licensed unless it

- has undertaken and passed the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Test, at a Wokingham Borough Council nominated garage.
- has provision for every passenger to wear a seat belt. A sign must be displayed inside the vehicle requiring seat belts to be worn.

3.17 The Council licence 3 different types of vehicles:

- Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV)
- those which are not; and
- stretched limousines

3.18 In respect of all vehicles, there must be a minimum seating capacity for one adult passenger, and vehicles that seek more passengers must provide a width of at least 410 mm per person across any seat which accommodates more than one person.

3.19 There must be adequate legroom in front of any passenger seat and adequate headroom above any passenger seat. Adequate means that a 6-foot-tall person can sit comfortably.

3.20 The Council does not maintain a list of acceptable vehicles; the vehicle must comply all of section 3.0.

3.21 All licensed vehicles, except for Private Hire vehicles which are granted an exemption from displaying signage, must meet the following requirements:

- Light transmitted through the windscreen must be at least 75%
- All other windows (both front and rear) must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted.

3.22 Where vehicles which are currently licensed have factory tinted/privacy glass fitted and can provide documentary evidence that this was fitted at the time of manufacturing has not been replaced since, they will remain licensed until the vehicle reaches the maximum licensable age in accordance with the existing age of vehicle policy.

3.23 No aftermarket tinted film can be attached to the windows of any licensed vehicle.

3.24 Any vehicles that have been involved in an accident, which have required repair, may have to pass a further inspection at one of our nominated testing stations.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STRETCH LIMOUSINES

3.25 The term “stretch limousine” in this policy will be taken to mean any vehicle that has been modified after manufacture with an additional body section.

3.26 Where any screen is fitted between the driver and the rear passenger compartment, passengers must be able to always communicate with the driver by means of an intercom system or suitable holes in the screen.

3.27 The seating in the vehicle must all face either forwards or backwards and a vehicle not be licensed if any sideways facing seats remain.

INSURANCE

3.28 Before a vehicle licence will be issued, evidence of adequate insurance for either Hackney Carriage or Private Hire use (as appropriate) must be produced; this must be in the form of original documents, photocopies will not be accepted.

AGE

3.29 Vehicles up to five years old from the first date of registration or which have travelled less than 25,000 miles since that date will be subject to an inspection before

grant or renewal, and at 6 months after the date of grant or renewal at one of the Council's nominated testing stations.

3.30 Where vehicles are five years or older, from the date of first registration, or which have travelled more than 25,000 miles since that date, they will be subject to an inspection before grant or renewal and then at 4 monthly intervals for the duration of the licence. If an inspection is not carried out in the month that it is due, the licence will be suspended until such a test has been passed.

3.31 All vehicles must meet by the Euro 5 or Euro 6 emissions standards if they are being submitted for grant or renewal of a licence.

3.32 This requirement can be waived in respect of specialist vehicles which have been modified or adapted to undertake local education authority contracts.

3.33 All applications for grant or renewal of vehicle licenses must be accompanied by documentary evidence that the vehicle has been regularly serviced and maintained in line with the manufacturer's servicing schedule.

3.34 In addition, all vehicles must meet the following minimum standards

EXTERIOR OF VEHICLE

3.35 The exterior paintwork on the vehicle must not:

- show signs of rusting
- be faded or show signs of mismatched paint repairs
- have 5 or more stone chips greater than 2mm in length in any direction
- have 8 or more stone chips of any size
- have any scratches, cracks, or abrasions where the top layer of paint has been removed.

3.36 The exterior bodywork of the vehicle must not:

- have 2 or more dents greater than 10mm in length in any direction
- have 4 or more dents less than 10mm in length in any direction
- have fittings that are missing, broken or damaged.

3.37 The vehicle must not have wheels and wheel trims that have significant damage which detracts from the overall excellent condition of the vehicle.

3.38 The vehicle must be submitted for inspection in a clean state such that an effective inspection is possible. Should the vehicle be submitted in a unclean state then the application shall be refused.

3.39 The engine compartment must not be in a dirty condition or have evidence of leaks including water, oil, or hydraulic fluids.

INTERIOR OF VEHICLE

3.40 The seating and carpet areas of the vehicle must not show signs of:

- staining
- damp
- fraying or ripping of the material
- seat covers that are loose or badly fitted

3.41 The seats must provide sufficient support for comfortable travel and should not demonstrate excessive compression of the seating area or wear within the support mechanism.

3.42 Interior panels and fittings within the vehicle must not be damaged nor show excessive wear, or staining.

3.43 The interior of the vehicle must not have damp or other obnoxious smells.

3.44 The emissions limits detailed in this policy do not apply to stretch limousines, vintage cars, or novelty vehicles (for example a fire engine) which have been adapted to become Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

ADVERTISING

3.45 Advertising on the outside of any licensed vehicle is restricted to the name and telephone number of the owner or operator of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle, such advertisements must not exceed 50 cm x 25 cm and can only be affixed to the front and rear passenger doors, the boot, and the bonnet.

3.46 Applications for departures from this limitation can be made in writing to the Council. For example, wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles may carry all over “wrap” type advertising subject to the prior written approval of the Council and in line with specified advertising criteria.

3.47 Any advertisements on any vehicles must be legal and comply with the advertising standards agency code of practice.

TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT VEHICLES

3.48 If a licensed Hackney Carriage or private vehicle has been involved in an accident or is otherwise incapacitated, an application can be made for a replacement vehicle to be licensed on a temporary basis. The existing vehicle licence will be suspended, and the replacement vehicle will be granted the same licence number.

3.49 The temporary period will be determined by the Council when the application is made and will be based upon the estimated time for the repair of the original vehicle. No temporary licence will be granted for a period exceeding 3 months. Any replacement vehicle must meet the Council’s specification for Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle,

and where the original vehicle was wheelchair accessible, the replacement must meet the same specification.

DISABLED ACCESS VEHICLE STANDARDS

3.50 All Hackney Carriage Vehicles must be wheelchair accessible in accordance with the following specification. Wheelchair accessible Private Hire Vehicles must also comply with the following specification in addition to those detailed above.

3.51 Approved anchorages must be provided for wheelchair tie downs and the wheelchair passenger restraint. These anchorages must be either chassis or floor linked and capable of withstanding approved dynamic or static tests. Restraints for wheelchair and occupant must be independent of each other. Anchorages must also be provided for the safe stowage of a wheelchair when not in use, whether folded or otherwise, if carried within the passenger compartment. All anchorages and restraints must be so designed that they do not cause any danger to other passengers.

3.52 The door and doorway must be so constructed as to permit an unrestricted opening across the doorway of at least 75cm. The minimum angle of a hinged door when opened must be 90 degrees.

3.53 The clear height of the doorway must be not less than 1.2 metres.

3.54 Grab handles must be placed at door entrances to assist the elderly and disabled. All grab handles must be in a contrasting colour.

3.55 The top of the tread for any entrance should normally be at floor level of the passenger compartment and comply with the following requirements:

- be not more than 380 mm from the ground, (measured at the centre of the tread width);
- the surface shall be covered in a slip-resistant material;
- have a band of colour across the entire width of the edge which shall contrast with the remainder of the tread and floor covering.

3.56 Should any entrance be more than 380 mm from the ground, an external interim step must be made available when the associated passenger door is opened and comply with the following requirements-

- not be more than 380 mm in height from the ground, (measured at the centre of the step width);
- not be less than 250 mm deep;
- the surface shall be covered in a slip-resistant material;
- have a band of colour across its leading edge which shall contrast with the remainder of the step and floor covering;
- not be capable of operation whilst the vehicle is in motion;

- if automatic or powered, be fitted with a safety device which stops the motion of the step if the step is subject to a reactive force not exceeding 150N in any direction and if that motion could cause injury to the passenger;
- can fold or retract so that it does not project beyond the side face of the vehicle and the vehicle is not capable of being driven away unless the step is so folded or retracted.

3.57 The vertical distance between the highest part of the floor and the roof in the passenger compartment must not be less than 1.3 metres.

3.58 Where seats are placed facing each other, there must be a minimum space of 42.5cm between any part of the front of a seat and any part of any other seat which faces it, provided adequate foot room is maintained at floor level.

3.59 Where all seats are placed facing to the front of the vehicle, there must be clear space of at least 66cm in front of every part of each seat squab, measured along a horizontal plane at the centre of the cushion.

3.60 A ramp for the loading of a wheelchair and occupant must be always available for use, as a minimum, at the nearside passenger door on all new vehicles presented for licensing. The ramp must have a safety lip, be 70cm wide, as a minimum, and comprise a single non-slip surface. It is desirable for this facility to be available at the offside passenger door also. An adequate locking device must be fitted to ensure that the ramp does not slip or tilt when in use. Provision must be made for the ramp to be stowed safely when not in use.

VEHICLE TYPE APPROVAL

3.61 All vehicles that are designed to accommodate wheelchair users must have all modifications and adaptations, including all seats, seat belts and anchorages, retested to meet either the European Whole Vehicle Type Approval or the UK Low Volume Type Approval in the M1 category (evidence of this must be produced). Those vehicles which have not been “type approved” to the M1 category (e.g., conversions) must be presented with approved certification that the specific vehicle meets the requirements of that category. Vehicles may be inspected for suitability by an officer. It is recommended that prior to purchasing any new vehicle, advice be sought from the Licensing Officer.

ACCESS FOR WHEELCHAIR USERS TO TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

3.62 See Guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/access-to-taxis-and-private-hire-vehicles-for-disabled-users>

ROOF SIGNS

3.63 No roof sign can be fitted to, attached, displayed, or used on any Private Hire vehicle.

3.64 A single roof sign must be fitted to each Hackney Carriage and meet the following conditions and specification. The roof sign must be connected to the taximeter to allow it

to be automatically controlled. The roof sign must be lit when the taximeter is not active and not lit when the taximeter is in use.

3.65 Roof signs must be always kept clean and in good repair and be securely mounted on the vehicle roof, with the main face showing the Council logo facing forward. The sign is to be positioned forward of the pillar between the front and rear doors (the B post), wherever possible. Vehicles with glass or fibreglass roofs or similar must attach the sign at the foremost point on the roof, where suitable magnetic adhesion is possible.

3.66 The proprietor must provide a roof sign to the following specification (unless the vehicle is a London Cab or other similar vehicle which was manufactured as a taxi and produced with a built-in sign):

3.67 The roof sign must have dimensions of: 60.5 centimetres long, 17.5 centimetres wide at the middle point, 11 centimetres high at the rear middle point and 3 centimetres high at the front middle point. These dimensions do not include any raised lip or edging. Reference should also be made to any illustrative artwork, or model signs, which can be provided by the Council if required.

3.68 The roof sign must be white in background colour. When lit, the sign must show red to the rear but not red to the front and sides.

3.69 The front face of the roof sign must show the words "TAXI LICENSED BY" followed by the Wokingham Borough Council Corporate Logo. The licence number must be shown, within a circle, on both sides of this wording. TAXI must be in capitals, in Arial font and approximately 65mm in height. The circles must be approximately 135mm in diameter and have the number cut out, 45mm high in Arial font. The rear side of the sign must show a wheelchair logo in white on a blue background. The wheelchair logo must be in reflex blue. The logo must be 100mmsquare. The words and the circles must be in the green colour code is 125/173/131.

3.70 Vehicles with raised roofs which are licensed as wheelchair accessible taxis must have a roof sign of the same dimensions and design.

3.71 The rear face of the roof sign on all vehicles must show the licence number (once only) to the same specifications as on the front. The number may be positioned anywhere on the rear face at the discretion of the licensee. The licensee may use the remaining space for a name and/or a telephone number which can include the word "TAXI". This text does not have to be green, (although the number does). All inappropriate or unauthorised signage will be required to be removed.

3.72 It may be necessary for some wheelchair accessible taxis to display the sign on the front bulkhead of the vehicle due to height restrictions. Other than this variation, there can be no other variations from the specification.

3.73 In the event of the Council's Licensing Officers not being satisfied that a roof sign meets the specification, the conditions of the vehicle licence will have been breached and

the proprietor requested to remedy the defect. The licence holder of the vehicle may then be subject to a penalty within any point's scheme should one be in existence at the time and if not suitably rectified may have the sanction of law imposed.

3.74 Vehicles which are purchased as custom constructed taxis that have a sign provided by the manufacturer, which is not a sign fitted into the fabric of the vehicle, must comply with the above specification.

ROOF RACKS

3.75 If required to carry additional luggage, a roof rack or roof box can be used. It must be securely fitted to the roof in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All luggage must be properly secured and in the case of a roof rack a waterproof cover must be fitted. Any roof box must be correctly closed before moving off.

3.76 In the case of a Hackney Carriage, a second roof sign must be fitted to enable the roof signs to be seen. The additional signs must be correctly fitted to the front and rear of the roof rack (or roof box).

3.77 Trailers cannot be used with any licensed vehicle.

DISPENSATION/EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES

3.78 There are several different circumstances in which the Council will consider granting an exemption from the requirement for a Private Hire vehicle to display the plates and additional signage (which will also remove the need for the driver to be wearing their badge). If an exemption certificate is granted, the vehicle cannot be used for regular Private Hire work: it can only be used under these specified contracts.

Novelty Vehicles

3.79 The Council will consider applications for Private Hire vehicle licenses for "novelty vehicles". These are vehicles other than regular saloon, estate, people carrier or SUV (sport utility vehicles) and may include vintage or classic cars, fire engines, military vehicles, but this is not an exhaustive list.

3.80 Any such vehicle must have passenger seats and seat belts for each seat unless these were not fitted at the time of manufacture.

3.81 All other requirements will apply, and the vehicles will be subject to 6 monthly tests.

Local Authority Contract

3.82 Vehicles that are used exclusively to transport passengers under a contract entered into with a local education authority may be granted an exemption. This is in recognition of the fact that so far as is possible, children who are transported by such vehicles should not be identified or stigmatised. An operator will need to demonstrate the existence of one or more contracts with education authorities or other educational establishments, and where the operator does not own the vehicle, will also have to demonstrate a contract

with the vehicle owner. All such contracts must specify which vehicles will be used to discharge those contracts.

Executive hire

3.83 This term is used in relation to vehicles that are used exclusively for contracts made between an operator and other businesses (excluding subcontracting Private Hire bookings). This type of activity includes chauffeur services. An operator will need to demonstrate the existence of one or more contracts with identified businesses. To qualify for the exemption, any such contract must be for a minimum period of 3 months.

3.84 The operator can hold more than one contract, but where that is the case, the operator must explain how those contracts will be serviced with the specified vehicle., and where the operator does not own the vehicle, will also have to demonstrate a contract with the vehicle owner. All such contracts must specify which vehicles will be used to discharge those contracts.

3.85 It is not possible to specify the makes and models of vehicle that will be considered for an executive hire exemption, but in general they must be luxury vehicles that provide significant amounts of space and comfort for passengers. Examples would include vehicles made by Rolls-Royce, Bentley, and vehicles of a similar nature to Mercedes S class, BMW 7 series, Jaguar XF, Range Rover.

3.86 An application for an exemption in any category must be made in writing on the form provided by the Council. There is no right of appeal against a refusal to grant an exemption certificate.

3.87 If an exemption certificate is granted, a notice will be issued by the Council which must be always carried in the glove compartment of the vehicle. In addition, the vehicle plate must be fixed inside the boot lid/tailgate in such a way that it can be examined by an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer.

3.88 The identification cards provided by the Council, must be displayed in the front and rear windscreen of the vehicle.

3.89 Any exemption certificate that is issued will only last for the duration of the vehicle licence and a further exemption certificate will be required when the licence is renewed. The Council must be issued with records relating to the contracted work undertaken by that vehicle when a renewal application is submitted.

4.0 Policy in relation to a Private Hire Operator Licence

GENERAL

4.1 A valid application for the renewal of a licence, including all the required original documentation, must be made at least 30 days prior to the expiry of the current licence or it will be treated as a new application. A valid application is one which is complete in all respects and can be processed immediately. Photocopies of documents will not be accepted.

4.2 If the application is not made in time to enable all the relevant processes to be completed before the expiry of the current operator's licence, there will be a period during which the operator will be unlicensed and cannot make a provision for the invitation of bookings for Private Hire vehicle. If the application is not made before the expiry of the current licence but is made no more than 5 working days after the expiry, the licence will only be renewed in exceptional circumstances. Operating Private Hire Drivers and Vehicles without a valid licence is a criminal offence.

4.3 Where a licence is found to have been obtained using false or incomplete information enforcement action may be taken.

OPERATOR'S BASE

4.4 An operator's licence relates to one or more addresses (bases) within Wokingham Borough. Every address that is being used must be detailed on the licence, and if a licence does not relate to the address or addresses being used, that licence is void. Continued use of that licence will be a criminal offence.

4.5 An operator who has more than one operating office or base within Wokingham Borough does not require a separate licence for each premises but must submit a list to the Council containing all the addresses from which they run their business. An updated list must be sent to the Council whenever any of those addresses change.

4.6 Planning permission or a Certificate of Lawful Use for the use or change of use of premises, whether home or commercial is not required before an application can be made for an operator's licence. However, it may be unlawful to use those premises as an operator's base and advice, should be sought from the Council's Development Control Services if required.

4.7 Anyone who is making a provision for the invitation of bookings (evidenced by a Private Hire office or base) in more than one local authority area will be required to hold an operator's licence with the local authority in each of those areas.

FITNESS AND PROPRIETY

4.8 Before the Council will grant or renew an operator licence, the applicant or licence holder must satisfy the following requirements.

IDENTITY

4.9 To prove their identity, all applicants must provide an authenticated form of photographic identification (for example photographic driving licence or national identification card).

4.10 Applicants from outside the UK must provide:

- a passport with a valid stamp from the Home Office to say that they have leave to remain in the Country indefinitely or
- a passport with a valid UK visa, which allows the holder to work as a Private Hire Operator (student visas will not be accepted) and which has at least six calendar months remaining at the time of application.

4.11 A licence will only be granted until the expiry of the visa and will only be renewed or extended with the production of the passport and another valid visa issued by the Home Office. The Council reserves the right to verify, at any time, a Licence Holder's entitlement to remain in the UK. We will not accept letters issued by the Home Office when a visa application is pending.

4.12 To comply with the Immigration Act 2016, the Council is required to check eligibility to live and work in the UK for all applicants for driver and operator licenses. Applicants will be required to provide evidence of this on request. Examples of acceptable documentation include a British passport, EU, EEA, or Swiss passport with the right to stay and work in the UK, permanent residence permit, work permit with a passport with correct authorisations, a UK birth certificate together with an official document giving the NI number such as a P45 or P60, or a biometric immigration document indicating a right to stay indefinitely in the UK or a right to do the work in question.

4.13 For applicants with a limited time to remain in the UK, the licence will only be granted for the period of permission to remain and may only be granted for a shorter period. The licence may be extended should the applicant's right to remain in the UK be made permanent.

4.14 If an applicant has extended leave to remain (pending a decision) the licence cannot be granted for more than six months, and again may only be granted for a shorter period. The licence may be extended should the applicant's right to remain in the UK be made permanent.

4.15 If a licence holder loses the right to remain in the UK during the currency of a licence, the licence ceases to have effect and the licence (and badge for drivers) must be returned within 7 days.

DISCLOSURE & BARRING SERVICE CHECKS

4.16 An applicant must provide a basic DBS check which is no more than 1 calendar month old at the time of application. In addition, the Council will require an applicant to complete an application form/statutory declaration listing all criminal convictions

(including spent convictions, and other noncriminal matters) to enable the Council to consider the applicant's fitness and propriety.

4.17 Licensees must provide a basic DBS which is not more than 30 days old on or before each anniversary of the grant of the licence. Failure to do so will lead to the licence being suspended.

4.18 Where an application is made by a partnership, limited liability partnership or limited company, the same requirements apply to all partners, directors, and secretary (if any).

4.19 This requirement will not apply to any applicant who already holds a driver's licence with this Council.

4.20 Where a licence is held by a partnership, limited liability partnership or limited company, the Council must be notified within one week of any change of partners, directors, or secretary. In those circumstances a basic DBS not more than one calendar month old must be provided with that notification.

4.21 Operators must maintain and apply a previous convictions policy in the same terms as the one contained within this policy for all staff that they use. This includes employees, workers, and independent contractors. The operator must not engage the services of any person whose previous convictions or other matters lie outside that policy without the written authorisation of the Council.

CERTIFICATE OF GOOD CONDUCT

4.22 As DBS checks do not cover convictions in countries outside the United Kingdom, any applicant who has lived abroad for any period of more than 6 months from the age of 18 must also provide a Certificate of Good Conduct from the appropriate Embassy or High Commission and it must be in English. The Council may undertake checks to ensure the authenticity of any such documentation. If this cannot be provided, then the application will be refused.

4.23 Nothing in this policy shall preclude a licence holder from being required to undergo a further DBS check at any time as directed by an authorised officer of the Council.

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS

4.24 In relation to the consideration of previous convictions and cautions recorded against applicants and licence holders, the Council has adopted the policy set out in Appendix One. Applicants who would like to discuss what effect a conviction or caution might have on their application, can contact the Licensing Officer at licensing@wokingham.gov.uk.

TEST OF FITNESS AND PROPRIETY

4.25 Once a valid application has been made, the Council will decide as to whether or not the applicant/licensee is fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire operator's licence. The same test will be used in respect of any existing driver whose criminal convictions or behaviour fall below the Council's standards. The test used will be:

Without any prejudice, and based on the information before you, would you be comfortable providing sensitive information such as holiday plans, movements of your family or other information to this person, and feel safe in the knowledge that such information will not be used or passed on for criminal or unacceptable purposes?"

4.26 This will be determined on the balance of probabilities, and if the Council is of the view that the applicant or licensee does not satisfy this test, a licence will not be granted, or action will be taken against the licence.

DRIVERS AND VEHICLES

4.27 The operator must ensure that any Private Hire driver or Private Hire vehicle operated, employed, or used by them holds a current Private Hire driver or vehicle licence issued by the Council. The operator must hold the licence for the duration of the time that the driver or vehicle is being operated by that operator.

5.0 Enforcement and Appeals

GENERAL

5.1 This policy will be considered in conjunction with the Council's Enforcement Policy.

5.2 The Council will ensure that all licence holders comply with the law and conditions attached to their licenses.

ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS

5.3 The Council aims to maintain a consistent approach when making all decisions in relation to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing. To maintain a consistent approach, this policy is always considered, in addition to the Council's Enforcement Policy, and followed where appropriate. In reaching any decision the Council will also have regard to the following:

- the seriousness of any offences
- the licence holder's history
- the consequences of non-compliance
- likely effectiveness of the various enforcement options
- danger to the public

5.4 Once the Council has considered all the evidence and relevant information, the following options will be considered:

- Take no action
- Impose penalty points on the licence (see Appendix Two)
- Suspend the licence
- Revoke the licence
- Prosecute

APPEALS

5.5 If a licence application or renewal is refused or enforcement action is taken, the applicant or licence holder will be informed in writing. That notification will detail the rights of appeal and the appropriate court or Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee in which an appeal should be brought.

Appendix One: Criminal Convictions Policy

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the criteria considered by the Council when determining whether an applicant or an existing licence holder is a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage and/or Private Hire vehicle driver's licence or a Private Hire vehicle operator's licence.

1.2 Ideally, all Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle owners and Private Hire operators would be persons of the highest integrity. In many cases that is true, and the vast majority of those involved in these trades are decent, upstanding, honest and hard-working individuals. Unfortunately, as in any occupation or trade, there are those who fail to conform to those standards.

1.3 The purpose of this this policy is to lay down guidelines as to what the Council regard as unacceptable previous conduct on the part of an applicant or licensee. This will then assist the Council in determining whether a particular person is safe and suitable either to be granted a licence in the first place or to retain such a licence.

1.4 Drivers and operators cannot be granted a licence unless the Council is satisfied that they are a “fit and proper person” to hold that licence (see Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 ss 51 and 59 in respect of drivers; s55 in respect of operators).

1.5 “Fit and proper” means that the individual (or in the case of a Private Hire operator’s licence or vehicle proprietors’ licence, the limited company together with its directors and secretary, or all members of a partnership³) is “safe and suitable” to hold the licence.

1.6 In determining safety and suitability the Council is entitled to consider all matters concerning that applicant or licensee. They are not simply concerned with that person’s behaviour whilst working in the Hackney Carriage or Private Hire trade. This consideration is far wider than simply criminal convictions or other evidence of unacceptable behaviour, and the entire character of the individual will be considered. This can include, but is not limited to, the individual’s attitude and temperament.

1.7 Where an applicant has been convicted of a criminal offence, the Council should not review the merits of the conviction [Nottingham City Council v. Mohammed Farooq (1998)]. What this means is that Wokingham Borough Council will take the conviction at face value, regardless of whether the Applicant disputes it.

POWERS

1.8 The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 excludes applicants or holders of a Private Hire vehicle or Hackney Carriage driver's licence from the

³ Section 57(1) and 57(2)(c) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows a local authority to consider the character of a company director or secretary, or any partner.

provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This means that the Council can take account of all convictions, whether spent or not, and will have regard to all relevant convictions. As detailed below, this will be particularly important where there is a long history of offending or a recent pattern of repeat offending.

1.9 In this policy the term "disqualification" refers to the period served, in order to take account of the fact that a court may reduce the period of disqualification from driving. An applicant must provide evidence in advance to prove that the court agreed a reduction in the period of disqualification.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCLOSED CRIMINAL HISTORY

1.10 Applicants can discuss what effect their offending history may have on any application by contacting the licensing team in confidence.

1.11 Applicants for the grant of a driver licence will be required to obtain an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). This must include a check of the adult and child barred lists. Drivers will then be required to sign up to the DBS update service. If a driver refuses to sign up to the update service, a driver's licence will only be granted for 6 months, and a fresh application (together with fees etc) will have to be made. All applicants for a renewal of a driver's licence must provide an enhanced DBS with a check of the adult and child barred lists Council

1.12 Applicants for the grant of Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle licence, where that person is not the holder of a current driver licence issued by the Council, must provide a basic DBS certificate to accompany every application and renewal of the vehicle licence.

1.13 Applicants for the grant of an operator licence, where that person is not the holder of a current driver licence issued by the Council, must provide a basic DBS certificate annually throughout the currency of the licence.

1.14 The Council is also entitled to use other records and information that may be available to it in determining applications or an entitlement to continue holding a licence. This may include information held by the Council or other licensing authorities, and information disclosed by the police.

1.15 It is an offence for any person knowingly or recklessly to make a false declaration or to omit any material particular in giving information required by the application for a licence. Where an applicant has made a false statement or a false declaration on their application for the grant or renewal of a licence, the application will normally be refused, and if the licence has been granted it will normally be revoked.

1.16 Convictions for attempt or conspiracy will be regarded as convictions for the substantive crime. A caution is regarded in exactly the same way as a conviction⁴. Fixed penalties and community resolutions will also be considered in the same way as a conviction⁵.

1.17 Allegations which come to the attention of the council will be taken into account, even if the matter did not result in a conviction. Examples of this could include where an individual is on bail or under investigation, or where an individual has been acquitted, or a prosecution withdrawn. Each case will be considered on its own merits, with the question of the safety of the travelling public being paramount.

1.18 In the case of any new applicant who has been charged with any offence and is awaiting trial, the determination will be deferred until the trial has been completed or the charges withdrawn. Where an existing licensee is charged, it will be for the Council to decide what action to take in the light of these guidelines.

1.19 In all cases, the Council will consider the conviction or behaviour in question and what weight should be attached to it, and each and every case will be determined on its own merits, and in the light of these guidelines.

1.20 Any offences committed, or unacceptable behaviour reported whilst driving a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle, concerning the use of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle, or in connection with an operator of a Private Hire vehicle will be viewed as aggravating features, and the fact that any other offences were not connected with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trades will not be seen as mitigating factors.

1.21 As the Council will be looking at the entirety of the individual, in many cases safety and suitability will not be determined by a specified period having elapsed following a conviction or the completion of a sentence. Time periods are relevant and weighty considerations, but they are not the only determining factor.

1.22 In addition to the nature of the offence or other behaviour, the quantity of matters and the period over which they were committed will also be considered. Patterns of repeated unacceptable or criminal behaviour are likely to cause greater concern than isolated occurrences as such patterns can demonstrate a propensity for such behaviour or offending.

1.23 It is accepted that people make mistakes and lapse in their conduct for a variety of reasons, and it is further accepted that many learn from experience. Accordingly, an isolated conviction, especially if committed some time ago, may not prevent the grant or renewal of a licence.

⁴ This is because a caution can only be imposed following an admission of guilt, which is equivalent to a guilty plea on prosecution.

⁵ This is because payment of a fixed penalty indicates acceptance of guilt, and a community resolution can only be imposed following an admission of guilt.

1.24 It is also important to recognise that once a licence has been granted, there is a continuing requirement on the part of the licensee to maintain their safety and suitability. The Council has powers to act against the holder of all types of licence (driver's, vehicle, and operator's) and it must be understood that any convictions or other actions on the part of the licensee which would have prevented them being granted a licence on initial application will lead to that licence being revoked.

1.25 Any dishonesty by any applicant or other person on the applicant's behalf which is discovered to have occurred in any part of any application process (e.g., failure to declare convictions, false names or addresses, falsified references) will result in a licence being refused, or if already granted, revoked, and may result in prosecution.

1.26 As the direct impact on the public varies depending upon the type of licence applied for or held, it is necessary to consider the impact of offences on those licenses separately. However, there are some overriding considerations which will apply in all circumstances.

1.27 Generally, where a person has more than one conviction, this will raise serious questions about their safety and suitability. The Council is looking for safe and suitable individuals, and once a pattern or trend of repeated offending is apparent, a licence will not be granted or renewed.

1.28 Where an applicant/licensee is convicted of an offence which is not detailed in this policy, the Council will take that conviction into account and use this policy as an indication of the approach that should be taken.

1.29 This policy does not replace the duty of the Council to refuse to grant a licence where they are not satisfied that the applicant or licensee is a fit and proper person. Where a situation is not covered by this policy, the Council will consider the matter from first principles and determine the fitness and propriety of the individual.

DRIVERS

1.32 As the Council issues dual licenses (permitting the licensee to drive either a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle) and the criteria for determining whether an individual should be granted or retain a Hackney Carriage driver's licence are identical to the criteria for a Private Hire driver's licence, the two are considered together.

1.33 A driver has direct responsibility for the safety of their passengers, direct responsibility for the safety of other road users and significant control over passengers who are in the vehicle. As those passengers may be alone, and may also be vulnerable, any previous convictions or unacceptable behaviour will weigh heavily against a licence being granted or retained.

1.34 As stated above, where an applicant has more than one conviction showing a pattern or tendency irrespective of time since the convictions, serious consideration will need to be given as to whether they are a safe and suitable person.

1.35 In relation to single convictions, the following time periods should elapse following completion of the sentence (or the date of conviction if a fine was imposed) before a licence will be granted.

CRIMES RESULTING IN DEATH

1.36 Where an applicant or licensee has been convicted of a crime which resulted in the death of another person or was intended to cause the death or serious injury of another person they will not be licensed.

EXPLOITATION

1.37 Where an applicant or licensee has been convicted of a crime involving, related to, or has any connection with abuse, exploitation, use or treatment of another individual irrespective of whether the victim or victims were adults or children, they will not be licensed. This includes slavery, child sexual exploitation, grooming, psychological, emotional or financial abuse, but this is not an exhaustive list.

OFFENCES INVOLVING VIOLENCE

1.38 Where an applicant has a conviction for an offence of violence, or connected with any offence of violence, a licence will not be granted until at least **10** years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.

POSSESSION OF A WEAPON

1.39 Where an applicant has a conviction for possession of a weapon or any other weapon related offence, a licence will not be granted until at least 7 years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.

SEX AND INDECENCY OFFENCES

1.40 Where an applicant has a conviction for any offence involving or connected with illegal sexual activity or any form of indecency, a licence will not be granted.

In addition to the above, the Council will not grant a licence to any applicant who is currently on the Sex Offenders Register or on any 'barred' list.

DISHONESTY

1.41 Where an applicant has a conviction for any offence of dishonesty, or any offence where dishonesty is an element of the offence, a licence will not be granted until at least **7** years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.

DRUGS

1.42 Where an applicant has any conviction for, or related to, the supply of drugs, or possession with intent to supply or connected with possession with intent to supply, a licence will not be granted until at least 10 years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.

1.43 Where an applicant has a conviction for possession of drugs, or related to the possession of drugs, a licence will not be granted until at least 5 years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed. In these circumstances, any applicant may also have to undergo drugs testing at their own expense to demonstrate that they are not using controlled drugs.

DISCRIMINATION

1.44 Where an applicant has a conviction where discrimination was a feature, a licence will not be granted until at least 7 years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.

MOTORING CONVICTIONS

1.45 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers are professional drivers charged with the responsibility of carrying the public. Any motoring conviction demonstrates a lack of professionalism and will be considered seriously. It is accepted that offences can be committed unintentionally, and a single occurrence of a minor traffic offence would not prohibit the grant of a licence or may not result in action against an existing licence.

1.46 Subsequent convictions reinforce the fact that the licensee does not take their professional responsibilities seriously and is therefore not a safe and suitable person to be granted or retain a licence.

DRINK DRIVING/DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/USING A HAND-HELD TELEPHONE OR HANDHELD DEVICE WHILST DRIVING

1.47 Where an applicant has a conviction for drink driving or driving under the influence of drugs, a licence will not be granted until at least 7 years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence or driving ban imposed. In these circumstances, any applicant may also have to undergo drugs testing at their own expense to demonstrate that they are not using controlled drugs.

1.48 Where an applicant has a conviction for, or has points on their licence for using a held-hand mobile phone or other hand-held device whilst driving, a licence will not be granted until at least 5 years (4/5 years?) have elapsed since the date the endorsement was made.

OTHER MOTORING OFFENCES

1.49 A minor traffic or vehicle related offence is one which does not involve loss of life, driving under the influence of drink or drugs, driving whilst using a mobile phone, and

has not resulted in injury to any person or damage to any property (including vehicles). Where an applicant has 7 or more points on their DVLA licence for minor traffic or similar offences, a licence will not be granted until at least 5 years (4 years?) have elapsed since since the date the endorsement was incurred.

1.50 A major traffic or vehicle related offence is one which is not covered above and any offence which resulted in injury to any person or damage to any property (including vehicles). It also includes driving without insurance, or any offence connected with motor insurance. Where an applicant has a conviction for a major traffic offence or similar offence, a licence will not be granted until at least 10 years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE OFFENCES

1.51 Where an applicant has a conviction for an offence concerned with or connected to Hackney Carriage or Private Hire activity, a licence will not be granted until at least 7 years have elapsed since the completion of any sentence imposed.

PLYING FOR HIRE, STANDING FOR HIRE, AND TOUTING

1.52 Where an applicant has a conviction for any offence such as touting, plying for hire or standing for hire, a licence will not be granted until at least 1 year has elapsed since the date of conviction.

PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS

1.53 A Private Hire operator (“an operator”) does not have direct responsibility for the safety of passengers, other road users or direct contact with passengers who are in the Private Hire vehicle (except where they are also licensed as a Private Hire driver). However, in performing their duties they obtain and hold considerable amounts of personal and private information about their passengers which must be treated in confidence and not revealed to others or used by the operator or their staff for criminal or other unacceptable purposes.

1.54 As stated above, where an applicant has more than one conviction, serious consideration will need to be given as to whether they are a safe and suitable person.

1.55 Operators must ensure that any staff that are used within the business (whether employees or independent contractors) and are able to access any information as described above are subject to the same standards as the operator themselves. This can be affected by means of the individual staff member being required by the operator to obtain a basic DBS certificate. If an operator is found not to be applying the required standards and using staff that do not meet the Council’s overall criteria, that will lead to the operator’s licence being revoked.

1.56 As public trust and confidence in the overall safety and integrity of the Private Hire system is vital, the same standards will be applied to operators as those applied to drivers, which are outlined above.

VEHICLE PROPRIETORS

1.57 Vehicle proprietors (both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire) have two principal responsibilities.

1.58 Firstly, they must ensure that the vehicle is always maintained to an acceptable standard.

1.59 Secondly, they must ensure that the vehicle is not used for illegal or illicit purposes.

1.60 As stated above, where an applicant has more than one conviction, serious consideration will need to be given as to whether they are a safe and suitable person to be granted or retain a vehicle licence.

1.61 As public trust and confidence in the overall safety and integrity of the Private Hire system is vital, the same standards will be applied to proprietors as those applied to drivers, which are outlined above.

LICENSES ISSUED BY OTHER LICENSING AUTHORITIES

1.62 Applicants who hold a licence with another Council should not automatically assume that their application will be granted by this Council. Each case will be decided on its own merits.

1.63 Licensees who are licensed by multiple authorities are expected to inform all such authorities of the authorities that they are licensed by and to advise each authority of any changes in this respect; and should expect those authorities to share information regarding their conduct and to take it into account as appropriate.

SUMMARY

1.64 To summarise, a criminal history in itself may not automatically result in refusal and a current conviction for a serious crime may not bar an applicant permanently from becoming licensed. However as public safety is the sole consideration, applicants with criminal convictions must recognise that the Council will give careful and serious consideration to any such application.

Appendix Two: Penalty Points Scheme

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1. Penalty Points Scheme
2. List of Offences/Breach of Vehicle Licence Conditions/Byelaws
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1.0 PENALTY POINTS SCHEME

1.1 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles are principally governed by the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Council Byelaws (in respect of Hackney Carriages) and the Policy and Conditions set by the Council.

1.2 The primary objective of the Penalty points scheme is improving the levels of compliance and help improve the standards, safety and protection of the travelling public.

1.3 The penalty points scheme works in conjunction with other enforcement options. It provides a formalised stepped enforcement plan. The purpose of the scheme is to record misdemeanours and to act as a record of licensee's behaviour and conduct so as to ascertain whether they remain a safe and suitable person to be a vehicle driver or operator and/or suitable to hold a vehicle licence. It does not prejudice the Council's ability to take other actions.

1.4 The Scheme will be used where Operators, Drivers or Proprietors of Vehicles fail to comply with any legislative requirement, commit a criminal offence (under legislation or byelaws) or breach those conditions of licence, and following complaints from the public.

1.5 Licensees involved will be asked to attend the offices for an interview. Once investigations are completed, letters will be sent out detailing the outcome and a permanent record will be kept on the person's file. The outcome of investigations may result in officers determining that: no further action be taken; penalty points be imposed; a formal warning be issued; the licensee be referred to the Regulatory Committee/Officers and/or prosecution.

1.6 If a licensee wishes to challenge the imposition of penalty points, an appeal will be referred to the Service Manager. At that hearing the points (and this includes imposing more points than displayed on the tariff), suspend, or revoke the licence, or recommend prosecution. Drivers must appeal any points issued by Officers to the senior officer within

21 days. Details of the appeal mechanism will be contained in the letter confirming the imposition of points.

1.7 Penalty points remain live or current for twelve months from the date the penalty points were imposed. If the decision was appealed to the regulatory committee/senior officer, and the committee/senior officer uphold an imposition of points, those points will remain live for 12 months from the date of the committee/senior officer decision. The 12-month period is on a roll forward basis, so as to allow any older points to be considered as spent and therefore excluded from the running total recorded against any individual licensee.

1.8 Where a licensee accumulates more than 12 penalty points in any 12-month period, the matter will be referred to the Service Manager to decide whether the driver remains a fit and proper person. The Service Manager may then suspend or revoke a licence, or issue a warning to the Licensee, depending upon the circumstances. Periods of suspension of a licence by an officer will be dependent on the nature of the breaches of the legislation/conditions/behaviour and the compliance history of the individual. Suspension periods will normally vary between 7 to 31 days. There is a right of appeal to the Licensing and Appeals Sub-committee.

1.9 The system will operate without prejudice to the Council's ability to take other action that it is entitled to take under legislation, byelaws, and conditions.

1.10 If points are issued to a proprietor/driver for a matter which is also a criminal offence which the Council could prosecute for, e.g., not wearing a driver's badge, failure to maintain operators records, those person(s) will not then be the subject of a prosecution by the Council.

2.0 LIST OF OFFENCES/BREACH OF VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS/BYELAWS

<u>Offence</u>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Points</i>
Failure to supply interim MOT test when vehicle is over six/twelve years of age	V1	4
Failure to have or maintain illuminated markings at entrances and exits	V2	2
Failure to have/maintain grab handles	V3	2

Failure to have a means of loading wheelchairs into the vehicle, available at all times.	V4	2
Failure to supply a current mechanical tail lift safety certificate to the Licensing Authority	V5	4

Failure to keep a wheelchair access vehicle available without modification at all times	V6	2
Failure to provide an annual LPG safety compliance Certificate	V7	4
Failure to maintain seat belts in a safe condition	V8	4
Undertaking alterations to equipment, dimensions or other specification to a licensed vehicle without consent	V9	4
Failure to display approved roof sign	V10	2
Failure to maintain roof sign in working order	V11	2
Failure to display roof sign on the front part of the roof, unless the vehicle type does not facilitate this, in which case it must be as near to the front as possible.	V12	2
Failure to display front door signs.	V13	4
Displaying incorrect signs i.e., wrong wording or magnetic	V14	4
Displaying other sign on front door	V15	4
Private Hire vehicles advertising incorrectly	V16	4
Display sign that does not comply	V17	4
Display web site address large lettering than permitted	V18	4
Failure to display three or more “no smoking” signs in the vehicle	V19	4
Private Hire displaying the word taxi	V20	4
Incorrectly displaying licence plate	V21	4
Failure to return plate on expiry of licence if requested to do so by Licensing Staff	V22	4
Failure to report loss or damage of a vehicle plate, following discovery of loss or damage.	V23	2
Failure to surrender vehicle licence and plate if proprietor does not wish to retain vehicle licence	V24	2
Advertising on vehicle without written authorisation from the Licensing Authority	V25	4
Failure to submit taximeter for testing when requested to do so by Licensing Authority	V26	2

Tampering or allowing an unauthorised person to tamper with taximeter	V27	4
Failure to display a statement of fares inside the HC	V28	2
Wilfully or neglectfully causing letters or figures in the statement to be obscured	V29	2
Failure to deposit copy of statement of fares which differ from the approved fares	V30	2
Failure to notify Licensing of accidents or damage affecting the safety, performance, or appearance of the vehicle	V31	2
Failure to supply steering geometry and alignment reports following an accident if required	V32	2
Failure to get authorisation for a temporary transfer vehicle or leaving the vehicle on for more than two weeks	V33	2
Failure to have insurance for the licensed vehicle	V34	12
Failure to provide evidence of insurance prior to expiry	V35	6
Failure to keep copy of insurance/cover note in the vehicle	V36	2
Failure to notify Licensing Authority of change of insurer or particulars within 2 working days.	V37	2
Failure to produce details to the Licensing Authority of drivers permitted to drive	V38	2
Failure to notify change of drivers	V39	2
Failure to notify Licensing Authority of change of address or other contact details	V40	2
Failure to carry a suitably marked approved fire extinguisher within the vehicle	V41	2
Failure to carry marked first aid equipment as specified in conditions	V42	2
Failure to obtain written permission to use trailers on Licensed vehicles	V43	12
Failure to present vehicle and trailer for inspection	V44	4
Using a Dual Driver without the appropriate DVLA category code to tow a trailer	V45	6

Failure to maintain radio equipment in safe condition which poses a risk of injury to passengers	V46	2
Proprietor/Operator allowing a greater number of persons to be conveyed than is specified on the licence	V47	2
Failure to maintain a reasonable standard of behaviour	V48	2
Failure to provide information requested by an authorised officer	V49	4
Failure to provide assistance to an authorised officer	V50	4
Failure to provide evidence of insurance or interim MOT/compliance test prior to expiry (1 st instance)	V51	6
Failure to provide evidence of insurance or interim MOT/compliance test prior to expiry (2 nd instance)	V52	12
Failure to show evidence of continuous MOT, interim MOT or insurance.	V53	12
Providing alcoholic drinks not in accordance with the sale or supply of alcohol legislation	V59	12

3.0 BREACHES OF DUAL DRIVER LICENCE CODE OF CONDUCT

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Points</u>
Driver not clean and respectable in their dress	D1	2
Driver not complying with the Dual Drivers Dress Code	D2	2
Driver not behaving in a civil and orderly manner	D3	3
Driver allowing noise from radio or other similar equipment to be a source of nuisance or annoyance to any person inside or outside the vehicle	D4	2
Driver smoking/vaping/similar whilst in the vehicle	D5	4
PH drivers parking in a position or location which gives the appearance of being for hire, whilst not on a prebooking	D6	3
Driver of P/H vehicle plying for hire	D7	12
Driver calling out or influencing person to travel in the vehicle for gain without a prior appointment	D8	3

Fail to have in possession drivers badge whilst driving a licensed vehicle	D9	2
Not displaying second badge in the vehicle which is visible to passengers being conveyed in the vehicle	D10	2
Failure to surrender drivers badge to the Licensing Authority upon expiry, revocation or suspension of their licence when requested by Licensing Staff	D11	2
Failure to supply annual self-declaration and fee (1 st Occasion)	D12	6
Failure to supply annual self-declaration and fee (2 nd occasion)	D13	12
Failure to carry evidence of insurance cover, this can be a cover note, in the vehicle whilst on duty	D14	2
Failure of driver to check vehicle proprietor has insurance on the vehicle	D15	2
Driver carrying greater number of persons than the number specified on the licence	D16	12
Carrying other persons in the vehicle without the consent of the hirer	D17	2
Carry a member of family/friend in a licensed vehicle when it is for hire/hired	D18	2
Failing to carry or ensure safety of passenger luggage	D19	4
Failing to offer reasonable assistance with luggage	D20	2
Failing to take steps to ensure passenger safety	D21	6
Failing to ensure passengers are dropped off safely, at the correct destination	D22	2
Fail to search vehicle after journey	D23	2
Fail to hand found property to the police	D24	2
Fail to operate taxi meter correctly	D25	4
Fail to use taximeter on pre booked journey or fail to charge fee less than meter fee	D26	2
Charging more than the metered fare	D27	4
Tampering or allowing tampering of a taximeter	D28	4

Cancelling the fare or concealing the fare on meter before the hirer has agreed the fare	D29	2
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Demanding more than the previously agreed fare	D30	4
Demanding more than the fare shown on the taxi meter or scale of charges on the tariff sheet	D31	4
Starting the fare before the hirer enters the vehicle unless specified in the tariff sheet	D32	4
Failure to notify proprietor of complaints made by the passengers	D33	2
Failure to notify passengers of their right to refer their complaint to the Licensing Authority	D34	2
Failure to attend at appointed time or place without sufficient cause	D35	2
Unnecessarily prolonging journey in distance or time	D36	4
Failure to provide copy of Dual Drivers licence to operator	D37	2
Failure to ensure insurance cover for them to drive vehicle	D38	4
Failure to ensure vehicle is licensed by Licensing Authority for the purpose used	D39	2
Failure to notify Licensing Authority of change of address/telephone number within 7 days	D40	4
Failure to notify Licensing Authority of motoring offences over 3 penalty points or criminal convictions during the period of licence	D41	12
Failure to notify Licensing Authority of motoring convictions up to 3 penalty points during the period of licence	D42	6
Failure to notify Licensing Authority of involvement in incidents which the Police are involved and may lead to a caution/conviction	D43	12
Failure to notify Licensing Authority in writing within 7 days of serious injury or illness	D44	12
Failure to notify the Licensing Authority of a DVLA notifiable condition	D45	12

Failure to carry assistance dog without exemption	D46	4
Making additional charge for carrying assistance dog	D47	4
Failure to apply for or provide an exemption certificate on medical grounds for not being medically fit to carry an assistance dog	D48	4
Not using mobile phone in accordance with The Road Vehicle (construction and use) (Amendment) (No.4) Regulation 2003	D49	2
Failure to keep vehicle reasonably clean	D50	2
Failure to notify Licensing Authority of vehicle damage within 72 hours or present vehicle if requested to do so	D51	4
Failure to provide a written receipt for the fare paid if requested to do so by the passenger	D52	2
Failure to co-operate with any authorised officer of the Licensing Authority, Constable or any other clearly identifiable person nominated by the Licensing Authority	D53	4
Failure to keep a record of bookings in the Private Hire Vehicle. This can be computerised/electronic or written	D54	2
Failure to comply the regulations governing the wearing of seat belts	D55	4

4.0 BREACHES OF OPERATOR LICENCE CONDITIONS - PRIVATE HIRE

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Points</u>
Operating more vehicles than stated on licence	01	2
Failure to obtain and maintain insurance on vehicle	02	12
Failure to produce evidence of insurance cover to the Licensing Authority	03	6
Fail to provide valid insurance on expiry for any premises where the public have access	04	6
Failure to notify the Licensing Authority of change of insurer within 2 days	05	2
Fail to provide evidence of public liability insurance for premises	06	2
Failure to operate the business in a manner which does not cause nuisance to the public or to persons in nearby premises	07	2
Failure to provide a prompt, efficient or reliable service	08	2

Failure to attend a booking at appointed time or place without sufficient cause	09	2
Knowingly allowing a greater number of persons in the licensed vehicle than is prescribed on the licence	010	12
Fail to have necessary documents and equipment	011	2
Operating the business from a premises outside the District	012	12
Failure to keep booking or waiting areas which the public have access, clean, adequately heated, ventilated and lit	013	2
Failure to provide seating facilities in waiting areas	014	2
Failure to have in place planning permission if required at operators address	015	2
Failure to comply with planning permission or licence conditions for number of vehicles permitted	015	2

Failure to supply written confirmation within seven days of changes to the particulars shown on the application form relating to the licence	016	4
Fail to notify Licensing Authority of change of address	017	2
Failure to notify the Licensing Authority within seven days of any convictions imposed on them, during the period of the licence	018	6
Failure to keep proper records for a period of not less than six months	019	3
Failure to keep proper records	020	2
Fail to keep entries correctly	021	2
Fail to notify details of security arrangements	022	2
Fail to keep records of Private Hire vehicles operated	023	2
Displaying the word Taxi or Cab on a Private Hire vehicle	024	2
Failure to keep records of all drivers employed or failure to produce details of the drivers	025	2
Failure to notify Licensing Authority within seven days of the particulars of any driver who is no longer employed by the operator	026	2
Failure to maintain telephone or radio equipment in sound condition or failure to repair defects promptly	027	2
Failure to have or produce evidence of a Licence issued by the Department of Trade and Industry licence for all radio equipment	028	2
Using unlicensed drivers to drive a Licensing Authority licensed vehicle	029	12
Failure to keep a written record of all complaints or failure to make available to the Licensing Authority	030	2
Late to provide evidence of insurance or interim MOT (1 st Occasion)	031	6

Late to provide evidence of insurance or interim MOT (2 nd Occasion)	032	12
Failure to carry out or provide the required DBS checks on dispatch staff	033	12
Failure to record, maintain or provide details of checks on dispatch staff in a register	034	12
Failure to make appropriate checks of any operator for which work is outsourced	035	12
Failure to establish, maintain or provide a policy on employing ex-offenders to the licensing authority	036	12
Failure to require notification of convictions as part of the contract of employment	037	12
Failure to notify licensing authority of any conviction information relating to booking and dispatch staff in accordance with condition	038	12

5.0 BREACHES OF COUNCIL BYELAWS RELATING TO HACKNEY CARRIAGES

<u>Offence</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Points</u>
Wilfully or negligently causing licence number to be concealed from public view while the carriage is standing or plying for hire	B1	2
Causing or permitting the carriage to stand or ply for hire with an illegible plate	B2	2
Failure to furnish the Hackney Carriage in accordance with requirements of the Byelaw	B3	2
Failure to provide a taximeter in accordance with the requirements of the Byelaw	B4	2
Failure to operate taximeter in accordance with requirements of the Byelaw.	B5	2
Driver or proprietor tampering with meter or permitting any unauthorised person to tamper with meter	B6	4
Failure to proceed to another rank when at the time of arrival rank is full	B7	2

Failure to station or move the carriage immediately behind the carriage or carriages in front on the rank	B8	2
A proprietor or driver using the services of a person to importune a person to hire the vehicle	B9	2
Failure by driver to take reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of passengers	B10	4
Driver or proprietor allowing more persons to be conveyed than the licence allows	B11	12
Failure by driver to carry the badge provided by the Licensing Authority when plying for hire	B12	2
Failure to provide when requested reasonable assistance with luggage	B13	2
Failure to display statement of fares inside the carriage in a legible state	B14	2
Failure to notify lost property to the Police within 48 hours of discovery	B15	2

Appendix Three: Taxi Drivers Code of Conduct

1.1 This code of conduct relates to you as a licensed taxi driver. It outlines the standards of behaviour which are expected of you whilst you hold a taxi driver's licence. Failure to comply with these requirements may lead to enforcement action being taken. This could be by way of penalty points attached to your taxi drivers' licence, suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew your licence.

1.2 You are a licensed taxi driver for the duration of the licence, and always you should ensure that your conduct and behaviour is that of a fit and proper person. You must ensure that you do not act in any way, at any time, that might affect that. The Council will consider all your behaviour, and that is not limited to the times when you are driving a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle.

1.3 When you are driving a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle, that remains a licensed vehicle and you remain a licensed taxi driver wherever you may be located, and for whatever purpose you are using the vehicle (this includes social and domestic use). This Code of Conduct applies across the whole of the United Kingdom.

YOUR DRIVER'S LICENCE AND BADGE

1.4 You have been issued with two copies of your drivers badge and a coloured armband. You must always wear one driver badge in the armband on your left upper arm when you are driving or working with a Private Hire vehicle or Hackney Carriage and failure to do so is a criminal offence [under s54 of the 1976 Act when using a Private Hire vehicle and byelaw when using a Hackney Carriage]. You must display the second copy of your badge in a position which is always plainly and clearly visible to your passengers whilst you are working as a taxi driver.

1.5 You must return your licence, badge, and armband to the Licensing Section of the Council within 72 hours if:

- You change your home or business address
- the licence expires, is suspended, revoked
- you lose the right to work in the UK, or the right to remain in the UK
- You wish to surrender your Taxi Driver Licence
- required to do so by an "Authorised Officer of the Council"

1.5 You must inform the Licensing Section of the Council in writing, within seven days if you change your address.

1.6 In the event of the loss of your licence, badge, or armband you must report the loss to Regulatory Services immediately.

DEPOSIT OF DRIVER LICENCE WHEN WORKING FOR OTHERS

1.7 You must give your Driver Licence to the Private Hire operator when driving Private Hire vehicles, or proprietor of any Hackney Carriage which you will be using. They will keep your licence while you are driving for them.

PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

1.8 If an Authorised Officer of the Council, an Authorised Officer of another Council with which the Council has a reciprocal arrangement or a police constable asks you, within five days of the request being made at the location that they specify, you must produce:

- Your DVLA driving licence
- Your Taxi Driver Licence
- The vehicle registration document
- A valid certificate of insurance

MEDICAL CONDITION

1.9 You must notify the Council, in writing within 14 days of any change in your medical condition that may adversely affect your ability to drive Private Hire or Hackney Carriage vehicles.

1.10 You must ensure that when you are working you are sober and not under the influence of any illegal drugs. If you are taking any prescription medication, you must ensure that it does not impair your driving ability.

1.11 If at any time you feel unwell you must discontinue work until such time as you feel better and able to return to work.

DECLARATION OF CONVICTION / CAUTION / PENALTY

1.12 You must declare all convictions, cautions, fixed penalty notices, CBO's (Criminal Behaviour Orders) CPNs (Community Protection Notices), requirements to attend a speed awareness course, injunctions, restraining orders to the Council on your initial application form.

1.13 If you are convicted of any offence, or accept a formal caution for an offence, or receive a fixed penalty notice for any offence or receive and accept an endorsable fixed penalty notice, or are made the subject of an CBO or CPN, are required to attend a speed awareness course, are made the subject on any injunction or restraining order, or you are arrested for any matter, you must give the Council details, in writing and within 72 hours of the event.

DRIVING

1.14 You must always comply with all road traffic regulations.

1.15 You must comply with all legislation and conditions relating to the Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle that you are driving at all times. Those conditions are available on the Council website

1.16 You must not sound your vehicle horn –

- unnecessarily, i.e., unless in an emergency or to let other road users or pedestrians know you are there
- when your vehicle is stationary on a road, at any time, other than at times of danger due to another moving vehicle on or near the road
- on any road in a built-up area between 11.30 p.m. and 7.00 am

1.17 Your vehicle horn must not be used to signal your arrival to collect any pre-booked passenger.

1.18 You must not drive any Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle in a dangerous or inconsiderate manner and in addition to complying with all road traffic regulations you must ensure that you're driving and behaviour on the road is of the highest standard.

1.19 When parking, or otherwise waiting for either a hiring (Hackney Carriage), a booking to be communicated to you (Private Hire and Hackney Carriage) or attending for a pre-booked hiring (Private Hire and Hackney Carriage) you must ensure that you do not obstruct other road users including pedestrians on pavements and in pedestrianised streets. You must also ensure that you do not block vehicle entrances, or any emergency exits for buildings. You must also comply with parking and waiting restrictions (if any).

1.20 When stopping to set passengers down you must do so in a manner which minimises the risk to those passengers as they alight from the vehicle. You must warn passengers clearly of any unusual or unexpected dangers within the vicinity.

1.21 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must not demand a fare greater than that shown on the meter for a journey within the Council's area. Where a journey ends outside the Council's area, you must not demand a fare greater than that shown on the meter unless an agreement was made between yourself and the hirer before the hiring commenced.

1.22 When driving a Private Hire vehicle, you must not demand a fare greater than that shown on the meter (if that is how your operator calculates fares) or as agreed between the hirer and the operator.

1.23 You must always stop the engine of the vehicle when the vehicle is stationary otherwise than through the necessities of traffic.

1.24 It is a criminal offence to hold and use a mobile phone or other handheld device whilst driving. In addition, this will be regarded as a serious breach of the Code of Conduct.

DATA PROTECTION

1.25 You must ensure that you have the correct safeguards for storing personal data that comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). This will include details of hirers (pre-booked Hackney Carriages) and any dash cam footage (the use of dash cams is considered in relation to vehicle licenses).

CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR

1.26 You must be always honest and trustworthy.

1.27 You must be polite and courteous to your passengers, other road users and the public generally.

1.28 You must not use abusive or foul language, spit, or smoke in or near the vicinity of your vehicle.

1.29 You must not use aggressive language or behaviour or engage in any violent conduct.

1.30 You must not carry any form of weapon on your person or in your vehicle at any time and under no circumstances must you ever take the law into your own hands.

1.31 If the hirer requests, you must provide a written receipt for the fare paid for the hiring, including the amount of VAT (if applicable) shown separately if so requested. That receipt must also contain details of the journey including the date, pick up point and destination, vehicle licence number, operators name and driver name or licence number. You must then sign the receipt.

1.32 You must not cause or allow noise emitted by any radio or sound equipment in the vehicle which you are driving to be a source of nuisance or annoyance to any person or persons, whether inside or outside the vehicle.

1.33 If a passenger objects, you must not play any radio or sound reproducing instrument or equipment in the vehicle.

1.34 You must treat everybody decently, equally, and fairly.

1.35 You must always treat passengers, any potential passenger, members of the public, Police Officers and PCSOs, Council officers and all other public servants (NHS staff, fire fighters, HMRC staff etc) with courtesy and respect.

1.36 You must not discriminate against any person because of a protected characteristic in the Equality Act 2010 ⁶.

⁶ Age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation

1.37 You must not use abusive, racist, sexist, or any other offensive language or terms with passengers or other members of the public (remember that not everybody shares your sense of humour, or views).

1.38 You must protect passengers and yourself. Be wary about entering any premises, especially domestic premises unless you know the person as an established customer. Even then make sure that you take all steps to minimise any risk to yourself or your reputation.

1.39 You must not obtain the telephone numbers of or engage on any form of social media with anybody under the age of 18.

1.40 You must not engage in any kind of sexual activity within or in the vicinity of your licensed vehicle.

1.41 You must always behave in a civil and reasonable manner and must comply with any reasonable request made by the hirer.

1.42 You must always pick up your passengers on time unless unavoidably delayed. If the hiring has been arranged via a Private Hire operator or other 3rd party, you must immediately contact that operator or 3rd party to inform them of the delay and your estimated time of arrival.

1.43 You must always assist your passengers with their luggage. If they do not request this, you must ask whether they need help. This includes picking it up from the point of booking, removing it from your vehicle at the end of the journey and setting it down.

1.44 You must maintain a logbook in which to record any incidents that you feel are of concern (including but not limited to concerns about child abuse, abuse of any other person, people trafficking, drug carrying, violence or criminal behaviour) or which may result in a complaint being made about you. Such incidents must be recorded promptly with as much detail as possible (date, time, location, nature of the incident, names of the parties (if known) and identifying features).

1.45 This logbook must be kept securely in the vehicle and the details must be transferred to a storage medium which is not contained within the vehicle (i.e., a copy of the pages stored on a computer) as soon as possible. When you are driving a Private Hire vehicle all such incidents must be reported to your operator as soon as possible. If you are driving a Hackney Carriage that has been booked via a booking agent, all such incidents must be reported to that agent as soon as possible. Where you suspect that the incident involves criminal behaviour you must report this to the police and Council immediately.

1.46 You must maintain a logbook of any complaints that are made to you as a driver. All complaints must be recorded promptly with as much detail as possible (date, time, location, nature of the complaint, names of the parties (if known) and identifying features). This logbook must be kept securely in the vehicle and the details must be transferred to a storage medium which is not contained within the vehicle (i.e. a copy of

the pages stored on a computer) as soon as possible. When you are driving a Private Hire vehicle all such complaints must be reported to your operator as soon as possible. If you are driving a Hackney Carriage that has been booked via a booking agent, all such complaints must be reported to that agent as soon as possible.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE AND DRESS CODE

1.47 You must always maintain good standards of personal hygiene.

1.48 You must always be clean and respectable in your dress and present a professional image. To achieve this, you must ensure that all clothing is clean, of smart appearance and in good condition.

1.49 Footwear for all drivers must fit around the heel of the foot. Wooden soled footwear is not permitted.

1.50 The following will be regarded as breaches of the Code of Conduct:

- Clothing not being kept in a clean and fresh condition or any items which have holes or rips
- Words or graphics on any clothing that is of an offensive nature
- Sportswear, football or rugby kits, track suits, beach wear etc
- Sandals with no heel straps, flip flops or any other form of footwear not secured around the heel
- Hoods worn up whilst in the vehicle

USE OF THE VEHICLE

1.51 Private Hire vehicles and Hackney Carriages are always smoke free vehicles under the Health Act 2006. It is a criminal offence to smoke in a Private Hire vehicle at any time (section 7) or to allow a person to smoke in a Private Hire vehicle (section 8) and you can be prosecuted for either or both offences. In addition, this will be regarded as a serious breach of the Code of Conduct.

1.52 You must not eat in the vehicle at any time or allow passengers to eat in the vehicle at any time.

1.53 Animals must not be carried in Private Hire vehicles or Hackney Carriages other than those belonging to or in the care of passengers. You may refuse to carry a hirer's animal at your discretion. However, you must not refuse to carry an assistance dog, unless you have a valid Exemption Certificate issued by the Council. Any animal must be kept under the hirer's control and must be carried in the rear of the vehicle (except assistance dogs). No animals can be carried in the luggage compartment of a vehicle unless the vehicle is an estate car or hatchback, and the animal can be seen from outside the vehicle through a window.

1.54 You must not carry more passengers than the maximum number prescribed by the conditions attached to the Hackney Carriage your Private Hire vehicle licence and displayed on the vehicle plate.

1.55 You must carry a reasonable amount of luggage and assist them in loading it and unloading it from the vehicle.

1.56 You must not carry any additional passengers not already accompanying the hirer in the vehicle without the hirer's permission.

1.57 You must not carry more than one person in the front seat unless the vehicle is furnished with manufacturer fitted seats for more than one passenger in the front of the vehicle and provided with seat belts for all front seat passengers. In this case no more than 2 passengers may be carried.

1.58 You must not carry any child below the age of ten years in the front of the vehicle.

1.59 Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles are not expected to carry a range of child seats. If you are carrying children under the age of 12 you must make any adult with responsibility for the child aware that the correct restraints may not be available and the carriage of the child in those circumstances is at the adult's own risk. Children under 3 years of age can travel unrestrained in a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle if the appropriate restraint is not available. Children over 3 years of age and below 12 years of age or shorter than 135cms (approx. 4ft 6in) must use adult seat belts if the appropriate restraint is not available. If using adult seat belts as opposed to the appropriate child restraint, then the child must travel in the rear seat. Children over 12 years of age or taller than 135cm (approx. 4ft 6in) must use adult seat belts.

VEHICLE CHECKS

1.66 It is your responsibility to ensure that the correct policy of insurance is in force for any Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle that you are driving.

1.67 Before using a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle for the first time each day, you must undertake a "walk around check". This requires that you ensure that the vehicle is roadworthy and fit for use as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle. The check must include the tyres (pressure and tread depth), checking the lights are functioning (so far as is possible with one person – all lights except brake lights), checking all glass (lights and windows) is intact and ensuring there is no obvious damage to the vehicle. Any defects that are detected must be rectified before the vehicle is used to carry passengers.

1.68 Every time you commence driving the vehicle you must ensure that the rear identification plate, supplied by the Council, is securely fixed to the outermost rear of the vehicle, so that it can be clearly read by pedestrians and other road users. You must also ensure that any other identifying information (whether supplied by the Council or not) is correctly and securely attached to the vehicle.

1.69 If you have been issued a certificate of exemption from carrying assistance dogs or providing wheelchair assistance you must ensure that that notice is correctly placed on the nearside of the front windscreen.

1.70 You must not offer or accept any hire of the vehicle except where the hiring has been pre-booked via your Private Hire Operator [does not apply to Hackney Carriages].

LOST PROPERTY

1.71 After every hiring, you must search the vehicle for any misplaced or lost property.

1.72 If any property is found or handed to you, you must, unless it is claimed, take it to a Police Station within 48 hours. Following agreement with the owner of any lost property (and you must take reasonable steps to ensure the person concerned is the rightful owner) you may agree to return the property personally to the owner and charge the metered fare to an agreed meeting point, or £10.00, whichever shall be greater.

TAXIMETERS IN PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES [TAXIMETER USE IN HACKNEY CARRIAGES IS GOVERNED BY THE BYELAWS]

1.73 You may use a meter in the Private Hire vehicle only if it is constructed, attached, and maintained in compliance with the Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions.

1.74 Unless the fare is agreed in advance, you must switch the meter on at the point the hirer's journey commences and keep the meter working until the termination of the hiring.

1.75 You must not cancel or conceal the fare recorded until the hirer has had a reasonable opportunity of examining it and has paid the fare (unless a lesser fare has been agreed).

1.76 You must ensure that the fare charged does not exceed the fare displayed on the meter at the end of the journey.

1.77 You must ensure that when the vehicle is not hired the key is to be locked and the machinery kept inactive, and the meter must show no fare at any time.

1.78 You must ensure that the meter is sufficiently illuminated when in use and is visible to passengers.

1.79 You must not (nor may you allow anyone else) to tamper with the meter or any seal on the meter without lawful excuse or alter any meter with the intent to mislead.

PLYING FOR HIRE WHEN DRIVING A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE [DOES NOT APPLY WHEN DRIVING A HACKNEY CARRIAGE]

1.80 You must not pick up passengers who have not pre-booked with your operator.

1.81 You must not offer or accept an offer for the immediate hire of a vehicle while it is being used in a public place.

1.82 You must not park or wait on or near any Hackney Carriage Rank or drop passengers off on a Hackney Carriage rank.

FARES WHEN A HACKNEY CARRIAGE IS USED FOR PRE-BOOKED WORK

1.83 A Hackney Carriage can be used for pre-booked work both within the Council and elsewhere. When the journey is wholly within the zone/county, or commences or ends in Wokingham Borough, the fare charged cannot be greater than that displayed on the meter or in accordance with the table of fares. Where a pre-booked journey commences and ends outside Wokingham Borough the table of fares and the meter do not control the maximum fare that can be charged. In these circumstances the fare to be charged must be negotiated between the hirer and the driver or booking agent.

Appendix Four: Legal Requirements (contained in national legislation) when driving a Hackney Carriage

YOUR TAXI DRIVER LICENCE AND BADGE

1.1 When driving a Hackney Carriage you must wear one copy of your badge in the issued armband, on your left upper arm always whilst you are working as a Hackney Carriage Driver. and you commit a criminal offence if you do not do so, for which you might be prosecuted.

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

1.2 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must carry an assistance dog and allow it to remain with their owner unless you have a certificate of exemption issued by the Council. You must not make any additional charge for doing so. When you are carrying an assistance dog you must allow it to be carried wherever the owner requires i.e., you cannot insist on the dog being separated from the owner or the owner and dog sitting in a particular seat (Section 168 Equality Act 2010).

1.3 When you are driving a Hackney Carriage that has been designated as a wheelchair accessible vehicle in a list maintained by the Council under section 167 of the Equality Act 2010, you must comply with the duties and provide mobility assistance to any passenger in a wheelchair as detailed in section 165 of the Equality Act 2010.

1.4 The duties are:

- To carry the passenger while in the wheelchair
- Not to make any additional charge for doing so
- If the passenger chooses to sit in a passenger seat, to carry the wheelchair
- To take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the passenger is carried in safety and reasonable comfort
- To give the passenger such mobility assistance as is reasonably required

1.5 And mobility assistance is:

- To enable the passenger to get into or out of the vehicle
- If the passenger wishes to remain in the wheelchair, to enable the passenger to get into and out of the vehicle while in the wheelchair
- To load the passenger's luggage into or out of the vehicle

If the passenger does not wish to remain in the wheelchair, to load the wheelchair into or out of the vehicle

1.6 In vehicles equipped with a taxi meter, the meter must not be activated until the wheelchair bound passenger has been properly loaded and secured for the journey, all

loading ramps or other equipment have been properly stowed and the vehicle is ready to commence the journey. At the end of the journey the meter must be stopped before any unloading activity commences.

CONDUCT

1.7 You must not drive a Hackney Carriage at any time if you do not hold a taxi driver's licence, or if your licence has been suspended (section 47 Town Police Clauses Act 1847).

1.8 You must not lend your taxi drivers licence to anybody else (section 47 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)

1.9 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must accept a hiring for from a Hackney Carriage stand (taxi rank) or when you are stationary on the highway for a journey within the Council's area unless you have a "reasonable excuse" to refuse (section 53 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)

1.10 When driving a Hackney Carriage if you agree to charge a fare lower than that shown on the meter for a journey in a Hackney Carriage then you cannot charge more than that agreed fare (section 54 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)

1.11 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must not charge more than the fare shown on the meter of a Hackney Carriage for a journey wholly within the Council's area, irrespective of how the journey was arranged (s55 1847 Act)

1.12 When driving a Hackney Carriage if you have agreed to accept a fixed amount of money for a journey, you must ensure that the journey lasts until that amount is shown on the meter (section 56 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)

1.13 When driving a Hackney Carriage if you have been hired and are asked to wait, and either a deposit has been paid or the meter is running, you must wait until that hirer returns to your Hackney Carriage (section 57 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)

1.14 When driving a Hackney Carriage you must not charge more than the fare shown on the meter for a journey within the district (section 58 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)

1.15 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must not carry anyone apart from the hirer and their companions without the express consent of that hirer (section 59 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)

1.15 You must not drive any Hackney Carriage without the consent of the Hackney Carriage proprietor (if that is not yourself) (section 60 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)

1.16 You must not leave a Hackney Carriage unattended at a Hackney Carriage stand (section 62 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)

1.17 You must not prevent any other driver of a Hackney Carriage from taking a fare, or obstruct them in picking up or sitting down passengers (section 62 Town Police Clauses Act 1847)

1.18 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must produce your taxi drivers' licence if requested to do so by an authorised officer of the Council (another Council with whom a reciprocal arrangement exists) or any police constable (s53(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)

1.19 You must return your driver's licence to the Council within 7 days if you lose the right to remain or work in the UK (s53A(8) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)

1.20 You must not make any false statement or withhold any information when applying to renew your taxi drivers' licence (s57(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)

1.21 You must return your licence, drivers' badge(s) and armband to the Council within 14 days of any suspension, revocation or refusal to renew your licence (s61(2)(a) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)

1.22 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must not charge more than the fare shown on the meter of a Hackney Carriage for a journey that ends outside the Council's area unless a different fare was agreed in advance (s66 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)

1.23 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must not charge more than the metered fare for a pre-booked journey which is wholly within or starts or finishes within the Council's area. (s67 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)

1.24 You must use the shortest available reasonable route for all journeys by Hackney Carriage, subject to any directions given by the hirer. (Section 69 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)

1.25 You must not tamper with any seal on a taximeter or alter the taximeter with any intent to mislead (s71 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and Hackney Carriage Bylaw)

1.26 You must not obstruct, fail to comply with any requirement made by, or fail to give any information to, an authorised officer of the Council, an authorised officer of another Council with which there is a reciprocal enforcement arrangement, or a police constable (s73 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)

1.27 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must not conceal obscure the number of the Hackney Carriage whilst standing or plying for hire (Hackney Carriage Bylaw)

1.28 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must not activate the taximeter when standing or plying for hire, but you must activate the meter before the journey commences but not until passengers are properly seated and secured. At the end of the journey, you must stop the meter. This should be before passengers alight from the vehicle. (Hackney Carriage Bylaw)

1.29 When driving a Hackney Carriage and you are plying for hire you must proceed to a Hackney Carriage stand (rank) and if that rank is full, proceed to another stand. When you arrive at a stand that is not full you must position the vehicle behind the rearmost vehicle on the stand and move forward as space becomes available (Hackney Carriage Bylaw)

1.30 You must not use the services of any other person to importune (encourage forcefully) anyone to hire your Hackney Carriage (Hackney Carriage Bylaw)

1.31 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must behave in a civil and orderly manner and take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of persons entering, carried in or alighting from the Hackney Carriage (Hackney Carriage Bylaw)

1.32 When driving a Hackney Carriage if you have been pre-booked you must attend at the appointed time and place (Hackney Carriage Bylaw)

1.33 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must not carry more passengers in the Hackney Carriage than the conditions attached to the vehicle licence permit (Hackney Carriage Bylaw)

1.34 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must carry a reasonable quantity of luggage for the hirer and assist them in loading and unloading, including taking it from or to any building (Hackney Carriage Bylaw)

1.35 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must search the vehicle for lost property after every hiring (Hackney Carriage Bylaw)

1.36 When driving a Hackney Carriage, you must take any lost property which is not claimed within 48 hours to any staffed police station within the district of Wokingham Borough (Hackney Carriage Bylaw)

Appendix Five: Legal Requirements (contained in national legislation) when driving a Private Hire vehicle

YOUR TAXI DRIVER LICENCE AND BADGE

1.1 When driving a Private Hire vehicle you must wear one copy of your badge in the issued armband, on your left upper arm always whilst you are working as Private Hire Driver. and you commit a criminal offence if you do not do so, for which you might be prosecuted (s54 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976)

DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION

1.2 When your operator has accepted a booking for a passenger with an assistance dog (whether the existence of the dog has been communicated to you), you must carry that assistance dog and allow it to remain with their owner unless you have a certificate of exemption issued by the Council. When you are carrying an assistance dog you must allow it to be carried wherever the owner requires i.e., you cannot insist on the dog being separated from the owner or the owner and dog sitting in a particular seat (Section 170 Equality Act 2010).

1.3 When you are driving a Private Hire vehicle that has been designated as a wheelchair accessible vehicle in a list maintained by the Council under section 167 of the Equality Act 2010, you must comply with the duties and provide mobility assistance to any passenger in a wheelchair as detailed in section 165 of the Equality Act 2010.

1.4 The duties are:

- To carry the passenger while in the wheelchair
- Not to make any additional charge for doing so
- If the passenger chooses to sit in a passenger seat, to carry the wheelchair
- To take such steps as are necessary to ensure that the passenger is carried in safety and reasonable comfort
- To give the passenger such mobility assistance as is reasonably required.

1.5 And mobility assistance is:

- To enable the passenger to get into or out of the vehicle;
- If the passenger wishes to remain in the wheelchair, to enable the passenger to get into and out of the vehicle while in the wheelchair;
- To load the passenger's luggage into or out of the vehicle;
- If the passenger does not wish to remain in the wheelchair, to load the wheelchair into or out of the vehicle.

1.6 In vehicles equipped with a taxi meter, the meter must not be activated until the wheelchair bound passenger has been properly loaded and secured for the journey, all loading ramps or other equipment have been properly stowed and the vehicle is ready to

commence the journey. At the end of the journey the meter must be stopped before any unloading activity commences.

1.7 You must not drive a Private Hire vehicle at any time when your taxi drivers' licence has been suspended (s46(1)(b) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976).

1.8 When driving a Private Hire vehicle, you must produce your taxi drivers' licence if requested to do so by an authorised officer of the Council (another Council with whom a reciprocal arrangement exists) or any police constable (s53(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976).

1.9 You must return your driver's licence to the Council within 7 days if you lose the right to remain or work in the UK (s53A (8) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976).

1.10 You must not make any false statement or withhold any information when applying to renew your taxi drivers' licence (s57(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976).

1.11 You must return your licence and drivers badge to the Council within 14 days of any suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew your licence (s61(2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976).

1.12 When driving a Private Hire vehicle you must use the shortest available reasonable route for all journeys by Private Hire vehicle, subject to any directions given by the hirer. (Section 69 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976).

1.13 You must not tamper with any seal on a taximeter also the taximeter with any intent to mislead (s71 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976).

1.14 You must not obstruct, fail to comply with any requirement made by, or fail to give any information to, an authorised officer of the Council, an authorised officer of another Council with which there is a reciprocal enforcement arrangement, or a police constable (s73 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976).

1.15 You must not drive any Private Hire vehicle with any roof sign which includes the words "taxi", "cab" or "hire", any similar words or anything which would indicate the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage (section 64 Transport Act 1980).

Appendix Six: Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Conditions

1.1 In these conditions which are imposed under the provisions of section 47 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 , unless otherwise indicated;

“the Licensing Authority” will mean the Council

“the Proprietor” means the person who has been granted the licence by the Council under section 37 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847

“the Vehicle” means the vehicle that is specified on the licence granted under section 37 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847.

1.2 The following conditions will be attached to every Hackney Carriage (proprietors) vehicle licence unless specifically altered by the Council. Additional conditions that are reasonably necessary will be attached to vehicle licenses on a case-by-case basis.

GENERAL

1.3 The licensee must notify the Council of the location where the vehicle is kept regularly when not in use (excluding occasional locations that may be used e.g., for servicing and holidays) and any authorised officer must be afforded such facilities as may be reasonably necessary to inspect and test the vehicle there.

1.4 If the vehicle is licensed by any other Council, the Proprietor must immediately stop carrying out any work under their licence. They must, return the licence issued by the Council to the licensing department of the Council within five working days.

IDENTIFICATION PLATES AND CARDS

1.5 The identification plate, additional signage and all fare cards and licence cards always remain the property of the Council, and must be returned on surrender, suspension, revocation, or expiry of the licence or if the vehicle is sold, or disposed of, out of the licensed trade. If a plate is lost or stolen it must be reported to the police. A crime or lost property number must be obtained, and the Council informed within 24 hours.

1.6 The plate must be securely fixed to the rear exterior of the Vehicle using the Council’s approved backing plate and permanent fixings. Velcro, adhesive, magnets, and brackets are not acceptable. The security of the plate will be checked as part of the scheduled vehicle test and at any spot checks. The licence plate will be fixed with security toggles under the supervision of an authorised officer of the Council. The Council reserves the right to inspect the plate at any time.

1.7 All vehicles must always display the roof sign correctly. Such signs must be securely affixed by means of magnets unless they are an integral part of the vehicle.

1.8 All vehicles must always display the additional signage correctly.

1.9 All Vehicles must display the licence cards, provided by the Council, in the front and rear windscreen always.

MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLE

1.10 The Vehicle, along with all its fittings and equipment must always be kept in an efficient, safe, tidy and clean condition and all relevant statutory requirements must be fully complied with. This includes (but is not limited to) the following:

1.11 The interior and exterior of the vehicle must be maintained in a clean, safe, and proper manner, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council.

1.12 Bodywork must be maintained to a good condition, paintwork must be sound, uniform across the vehicle, well maintained and free of corrosion, dents, scratches, chips and other signs of wear or deterioration, inferior re-spray work and 'cover up' temporary repairs.

1.13 The roof sign must be kept clean, free from obstruction and the illumination must operate correctly when linked to the taximeter.

1.14 The roof (including any sunroof or removable covering) must be watertight.

1.15 Fittings, furniture and additional equipment fitted in the vehicle must be kept in an acceptably clean condition, well maintained and in every way fit for public service. Items such as taximeters, radios, Sat-Nav's, PDA's, mobile phone holders and other ancillary items must be securely mounted in the vehicle in such a position as to not hinder or obstruct the driver's operation of, or view out of, the vehicle, or impede the seating of any passenger.

1.16 The seats must be properly cushioned, covered, and free from cigarette burns, rips, splits, tears, stains or any other signs of excessive deterioration or wear.

1.17 The floor must be covered with carpet, mat, or other suitable material, properly secured and be free from cigarette burns, rips, splits, tears, stains, excessive deterioration and wear.

1.18 The vehicle must be equipped with a suitable bulb-kit indelibly marked with the registration number or licence number of the vehicle to provide for the replacement of defective bulbs

1.19 The doors, windows and seats must function in accordance with the original manufacturer's specification.

1.20 The proprietor/driver employed to drive the vehicle must undertake a daily safety check of the vehicle. As a minimum this must be a visual check on all lights, oil, water, tyres, mirrors, seat belts and cleanliness. A written record must be made of each safety

check, details of faults recorded, and remedial action taken. The record must be signed by the person undertaking the safety checks and kept in the vehicle for a minimum of 30 days and then for a further 6 months by the proprietor.

1.21 If required by a Police Officer or Authorised Officer the driver must produce, to that officer, the recorded daily checks kept in the vehicle and the proprietor, on request by that officer, must produce those recorded checks in his possession and/or those kept in the vehicle.

1.22 If the Vehicle fails a Hackney Carriage Test the Proprietor or driver of the Vehicle must present the Vehicle for a Hackney Carriage Test again within 14 days or return the licence plate to the Council. Until a pass certificate is issued the Vehicle cannot be used as a Hackney Carriage.

1.23 If a vehicle fails a Hackney Carriage test, an authorised officer of the Council at the test station will issue a suspension notice under section 60(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. That will immediately suspend the vehicle licence, from which point it cannot be used as a Hackney Carriage. That suspension notice will be lifted when the vehicle is presented for a retest and that test is passed. If the suspension notice is not lifted within a period of 2 calendar months from the date on which it was issued, the vehicle licence will be deemed to be revoked. In that circumstance, any acquired rights will be lost.

1.24 The Proprietor of the Vehicle must provide a copy of all Hackney Carriage Test certificates to the Council within 7 days of receiving them.

1.25 If the Vehicle has been involved in an accident, then the Proprietor must notify the Council within 2 days and at the discretion of the Council, the Vehicle may have to undergo a further inspection at one of the Councils nominated testing stations.

DOORS

1.26 All doors designed by the manufacturer to allow the access or egress of passengers must function correctly and be capable of being opened from the inside and the outside.

1.27 Tailgates and rear doors must only to be used for loading/unloading luggage or as an emergency exit, unless the vehicle has been designed, modified, or adapted to carry wheelchair bound passengers, and has the relevant M1 or M2 Type Approval Certificate, in which case the rear doors may be used for loading those passengers only.

VENTILATION

1.28 The driver's window and all passenger windows must function correctly and be capable of being opened and closed by the driver or passengers.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES (WAV'S)

1.29 The following conditions apply to all Hackney Carriage vehicles which are built or adapted for the carriage of wheelchair bound passengers.

1.30 All equipment and devices used for or involved in the loading, unloading and secure transportation of wheelchair bound passengers must always function correctly and must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

1.31 Access to and egress from the wheelchair carrying position must not be obstructed in any manner, at any time, except by wheelchair loading apparatus.

1.32 All wheelchair internal anchorage points and equipment must be of the manufacturers design and construction and not altered or modified in any way. All such equipment must be secured in such a position as to not obstruct any emergency exit when the equipment is not in use.

1.33 The manufacturers seat belt for the wheelchair bound passenger must always be used when a wheelchair is being carried.

1.34 Access ramps or lifts must be securely fixed to the vehicle prior to and must always display information prescribed by other legislation and manufacturers markings.

1.35 Ramps, steps and lifts must be securely stored in the vehicle before driving off.

1.36 The licensee must ensure that all drivers of wheelchair accessible vehicles have received sufficient training to be able to load/unload and convey wheelchair bound passengers in safety and comfort.

SEATBELTS

1.37 Seat belts must be used in accordance with the requirements of the legislation that is applicable at the relevant time.

TYRES

1.38 All tyres on the licensed vehicle and any trailer used on the licensed vehicle must be in good condition and conform with the minimum legal requirements subject to an additional requirement that there must be at least 2 mm tread depth at all times.

1.39 Tyres must be correctly inflated to the vehicle / tyre manufacturer's recommended pressure.

1.40 The vehicle must be always equipped with, a spare wheel or other manufacturers standard equipment for the vehicle to deal with a punctured or damaged wheel or tyre (such as a gel or foam repair kit).

1.41 All replacement tyres fitted to licensed vehicles must be new (i.e., not have been used previously on any other vehicle), meet the vehicle manufacturers minimum specification

for tyres and must have been fitted by a reputable vehicle maintenance company / contractor. Vehicle proprietors are required to retain invoices / receipts to show that any tyre that is purchased meets this requirement.

1.42 'Space saving' spare wheels must only be used in an emergency, and then only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Should the use of a 'space saving' spare wheel become necessary during a period of hire then the journey may continue, but the wheel must be replaced before another journey carrying passengers commences.

ALTERATION OF VEHICLE

1.43 No material alteration or change in the specification, design, condition, or appearance of the Vehicle can be made without the written approval of the Council at any time while this licence is in force.

1.44 No fixtures or fittings, except those approved in writing by the Council can be attached to the outside of the Vehicle.

1.45 All glazing must always comply with The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 regulation thirty-two with regards to the level of tint. The front windscreen must let at least 75% of light through and the front side windows must let at least 70% of light through. No darker tint is permitted for any glass. The application of aftermarket tinted film to any window is not permitted.

SEATS AND PASSENGERS

1.46 In all licensed vehicles provided with a passenger side air bag, no child can be carried in a rear-facing carrier in the front passenger seat.

1.47 A notice must be displayed in the vehicle reminding passengers that it is a statutory requirement to wear the seat belts provided.

1.48 Any excess seating fixings which were removed or permanently capped before the vehicles licensed must not be replaced or exposed during the currency of the licence.

ADVERTISING

1.49 Advertising on the outside of the Vehicle is restricted to the name and telephone number of the Proprietor or operator of the Vehicle. Sponsored advertising of other businesses or products or services is not permitted on the outside of the Vehicle, unless written permission is obtained from the Council.

LUGGAGE

1.50 Luggage and storage areas must be kept as free space for passenger's luggage.

1.51 Luggage must be suitably secured in place and must not obstruct any exit, or emergency exit.

1.52 Vehicles with open luggage space such as estate cars must be fitted with a suitable guard between the luggage space and the passenger compartment which must be in use whenever passengers are carried.

1.53 Vehicles with no clear demarcation between the passenger and luggage areas must be fitted with suitable restraining straps or other approved devices to secure the luggage and prevent it coming into contact with any passenger at any time (including in the case of an accident). These restraining straps or devices must be used whenever passengers' luggage is being carried.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

1.54 A fire extinguisher must be provided to meet BS EN 31996 1Kg and always maintained and be readily available for use. The fire extinguisher must be clearly and permanently marked with the Vehicle registration and Vehicle licence number. This must be securely fixed in the Vehicle and must **not** be located in the passenger compartment, unless the vehicle is a purpose-built Taxi, which has a purpose-built fire extinguisher compartment already in the Vehicle. Clear signage must be displayed to alert passengers to the location of the fire extinguisher.

FIRST AID KIT

1.55 A first aid kit must be always readily available. The first aid kit must stock to the same level and quantity as originally supplied and be must of a suitable and comprehensive type that meets the requirements of British Standard BS8599-2 (medium sized kit) and be permanently and legibly marked with the registration number or licence number of the vehicle.

RADIO EQUIPMENT

1.56 The Proprietor must ensure that any radio equipment fitted to the Vehicle is at all times kept in a safe and sound condition and maintained in proper working order.

TAXIMETER

1.57 The Proprietor must ensure the Vehicle is fitted with a taximeter approved by the Council, and that meter must be always kept in good repair and proper working order.

1.58 The taximeter must be set for the current tariff set by the Council or a continually lower rate and must be sealed to prevent unauthorised adjustment of that meter.

1.59 All taxi meters must be so constructed, or programmed, that it is not possible for any person to manually alter the tariff rate, or otherwise alter or tamper with the meter, without breaking the affixed seals. Each meter must be set, calibrated, and sealed with a tamper-proof seal by a competent meter installer.

1.60 The vehicle licence holder must obtain and retain written certification of such calibration and sealing. This certification must be provided to an authorised office of the Council upon request.

1.61 The taximeter must be fitted with a mechanism which will start the taximeter and make the word “HIRED” to appear on the display, and a means of stopping the taximeter from recording time and distance so that for that period no fare is recorded.

1.62 When the taximeter is recording a fare, that must be displayed clearly, legibly and unambiguously on the meter display which must be sufficiently illuminated to enable it to be easily read in all conditions.

1.63 The word “FARE” must be printed alongside the display.

1.64 The taximeter must be located so that the entire display is plainly visible to any person travelling in the vehicle. The mechanism for activating the meter must be linked to the roof sign to ensure that when the meter is activated the roof sign light is switched off. It must not be possible to illuminate the roof sign by any other means.

1.65 If a fare has not been agreed between the driver (or booking agent) and the customer then the fare charged must be that which is shown on the meter.

1.66 The Proprietor must ensure that a copy of the current fare table supplied by the Council is always displayed inside the Vehicle and that table is not concealed from view or rendered illegible. If the meter is set to a lower rate, an additional fare table detailing the lower rate must also be displayed.

1.67 At all times, vehicles must be fitted with a roof sign that complies with the dimensions and specification detailed in the Hackney Carriage policy, together with any other additional signage that is so specified.

INSURANCE

1.68 At all times during the currency of this licence the Proprietor must maintain a policy of insurance complying with the requirements of Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988 which covers Hackney Carriage use.

1.69 The Proprietor must produce to the Council a new Certificate of Insurance or cover note within 2 working days of the expiry of every Certificate of Insurance or cover note prior to renewal date. These must be original documents; photocopies will not be accepted.

VEHICLE DAMAGE

1.70 The proprietor must, as soon as reasonably practicable, but in any case, within 72 hours, notify the Council, in writing on the Councils prescribed form, details of any accident involving the vehicle or, of any damage to the vehicle however caused, which

affects the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle or the comfort or convenience of persons carried therein. The vehicle must not be used until the Council have inspected the vehicle.

1.71 A Council test may be necessary to demonstrate that the vehicle is roadworthy. The cost of such a test is to be paid by the proprietor. If the Council determined that the vehicle is unfit for use as a Private Hire vehicle, a suspension notice under section 68 will be issued.

ROOF RACKS AND ROOF BOXES

1.72 Where a roof rack is used it must be properly secured to the roof in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements, must not carry a weight of luggage greater than that specified by the roof rack manufacturer and/or vehicle manufacturer, and all luggage must be covered with a waterproof cover.

1.73 Where a roof box is used, it must be properly secured to the roof in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements, must not carry a weight of luggage greater than that specified by the roof rack manufacturer and/or vehicle manufacturer, and must be properly closed and secured.

1.74 When either a roof rack or roof box is fitted, a second roof light must be fitted to the roof of the vehicle to enable the front and rear of the lights to be clearly seen ahead of and behind the roof rack or roof box. (This does not apply to purpose-built vehicles with an integral front facing roof sign). The 2nd sign must be removed when the roof rack or roof box is removed.

DEPOSIT OF LICENCE

1.75 The Proprietor must not allow the Vehicle to be driven by any person who does not hold a current Dual Driver Licence issued by the Council.

1.76 If the Proprietor permits or employs any person to drive the Vehicle, that person must deposit their Dual Driver Licence with the proprietor who must, retain and safely store it until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted to drive the Vehicle, at which point it must be returned to the driver.

DISPLAY OF CONDITIONS

1.77 The Proprietor of this Vehicle must always have a copy of these conditions within the Vehicle for inspection by passengers.

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO ANY OF THE CONDITIONS OF THIS LICENCE MAY RESULT IN ENFORCEMENT ACTION. ANY ENFORCEMENT ACTION TAKEN WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S ENFORCEMENT POLICIES.

Appendix Seven: Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions

1.1 In these conditions which are imposed under the provisions of section 48(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, unless otherwise indicated.

“the Licensing Authority” will mean the Council

“the Proprietor” means a person who has been granted a licence by the Council under section 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

“the Vehicle” means the vehicle that is specified on the licence granted under section 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

1.2 The following conditions will be attached to every Private Hire vehicle unless specifically altered by the Council. Additional conditions that are reasonably necessary will be attached to the vehicle licenses on a case-by-case basis.

GENERAL

1.3 The licensee must notify the Council of the location where the vehicle is kept regularly when not in use (excluding occasional locations that may be used e.g., for servicing and holidays) and any authorised officer must be afforded such facilities as may be reasonably necessary to inspect and test the vehicle there.

1.4 If the vehicle is licensed by any other Council, the Proprietor must, immediately stop carrying out any work under their Wokingham licence. They must then, return the licence issued by the Council to the licensing department of WokinghamBorough Council within five working days.

IDENTIFICATION PLATES AND CARDS

1.5 The identification plate, additional signage and licence cards always remain the property of the Council and must be returned on surrender, suspension, revocation, or expiry of the licence or if the vehicle is sold, or disposed of, out of the licensed trade. If a plate is lost or stolen it must be reported to the police. A crime or lost property number must be obtained, and the Council informed within 24 hours.

1.6 The plate must be securely fixed to the rear exterior of the Vehicle using the Council’s approved backing plate and permanent fixings. Velcro, adhesive, magnets, and brackets are not acceptable. The security of the plate will be checked as part of the scheduled vehicle test and at any spot checks. The licence plate will be fixed with security toggles under the supervision of an authorised officer of the Council. The Council reserves the right to inspect the plate at any time.

1.7 All Vehicles must display the licence cards, provided by the Council, in the front and rear windscreen always.

1.8 If the Proprietor has a dispensation/exemption certificate in relation to contract work, the Vehicle will still need to display the licence cards on the front and rear windscreens of Vehicle. The licence plate must be always carried in the boot of the vehicle, and the dispensation certificate granted by the Council must be carried in the glove compartment.

MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLE

1.9 The Vehicle along with all its fittings and equipment must always be kept in an efficient, safe, tidy and clean condition and all relevant statutory requirements must be fully complied with. This includes (but is not limited to) the following:

1.10 The interior and exterior of the vehicle must be maintained in a clean, safe, and proper manner, to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council.

1.11 Bodywork must be maintained to a good condition, paintwork must be sound, uniform across the vehicle, well maintained and free of corrosion, dents, scratches, chips and other signs of wear or deterioration, inferior re-spray work and 'cover up' temporary repairs.

1.12 The roof (including any sunroof or removable covering) must be watertight.

1.13 Fittings, furniture and additional equipment fitted in the vehicle must be kept in an acceptably clean condition, well maintained and in every way fit for public service. Items such as taximeters, radios, Sat-Nav's, PDA's, mobile phone holders and other ancillary items must be securely mounted in the vehicle in such a position as to not hinder or obstruct the driver's operation of, or view out of, the vehicle, or impede the seating of any passenger.

1.14 The seats must be properly cushioned, covered, and free from cigarette burns, rips, splits, tears, stains or any other signs of excessive deterioration or wear.

1.15 The floor must be covered with carpet, mat, or other suitable material, properly secured and be free from cigarette burns, rips, splits, tears, stains, excessive deterioration and wear.

1.16 The vehicle must be equipped with a suitable bulb-kit indelibly marked with the registration number or licence number of the vehicle to provide for the replacement of defective bulbs.

1.17 The doors, windows and seats must function in accordance with the original manufacturer's specification.

1.18 The proprietor/driver employed to drive the vehicle must undertake a daily safety check of the vehicle. As a minimum this must be a visual check on all lights, oil, water,

tyres, mirrors, seat belts and cleanliness. A written record must be made of each safety check, details of faults recorded, and remedial action taken. The record must be signed by the person undertaking the safety checks and kept in the vehicle for a minimum of 30 days and then for a further 6 months by the proprietor.

1.19 If required by a Police Officer or Authorised Officer the driver must produce, to that officer, the recorded daily checks kept in the vehicle and the proprietor, on request by that officer, must produce those recorded checks in his possession and/or those kept in the vehicle.

1.20 If a Vehicle fails a Private Hire Test the Proprietor or driver of that Vehicle must present the Vehicle for another Private Hire Test within 14 days or return the licence plate to the Council. Until a pass certificate is issued the Vehicle cannot be used as a Private Hire Vehicle.

1.21 The Proprietor of the Vehicle must provide a copy of all Private Hire Test certificates to the Council within 7 days of receiving them.

1.22 If the Vehicle has been involved in an accident, then the Proprietor must notify the Council within 2 days and at the discretion of the Council, the Vehicle may have to undergo a further inspection at one of the Councils nominated testing stations.

DOORS

1.23 All doors designed by the manufacturer to allow the access or egress of passengers must function correctly and be capable of being opened from the inside and the outside.

1.24 Tailgates and rear doors must only to be used for loading/unloading luggage or as an emergency exit, unless the vehicle has been designed, modified, or adapted to carry wheelchair bound passengers, and has the relevant M1 or M2 Type Approval Certificate, in which case the rear doors may be used for loading those passengers only.

VENTILATION

1.25 The driver's window and all passenger windows must function correctly and be capable of being opened and closed by the driver or passengers.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES (WAV'S)

1.26 The following conditions apply to all Private Hire vehicles which are built or adapted for the carriage of wheelchair bound passengers.

1.27 All equipment and devices used for or involved in the loading, unloading and secure transportation of wheelchair bound passengers must at all times function correctly and must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

1.28 Access to and egress from the wheelchair carrying position must not be obstructed in any manner, at any time, except by wheelchair loading apparatus.

1.29 All wheelchair internal anchorage points and equipment must be of the manufacturers design and construction and not altered or modified in any way. All such equipment must be secured in such a position as to not obstruct any emergency exit when the equipment is not in use.

1.30 The manufacturers seat belt for the wheelchair bound passenger must always be used when a wheelchair is being carried.

1.31 Access ramps or lifts must be securely fixed to the vehicle prior to and must always display information prescribed by other legislation and manufacturers markings.

1.32 Ramps, steps and lifts must be securely stored in the vehicle before driving off.

1.33 The licensee must ensure that all drivers of wheelchair accessible vehicles have received sufficient training to be able to load/unload and convey wheelchair bound passengers in safety and comfort.

SEATBELTS

1.34 Seat belts must be used in accordance with the requirements of the legislation that is applicable at the relevant time.

TYRES

1.35 All tyres on the licensed vehicle and any trailer used on the licensed vehicle must be in good condition and conform with the minimum legal requirements subject to an additional requirement that there must be always at least 2 mm tread depth.

1.36 Tyres must be correctly inflated to the vehicle / tyre manufacturer's recommended pressure.

1.37 The vehicle must be always equipped with, a spare wheel or other manufacturers standard equipment for the vehicle to deal with a punctured or damaged wheel or tyre (such as a gel or foam repair kit).

1.38 All replacement tyres fitted to licensed vehicles must be new (i.e., not have been used previously on any other vehicle), meet the vehicle manufacturers minimum specification for tyres and must have been fitted by a reputable vehicle maintenance company / contractor. Vehicle proprietors are required to retain invoices / receipts to show that any tyre that is purchased meets this requirement.

1.39 'Space saving' spare wheels must only be used in an emergency, and then only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Should the use of a 'space saving' spare wheel become necessary during a period of hire then the journey may continue, but the wheel must be replaced before another journey carrying passengers commences.

ALTERATION OF VEHICLE

1.40 No material alteration or change in the specification, design, condition, or appearance of the Vehicle can be made without the written approval of the Council at any time while the licence is in force.

1.41 No fixtures or fittings, except those approved in writing by the Council, can be attached to the outside of the Vehicle.

1.42 All glazing must always comply with The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 regulation thirty-two with regards to the level of tint. The front windscreen must let at least 75% of light through and the front side windows must let at least 70% of light through. No darker tint is permitted for any glass. The application of aftermarket tinted film to any window is not permitted.

SEATS AND PASSENGERS

1.43 In all licensed vehicles provided with a passenger side air bag, no child can be carried in a rear-facing carrier in the front passenger seat.

1.44 A notice must be displayed in the vehicle reminding passengers that it is a statutory requirement to wear the seat belts provided.

1.45 Any excess seating fixings which were removed or permanently capped before the vehicles licensed must not be replaced or exposed during the currency of the licence.

1.46 Any drinking vessels provided by the Proprietor or driver of the Vehicle must be made of either toughened glass or plastic.

1.47 If any passenger is under the age of 18 years no alcohol in open vessels can be carried in the Vehicle.

1.48 The Proprietor must ensure that there is sufficient means by which any person in the Vehicle may communicate with the driver.

ADVERTISING

1.49 The Proprietor must **not** display or permit to be displayed on or from the Vehicle any sign or notice which consists of or includes the word "Taxi" or "Cab" whether in the singular or plural or "Hire" or any word of similar meaning or appearance to any of those words whether alone or as part of another word.

1.50 Advertising on the outside of the Vehicle is restricted to the name and telephone number of the Proprietor or operator of the Vehicle. Sponsored advertising of other businesses or products or services is not permitted on the outside of the Vehicle, unless written permission is obtained from the Council.

1.51 Luggage and storage areas must be kept as free space for passenger's luggage.

1.52 Luggage must be suitably secured in place and must not obstruct any exit, or emergency exit.

1.53 Vehicles with open luggage space such as estate cars must be fitted with a suitable guard between the luggage space and the passenger compartment which must be in use whenever passengers are carried.

1.54 Vehicles with no clear demarcation between the passenger and luggage areas must be fitted with suitable restraining straps or other approved devices to secure the luggage and prevent it coming into contact with any passenger at any time (including in the case of an accident). These restraining straps or devices must be used whenever passengers' luggage is being carried.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

1.55 A fire extinguisher must be provided to meet BS EN 31996 1Kg and always maintained and be readily available for use. The fire extinguisher must be clearly and permanently marked with the Vehicle registration and Vehicle licence number This must be securely fixed in the Vehicle and must **not** be in the passenger compartment. Clear signage must be displayed to alert passengers to the location of the fire extinguisher

FIRST AID KIT

1.56 A first aid kit must be always readily available. The first aid kit must stock to the same level and quantity as originally supplied and be must of a suitable and comprehensive type that meets the requirements of British Standard BS8599-2 (medium sized kit) and be permanently and legibly marked with the registration number or licence number of the vehicle.

RADIO EQUIPMENT

1.57 The Proprietor must ensure that any radio equipment fitted to the Vehicle is at all times kept in a safe and sound condition and maintained in proper working order.

TAXIMETER (IF FITTED)

1.58 If the Private Hire vehicle is fitted with a taximeter, it must be of a type approved by the Council, and that meter must be kept in good repair and proper working order at all times.

1.59 All taxi meters must be so constructed, or programmed, that it is not possible for any person to manually alter the tariff rate, or otherwise alter or tamper with the meter, without breaking the affixed seals. Each meter must be set, calibrated, and sealed with a tamper-proof seal by a competent meter installer. The vehicle licence holder must obtain and retain written certification of such calibration and sealing. This certification must be provided to an authorised office of the Council upon request.

1.60 The taximeter must be fitted with a mechanism which will start the taximeter and make the word “HIRED” to appear on the display, and a means of stopping the taximeter from recording time and distance so that for that period no fare is recorded.

1.61 When the taximeter is recording a fare, that must be displayed clearly, legibly and unambiguously on the meter display which must be sufficiently illuminated to enable it to be easily read in all conditions.

1.62 The word “FARE” must be printed alongside the display.

1.63 The taximeter must be located so that the entire display is plainly visible to any person travelling in the vehicle.

1.64 If a fare has not been agreed between the operator and the customer, then the fare charged must be that which is shown on the meter.

1.65 The Proprietor must ensure that a notice detailing the fares charged by the operator is always displayed inside the Vehicle and that table is not concealed from view or rendered illegible. It must also contain a statement that the Council has no control over Private Hire fares.

VEHICLE INSURANCE

1.66 At all times during the currency of the licence, the Proprietor must maintain a Policy of Insurance complying with the requirements of Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988 which covers Private Hire use.

1.67 The Proprietor must produce to the Council a new Certificate of Insurance or cover note within 2 working days of the expiry of every Certificate of Insurance or cover note prior to renewal date. These must be original documents photocopies will not be accepted.

VEHICLE DAMAGE

1.68 The proprietor must, as soon as reasonably practicable, but in any case, within 72 hours, notify the Council, in writing on the Councils prescribed form, details of any accident involving the vehicle or, of any damage to the vehicle however caused, which affects the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle or the comfort or convenience of persons carried therein. The vehicle must not be used until the Council have inspected the vehicle.

1.69 A Council test may be necessary to demonstrate that the vehicle is roadworthy. The cost of such a test is to be paid by the proprietor. If the Council determined that the vehicle is unfit for use as a Private Hire vehicle, a suspension notice under section 68 will be issued.

ROOF RACKS AND ROOF BOXES

1.70 Where a roof rack is used it must be properly secured to the roof in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements, must not carry a weight of luggage greater than that specified by the roof rack manufacturer and/or vehicle manufacturer, and all luggage must be covered with a waterproof cover.

1.71 Where a roof box is used, it must be properly secured to the roof in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements, must not carry a weight of luggage greater than that specified by the roof rack manufacturer and/or vehicle manufacturer, and must be properly closed and secured.

DEPOSIT OF LICENCE

1.72 The Proprietor must not allow the Vehicle to be driven by any person who does not hold a current Private Hire/Dual Driver Licence issued by the Council.

1.73 If the Proprietor permits or employs any person to drive the Vehicle, he must inspect and make a copy of that person's Dual Driver Licence or Private Hire Licence and retain and safely store that copy, until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted to drive the Vehicle, at which point it must be returned to the driver.

DISPLAY OF CONDITIONS

1.74 The Proprietor must, have a copy of these conditions within the Vehicle, for inspection by passengers, at all times.

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO ANY OF THE CONDITIONS OF THIS LICENCE MAY RESULT IN ENFORCEMENT ACTION. ANY ENFORCEMENT ACTION TAKEN WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S ENFORCEMENT POLICIES.

Appendix Eight: Private Hire Operator Licence Conditions

1.0 In these conditions which are imposed under the provisions of section 55(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, unless otherwise indicated.

“the Licensing Authority” will mean the Council

“the Operator” shall mean the holder of a licence issued by the Council under section 55 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

GENERAL

1.1 The operator (unless a single person operator/driver/proprietor) must identify a person as the individual with day-to-day managerial responsibility (referred to in these conditions as “the manager”) and notify the Council of their identity and contact details, including a mobile telephone number. That person will be the first point of contact between the Council and the operator. The operator must identify another person as a deputy for holiday and sickness cover and the identity of the deputy, together with their contact details including a mobile telephone number must also be provided to the Council. All references to the manager include references to the deputy when they are acting in that capacity.

DBS CHECKS

1.2 The Operator (where the operator is a partnership or limited company, all partners or directors and secretary of the company) must submit a Disclosure & Barring Service basic disclosure (dated within one month of the application) on or before the anniversary of the granting of the operator’s licence. Failure to do so will result in the licence being suspended until such time as the DBS certificate is provided.

1.3 The cost of these checks will be covered by the applicant/licence holder.

1.4 Where the operator holds a Dual Driver licence or Private Hire driver licence, they are not required to submit a yearly basic disclosure, but the requirement will continue to apply to any partners or directors of a company who do not hold a drivers licence.

1.5 The operator must view a basic DBS certificate (dated within one month of the check) of any staff that have access to booking records or dispatch vehicles.

1.6 The operator must maintain a register of all such staff which shall include a record of when each DBS check has been undertaken. This register must be available for inspection by an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority upon request. The register should include the following:

- the date that person's employment in that role commenced
- the date the operator checked the DBS certificate
- the name of the person that checked the DBS certificate
- the date the person ceased to perform that role

1.7 The register must be retained for 6 months in line with the booking records.

1.8 Should an employee cease to be on the register and later re-enter the register a new basic DBS certificate (or use of the Update Service) should be viewed by the operator.

1.9 Where the applicant/operator employs or intends to employ persons involved in taking bookings or the dispatch of vehicles, the operator must produce and apply a policy on the employment of ex-offenders in those roles. This policy should be based on the Council's previous convictions policy. The policy must be available for inspection on request of an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority. Failure to act in accordance with this requirement, and any subsequent engagement of a person who falls outside the Council's previous convictions policy standards will lead to consideration by the Council as to whether the operator remains a fit and proper person.

1.10 The Operator must require that all staff employed in taking bookings or dispatching vehicles to report to them within 48 hours of any conviction, binding over, caution, warning, reprimand, fixed penalty notice, civil injunction, or arrest for any criminal matter whilst they are employed in this role.

1.11 The operator must make certain that any outsourced booking and dispatch functions have adequate safeguarding measures in place for the protection of children and vulnerable adults. The operator must have required evidence of this from the company before outsourcing these functions.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSES

1.12 The operator must inspect and retain all the Private Hire vehicle licenses and Dual Driver Licence or Private Hire Licenses of vehicles and drivers operated, engaged or

otherwise utilised by the operator. Those licenses must be stored securely and retained for as long as the vehicle or driver is operated by that operator. At the end of that. They must be returned to the vehicle proprietor or driver as appropriate.

RECORDS

1.13 The records required to be kept by the Operator under Section 56(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 must be recorded in English and kept in a suitable book or in any other manner as approved by the Council.

1.14 The Operator must ensure that, the following details of every Private Hire booking invited or accepted by him are recorded before the commencement of each journey:

- the name of the passenger or other identifying features e.g., hotel room number.
- the time of the request;
- the time the vehicle is required
- the pick-up point;
- the destination (if known at that time);
- the name of the driver;
- the driver's licence number;
- the vehicle registration number of the vehicle;
- the vehicle licence number
- the name of any individual that responded to the booking request;
- the name of any individual that dispatched the vehicle.
- if the vehicle being used is covered by a dispensation, the details of, or a reference to, the contract under which the work is undertaken.

1.15 The Operator must keep these records for a period of not less than six calendar months from the date of the entry.

1.16 The Operator must also keep records of all vehicles operated by him. These details shall include:

- details of the proprietor(s)/licensee
- registration number
- any radio call sign used.
- maintenance history of the vehicle.

1.17 The Operator must keep these records for a period of not less than six calendar months from the date the vehicle ceases to be operated by that operator.

1.18 The Operator must keep up to date records of the names and addresses of all licensed drivers who are used by the Operator. The Operator must provide the Council with a list of the following at the end of each calendar month, to arrive within 7 working days the date any driver began working for, or being available to be operated by the operator:

- when any driver's activity above detailed ceased
- any change of address of any driver in service
- when they became aware that any driver was suffering from any illness, disability or condition which may have affected the driver's ability to safely carry out their duties.

1.19 If at any time the operator does become aware of any reason which would or may prevent a driver from safely carrying out their duties (including but not limited to illness or disability) they must immediately cease using that driver until such time as the driver can demonstrate that they can drive a Private Hire vehicle without risk to the public.

1.20 The Operator must keep these records for a period of not less than six calendar months from the date the driver ceases to be engaged or otherwise used to drive Private Hire vehicles by that operator.

1.21 All records and retained licenses must be available for inspection at any reasonable time by an authorised officer of the Council or a police constable.

STANDARDS OF SERVICE

1.22 The Operator must provide a prompt, efficient and reliable service to members of the public at all reasonable times.

1.23 The operator must (but this is not an exhaustive list):

1.24 Ensure that all Private Hire vehicles that have been booked, attend at the appointed time and place unless delayed or prevented by reasonable cause.

1.25 Ensure the vehicle dispatched is a Wokingham licensed Private Hire vehicle and the driver of the vehicle is a Wokingham Borough Council licensed Private Hire driver.

1.26 Keep any premises which are under the control of the Operator, and which are open to the public clean, adequately heated, ventilated and lit.

1.27 Ensure that the hirer is advised that if any passenger is under the age of 18 years, no alcohol in open vessels will be allowed in the vehicle.

1.28 Ensure that any telephone facilities and radio equipment provided are maintained in a sound condition and that any defects are repaired promptly.

1.29 Ensure that the correct licenses are in place for any radio equipment.

1.30 Ensure that it is established at the time of booking how many passengers are to be carried and that the vehicle dispatched to fulfil the booking has an adequate number of passenger seats.

RIDE SHARING/CAR-POOLING

1.31 At the time of booking, individual hirers must be made aware of and explicitly consent to bookings that are part of a ride sharing/carpooling journey.

1.32 As part of ride sharing/car-pooling schemes, operators must offer the option to hirers to only share with other passengers of the same sex. If hirers select this option passengers of the opposite sex may not be added to the same booking.

PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES

1.33 Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) may not be used to undertake a Private Hire vehicle booking, unless with the informed consent of the hirer.

COMPLAINTS

1.34 The Operator or manager must initiate an investigation into any complaint received from the public within 48 hours from receipt of the complaint.

1.35 The operator must maintain a register of complaints (digital or hard copy), which must include the following information:

- Complainant's name, address/email address
- Details of the complaint
- Time and date of the alleged incident

- Time and date the complaint was received by the operator
- How the complaint was received e.g., phone, email etc.
- Name of person that received the complaint.
- Name of the alleged perpetrator
- If the complaint was referred to the Licensing Authority – time and date of when it was referred and by whom.
- Details of the action taken to resolve the complaint and by whom
- Date the complaint was resolved

1.36 A copy of the complaints register must be available for inspection upon request of an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority. The records must be retained for a period of 6 months.

1.37 The operator must on receipt of a complaint concerning a licensed driver, immediately notify the complainant of their right to direct their complaint to the Licensing Authority.

1.38 The Operator must ensure that details of how a customer may contact the operator in the event of any complaint relating to a booking or other contract are displayed on the operator’s website, booking app or in the absence of online booking platform, at the booking office.

1.39 Where a complaint is received by the Licensing Authority, the operator must comply with any reasonable request for information and/or follow any reasonable directions/instructions made by an authorised officer or police officer in respect of the complaint

1.40 The Operator must notify the Licensing Authority within 48 hours if the operator receives a complaint about a driver operated by them when it has been identified that the complaint relates to any of the following:

- allegations of sexual misconduct (including the use of sexualised language)
- racist behaviour
- violence (including verbal aggression)
- dishonesty including theft
- Equality breaches

- any other serious misconduct (including motoring related for example dangerous driving or drink driving).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

1.41 The Operator must notify the Council in writing of any change of his address (including any address or addresses from which he operates or otherwise conducts his business as an Operator) within 7 days of such change taking place.

CONVICTIONS

1.42 The Operator must notify the Council in writing of any conviction, caution, fixed penalty notice, injunction, restraining order or other matter which might affect his continuing fitness and propriety imposed on him, or any criminal charge against him within 7 days. The same requirement applies to any partners in the case of a partnership holding an operator's licence and to any directors and secretary of any limited company in the case of a limited company holding an operator's licence.

ADVERTISING

1.43 The Operator must not display or permit to be displayed on or from his premises or from any other place, any sign or notice which consists of or includes the word "Taxi" or "CAB" whether in the singular or plural or any word of a similar meaning except where the Operator also takes bookings for Hackney Carriages.

INSURANCE

1.44 Any premises that are under the control of the operator and are open to the public must be covered by Public Liability Insurance,

1.45 This insurance policy (or a summary) must be clearly displayed at the premises where it can be seen by the public.

1.46 Operators must ensure that at all times there is in force, for all Private Hire vehicles operated, a policy of insurance covering Private Hire use or such security as complies with the requirements of Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

1.47 Operators must ensure that where a vehicle is covered under a fleet insurance policy, drivers are aware of the content of the policy, including its limitations and exclusions. The operator must keep a record, signed by the driver, within each

individual's record file when this has been completed. A copy of any individual's records must be produced, on request, to any authorised officer of the Licensing Authority.

PERSONAL DATA

1.48 The loss of personal data by theft or otherwise (including any hacking of the operators' computer systems) must be reported to the Council in writing within 24 hours, and also immediately to the police in the event of theft being suspected. The operator must also check whether any a data loss needs to be reported to the Information Commissioner's Office, for more information see: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/report-a-breach/>

WORKING HOURS

1.49 The operator must take steps to ensure that drivers do not work excessively long hours. Drivers should not be permitted to drive for more than 10 hours per day and must have a break lasting at least 30 minutes after driving for 5½ hours. The driver must also have a break at the end of this period, unless it is the end of the working day.

DISPLAY OF CONDITIONS

1.50 The Operator must display a copy of these conditions in any premises which are under his control and open to the public. A copy of the conditions attached to vehicle and driver licenses must be available for inspection on request by a member of the public.

SUBCONTRACTING

1.51 If the operator subcontracts any booking to another operator licensed in England (including Greater London) Wales or Scotland, the operator who initially accepted the booking remains liable under the contract.

1.52 If any booking is subcontracted to another operator, then the operator who initially accepted the booking must inform the hirer of the subcontract before the hiring commences .

INFORMATIVE

1.53 The Operator must understand that a booking that has been accepted by whatever means, is a contract and failure to uphold that (whether by non-attendance by the

vehicle, late attendance, or any other shortfall in performance) may lead to a claim for breach of contract. The accurate recording of booking details is a means of protecting the operator if such circumstances arise.

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO ANY OF THE CONDITIONS OF THIS LICENCE MAY RESULT IN ENFORCEMENT ACTION. ANY ENFORCEMENT ACTION TAKEN WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S ENFORCEMENT POLICIES.

Appendix Nine: Wokingham Borough Council Byelaws

Made under Section 68 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and Section 171 of the Public Health Act 1875 by Wokingham Borough Council with respect to hackney carriages in the Wokingham Borough.

INTERPRETATION

1. Throughout these byelaws "the Council" means the Wokingham Borough Council and "the Borough" means the borough of Wokingham.

Provisions regulating the manner in which the number of each hackney carriage corresponding with the number of its licence, shall be displayed

2.

(a) The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause the number of the licence granted to him in respect of the carriage to be legibly painted or marked on the outside and inside of the carriage, or on plates affixed thereto.

(b) A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall:

(i) not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer any such number to be concealed from public view while the carriage is standing or plying for hire; and

(ii) not cause or permit the carriage to stand or ply for hire with any such painting marking or plate so defaced that any figure or material particular is illegible.

Provisions regulating how hackney carriages are to be furnished or provided

3. The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall:

(a) provide sufficient means by which any person in the carriage may communicate with the driver;

(b) cause the roof or covering to be kept water-tight;

- (c) provide any necessary windows and a means of opening and closing not less than one window on each side;
 - (d) cause the seats to be properly cushioned or covered;
 - (e) cause the floor to be provided with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable covering;
 - (f) cause the fittings and furniture generally to be kept in a clean condition, well maintained and in every way fit for public service;
 - (g) provide means for securing luggage if the carriage is so constructed as to carry luggage;
 - (h) provide an efficient 1Kg fire extinguisher which complies with the current British Standard to be carried in such a position as to be readily available for use; and
 - (i) provide at least two doors for the use of persons conveyed in such carriage and a separate means of ingress and egress for the driver.
4. The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause the same to be provided with a taximeter so constructed, attached and maintained as to comply with the following requirements, that is, to say:-
- (a) the taximeter shall be fitted with a key, flag, or other device the turning of which will bring the machinery of the taximeter into action and cause the word "HIRED" to appear on the face of the taximeter;
 - (b) such key, flag, or other device shall be capable of being locked in such a position that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action and that no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter;
 - (c) when the machinery of the taximeter is in action there shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter in clearly legible figures a fare not exceeding the rate or fare which the proprietor or driver is entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage by time as well as for distance in pursuance of the tariff fixed by the Council in that behalf.
 - (d) the word "FARE" shall be printed on the face of the taximeter in plain letters so as clearly to apply to the fare recorded thereon;

- (e) the taximeter shall be so placed that all letters and figures on the face thereof are at all times plainly visible to any person being conveyed in the carriage, and for that purpose the letters and figures shall be capable of being suitably illuminated during any period of hiring; and
- (f) the taximeter and all the fittings thereof shall be so affixed to the carriage with seals or other appliances that it shall not be practicable for any person to tamper with them except by breaking, damaging or permanently displacing the seals or other appliances.

Provisions regulating the conduct of the proprietors and drivers of hackney carriages plying within the borough in their several employments, and determining whether such drivers shall wear any and what badges

5. The driver of a hackney carriage provided with a taximeter shall:-
 - (a) when standing or plying for hire, keep the key, flag or other device fitted in pursuance of the byelaw in that behalf locked in the position in which no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter;
 - (b) before beginning a journey for which a fare is charged for distance and time, bring the machinery of the taximeter into action by moving the said key, flag or other device, so that the word "HIRED" is legible on the face of the taximeter and keep the machinery of the taximeter in action until the termination of the hiring; and
 - (c) cause the dial of the taximeter to be kept properly illuminated throughout any part of a hiring which is between half-an-hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise and also at any other time at the request of the hirer.
6. A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not tamper with or permit any person to tamper with any taximeter with which the carriage is provided, with the fittings thereof, or with the seals affixed thereto.
7. The driver of a hackney carriage shall, when plying for hire in any street and not actually hired:-
 - (a) proceed with reasonable speed to one of the stands appointed by the Council;

- (b) if a stand, at any time of his arrival, is occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, proceed to another stand;
 - (c) on arriving at a stand not already occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, station the carriage immediately behind the carriage or carriages on the stand and so as to face in the same direction; and
 - (d) from time to time when any other carriage immediately in front is driven off or moved forward cause his carriage to be moved forward so as to fill the place previously occupied by the carriage driven off or moved forward.
8. A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage, when standing or plying for hire, shall not make use of the services of any other person for the purpose of importuning any person to hire such carriage.
 9. The driver of a hackney carriage shall behave in a civil and orderly manner and shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of persons conveyed in or entering or alighting from the vehicle.
 10. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage who has agreed or has been hired to be in attendance with the carriage at an appointed time and place shall, unless delayed or prevented by some sufficient cause, punctually attend with such carriage at such appointed time and place.
 11. A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in such carriage any greater number of persons than the number of persons specified on the plate affixed to the outside of the carriage.
 12. If a badge has been provided by the Council and delivered to the driver of a hackney carriage he shall, when standing or plying for hire, and when hired, wear that badge in such position and manner as to be plainly visible.
 13. The driver of a hackney carriage so constructed as to carry luggage shall, when requested by any person hiring or seeking to hire the carriage:
 - (a) convey a reasonable quantity of luggage;
 - (b) afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading; and

- (c) afford reasonable assistance in removing it to or from the entrance of any building, station or place at which he may take up or set down such person.

Provisions fixing the rates or fares to be paid for hackney carriages within the borough, and securing the due publication of such fares.

14.

- (a) The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall be entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage the rate or fare prescribed by the Council, the rate or fare being calculated by a combination of distance and time unless the hirer express at the commencement of the hiring his desire to engage by time.
- (b) Provided always that where a hackney carriage furnished with a taximeter shall be hired by distance the proprietor or driver thereof shall not be entitled to demand and take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter, save for any extra charges authorised by the Council, which it may not be possible to record on the face of the taximeter.

15.

- (a) The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause a statement of the fares fixed by council resolution to be exhibited inside the carriage, in clearly distinguishable letters and figures.
- (b) The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage bearing a statement of fares in accordance with this byelaw shall not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer the letters or figures in the statement to be concealed or rendered illegible at any time while the carriage is plying or being used for hire.

Provisions securing the safe custody and redelivery of any property accidentally left in hackney carriages and fixing the charges to be made in respect thereof.

16. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall immediately after the termination of any hiring or as soon as practicable thereafter carefully search the carriage for any property which may have been accidentally left therein.
17. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall, if any property accidentally left therein by any person who may have been conveyed in the carriage be found by or handed to him:-
 - (a) carry it as soon as possible and in any event within 48 hours, or next working day whichever is sooner, unless it is claimed sooner by or on behalf its owner, to the office of the Council in the borough and leave it in the custody of the officer in charge of the office on his giving a receipt for it; and
 - (b) be entitled to receive from any person to whom the property shall be re-delivered an amount equal to five pence in the pound of its estimated value (or the fare for the distance from the place of finding to office of the Council, whichever be the greater) but not more than five pounds.

Penalties

18. Every person who shall offend against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Level 2 on the Standard Scale and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine not exceeding two pounds for each day during which the offence continues after conviction therefor.

Repeals of Byelaws

19. The byelaws relating to hackney carriages which were made by the Wokingham District Council on the 7th day of April 1975 and which were confirmed by the Secretary of State for Transport on the 22nd day of August 1975 are hereby repealed.

Contact Information

All officers can be contacted through Licensing@wokingham.gov.uk or 0118 974 6000
Option 2 Option 4

ADDRESS

Licensing Service

Wokingham Borough Council

Shute End

Wokingham

RG40 1BN

Web: www.wokingham.gov.uk

20 December 2022



Mr Keiran C. P. Hincliffe

APCIP DipHE MIoL MCIEH

Service Manager – Licensing and Processing



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, 2023 - 2028

1. Page 1






1. Are you responding as				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	A Wokingham borough resident		87.88%	29
2	An elected borough councillor		3.03%	1
3	A town or parish councillor		0.00%	0
4	Representing an organisation or individual		0.00%	0
5	Other (please specify):		9.09%	3
			answered	33
			skipped	0
Other (please specify): (3)				
1	20/01/2023 10:20 AM ID: 208962539	WBC Employee		
2	24/01/2023 13:13 PM ID: 209213379	Work in WBC		
3	27/02/2023 20:15 PM ID: 211974794	Dual Driver DD810		

2. Page 2





2. If you are representing an organisation or individual, please tell us more, such as the name of the organisation				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		0.00%	0
No answers found.				
			answered	0
			skipped	33

3. To what extent do you agree with each of these changes?






3. Drivers applying to us for the first time should pass a spoken and written English language test.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		65.63%	21
2	Agree		21.88%	7
3	Neither agree nor disagree		3.13%	1
4	Disagree		6.25%	2
5	Strongly disagree		3.13%	1
			answered	32
			skipped	1






4. As well as holding a full UK driving licence or equivalent, drivers applying to us for the first time should pass a driving proficiency test.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		65.63%	21
2	Agree		21.88%	7
3	Neither agree nor disagree		6.25%	2
4	Disagree		6.25%	2
5	Strongly disagree		0.00%	0
			answered	32
			skipped	1






5. If an applicant has a conviction or points on their licence for using a mobile phone or other device while driving, we'll treat this more seriously than penalty points for minor offences. A minor offence is one that doesn't involve death, injury or damage to property, driving under the influence of drink or drugs or driving while using a mobile phone.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		45.16%	14
2	Agree		41.94%	13
3	Neither agree nor disagree		3.23%	1
4	Disagree		6.45%	2
5	Strongly disagree		3.23%	1
			answered	31
			skipped	2






6. The policy will include a dress code requiring smart and appropriate clothing with a few additional rules on logos and footwear.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		34.38%	11
2	Agree		34.38%	11
3	Neither agree nor disagree		9.38%	3
4	Disagree		18.75%	6
5	Strongly disagree		3.13%	1
			answered	32
			skipped	1






7. Vehicles don't have to be taken out of service after reaching a certain age. Instead, they must pass a periodic inspection, including checking that they meet exhaust emissions standards.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		53.13%	17
2	Agree		31.25%	10
3	Neither agree nor disagree		6.25%	2
4	Disagree		3.13%	1
5	Strongly disagree		6.25%	2
			answered	32
			skipped	1






8. Advertising will be allowed on Hackney carriage vehicles, as long as it meets national standards.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		29.03%	9
2	Agree		41.94%	13
3	Neither agree nor disagree		12.90%	4
4	Disagree		9.68%	3
5	Strongly disagree		6.45%	2
			answered	31
			skipped	2

9. Advertising on Hackney carriage vehicles can include "wrap-around" adverts which cover the entire vehicle.





Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		21.88%	7
2	Agree		31.25%	10
3	Neither agree nor disagree		21.88%	7
4	Disagree		9.38%	3
5	Strongly disagree		15.63%	5
			answered	32
			skipped	1

10. Advertising on Hackney carriage vehicles can be for any product or service allowed by the Advertising Standards Authority.

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		21.88%	7
2	Agree		46.88%	15
3	Neither agree nor disagree		12.50%	4
4	Disagree		9.38%	3
5	Strongly disagree		9.38%	3
			answered	32
			skipped	1

4. Your overall view of the changes

11. Do you think we're proposing high enough standards to ensure that applicants are fit to hold a Hackney carriage or private hire licence?

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Strongly agree		15.63%	5
2	Agree		43.75%	14
3	Neither agree nor disagree		34.38%	11
4	Disagree		6.25%	2
5	Strongly disagree		0.00%	0
			answered	32
			skipped	1

11. Do you think we're proposing high enough standards to ensure that applicants are fit to hold a Hackney carriage or private hire licence?

Please share any further comments in the box below. (13)

1	17/01/2023 15:44 PM ID: 208716510	I agree that the driver should speak good English but can see no reason why they would need good written English in this role. What are the examples of acceptable clothing and footwear?
2	19/01/2023 18:12 PM ID: 208918163	I wish that the council would licence Uber. Every where in the world (including major areas of the UK) I have used Uber, they offer an excellent and value for money service. Visitors cannot believe there is no Uber in the borough and the taxis that we have to use are incredibly unreliable. Please licence Uber to improve the taxi provision in the borough.
3	19/01/2023 18:59 PM ID: 208922411	I have to admire the council for taking a strong stance with this issue. If we are to keep vulnerable and at risk females and young people safe on our streets, we have to get the fundamentals right. I hope after adapting this policy, other councils should take it on. Thank you for being a caring Council.
4	19/01/2023 20:22 PM ID: 208929495	Hopefully it's already included, but a mandatory yearly eyesight test should be in there. I've been driven in a Wokingham taxi where the cabbie was clearly unable to see more than a couple of car lengths ahead of him in broad daylight. It wasn't recently. But if put me off taking a local cab for a long time.
5	19/01/2023 23:25 PM ID: 208939715	On the page hosting this survey you ha a link titled "WBC EXISTING Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.pdf" this link points to an outdated 2028 policy. It should point to the policy published in October 2019 The correct policy can be found here https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=619023 The requirement to have a seat width was superceded in the 2019 standard by stating that a vehicle had to meet a certain NCAp size. The proposed new standard is a backwards step when the 2019 standard is much easier to understand. The requirement to have 70% light transmitted through rear windows is not going to be something that operators will be able to meet in the long term. Most vehicles that are suitable to use as private hire vehicles are fitted with rear privacy glass by the manufacturers. It is not realistic to expect operators to be able to source vehicles that meet the standards you seek. I would suggest that the wording needs to take into account that where rear privacy glass is fitted by an OEM that it is acceptable to be used as a private hire vehicle. There are lots of vehicles operating as private hire vehicles in Wokingham that are licenced by other boroughs. These vehicles do not meet the standards you seek with regards to age etc. How will you enforce this with the new policy and sto them operating. Because as I see it all that will happen is drivers that can't meet your standards will licence in other boroughs but work in Wokingham even more than they do now.
6	20/01/2023 10:18 AM ID: 208964695	Obviously all paperwork required to be filled in by applicants MUST be filled in in English to ensure that the applicant truly understands the process and is fluent in the English language, it cannot be entirely safe to have people driving who do not understand the language, cannot read signs etc
7	20/01/2023 10:20 AM ID: 208962539	Keeping good cars on the road for longer is definitely a bonus. Allowing advertising is good if it helps the drivers earn more
8	20/01/2023 11:52 AM ID: 208976733	The companies in the borough in my experience find ways round the stated standards e.g. not turning up then denying the booking was ever made
9	20/01/2023 15:10 PM ID: 208998882	Although the taxi should carry a 1st Aid kit this should be prominently displayed and the driver hold a basic 1st Aider Certificate. Consideration to an automated external defibrillator in the vehicle or where they are located for public use. No idling of engine when not driving, ie outside Twyford Station waiting for passengers. The fumes can be strong here.

11. Do you think we're proposing high enough standards to ensure that applicants are fit to hold a Hackney carriage or private hire licence?

10	20/01/2023 19:10 PM ID: 209018701	Does this licence also allow Uber service Currently you can't get an Uber into Wokingham , and it's a struggle to travel from Wokingham because the ordinary taxis are very expensive and not always readily available. Most of the people who can't drive and are living in areas where buses aren't available 24/7 their lives are very limited. Hope you will consider this Uber taxis too. Bracknell has them and Reading town area , I think it's good to have these services available everywhere, to ensure every person gets equal opportunities. Thank you
11	20/01/2023 21:42 PM ID: 209026193	License fees are too expensive. You need to make it affordable for drivers and passengers. You're imposing too many conditions. I just want a driver that arrives on time/is available and takes me to my destination without breaking the law (eg using phone whilst driving or driving an unroadworthy vehicle). The fact you have their license # and AMPR is enough to track and trace. Previous convictions (where applicable) should prevent a license being given. Training in safeguarding etc is well beyond the requirements of the job. I'm female.
12	21/01/2023 23:47 PM ID: 209062809	Taxis should also be clean and in good repair on the inside. Some from taxi rank are untidy and unkempt.
13	27/02/2023 20:15 PM ID: 211974794	Hi I have read the policy and would like to make some suggestions. Clause 3.29 states 6 months inspection for less than 5 years old vehicles and 3 inspections for more than 5 year old vehicles. I strongly disagree with this change as it will put us under more financial pressure. I think you should keep this as 1 inspection for less than 5 year old and 2 inspections for more than 5 year old and add a clause for 3 inspections for more than 10 year old vehicles.

GreenMetroCars

Working Together

Councils working together on common functions eg school runs, bus runs, compliance and logistics sounds like a great idea. In principal it is, but is fraught with operational issues including computer software systems, regulation and different stances on potential legal and GDPR issues.

If these can be overcome there can be substantial savings on costs and time.

Combining routes from more than one council that go to the same school, college or Adult Day Centres will potentially save money. This would be most useful and have most impact in the area of combining 2 saloon (4 Seater) routes into one (Minibus) 8 seater route and would be a good place to start. There would be few issues over journey length and number of pickups to complicate matters whether they be from homes or bustops. There would also not have to be new policies made on the number of PA's needed on say a 16 seater journey with passengers with special needs.

At present school run departments are trying to combine different establishments on the same route to save money but timing issues are problematic and having existing children in the vehicle and then trying to load more without leaving the vehicle is challenging at most schools.

Larger vehicles by necessity would need to be bus stop routes and there would need to be set routes devised that passengers can join that cover the area of cooperation to a given school. Different companies could bid on these routes. This needs a lot more organisation and potential changes eg at the beginning of a new school year would make much greater demands on school transport departments at different councils. Also bus routes would grow and contract more frequently and contract times and terms and conditions would have to reflect a more dynamic system.

Streamlining safeguarding, driving tests and medicals into a common set of requirements would also make licensing of pa and drivers much easier for all agencies concerned and satisfy local policy. Cost and time are the enemy of recruiting staff for this. We have situations where gaining the required documentation for a school run escort earning £20 per day is over £400 and taking a month or more. For school run drivers it is a lot more and takes longer although they can earn more money.

Green Metro Cars has written its own software in the form of a company portal. This portal contains every detail about every driver and escort. It also has records of all licenced vehicles. These are updated as often as possible. This is very new and additional staff are being trained to update the portal on a live basis so information is always current. The portal also has insurances and policies



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Private: Information that contains a small amount of sensitive data which is essential to communicate with an individual but doesn't require to be sent via secure methods.

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and procedures ,in house training programs, operators licences and anything else that would be useful to agencies using our service. There are minor issues updating the portal quickly which we are addressing as mentioned. Obviously the data needs to be current at all times for it to have full potency. This will make it much easier for councils to keep track on shared transport at least on our routes.

At present Wokingham, West Berkshire and Bracknell authorities are using/testing this facility. We can tailor the portal to suit different GDPR policies. We will take on board any feedback to improve its functionality.

It would be very easy to write a program that could be shared securely in house between councils where children's details could be shared, linked to google maps where all agencies could be online at the same time if need be to devise routes. In my experience staff in these departments are experienced and well versed in this area and would be happy to use a system that would relieve some pressure on capacity. Also issues can be shared as well as solutions found in a space easily accessible to everyone concerned. Chat boxes and any other type of communication can be incorporated into the program.

Starting with saloon car journeys being combined into 8 seater routes would be the easiest to begin with and get immediate benefits.

There is some pretty far reaching suggestions here but if there is commitment from multiple departments inside and outside of local councils savings can be made without compromising the already high standards that we all aspire to.

As I have mentioned I think the best chance of success if this idea was adopted would be small slow steps that allow for issues to be solved easily and progress made without setbacks,

I hope this helps

Alan



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Licensing Regulation Possible Changes Proposal

Central Government has set out regulation to act as guidance to local authorities. There lies the rub. Local authorities will do their best to interpret the guidance as best as they can and this creates different rules for different councils. No one council interpretation is better than another's and deficiencies in interpretation on this local level have long been resolved.

Issues arise today because of shortcomings of not enforcing existing local regulation in a transparent and rigorous manner. The private hire/hackney carriage trade is not alone in this area and similar problems can be identified in many professions including the health service and police.

There needs to be a will to change the status quo with a view to make things better. Licensing needs to have a dynamic functionality that, hopefully, should be relevant to current needs and demands and facilitate changes in a safe and pragmatic way.

I would like this document to be as informative as possible and not let it degenerate into a list of desired changes to suit taxi trade business models. I have also made some suggestions in the following document 'Working Together' that hopes to illustrate how local councils could work together to increase efficiency and reduce costs. Streamlining regulation between councils would have beneficial effects administratively and make enforcing regulation much simpler.

It should be noted that most of Wokingham's school runs, Social Care runs and journeys requested by various agencies within Wokingham Council are executed by drivers and vehicles licensed in other boroughs using their criteria. This illustrates even further the complicated situation that exists today. I have staff that are required to be safeguard trained in three different boroughs to be universally compliant, not to mention twice in Wokingham Council to be eligible for all types of work there.

I work with four and soon to be five councils in the area of taxi and private hire as an Operator executing patient transport and school and adult social care transport. This is an area I have worked in for 25 years within the biggest private hire/taxi firms in Reading.

As public transport has been reduced and major demographic changes have taken place without local infrastructure in housing, education, healthcare and adult social care being expanded to cope, the taxi and private hire business has been brought in



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to take up the slack in getting more and increasingly longer journeys completed. At the same time the increase in EHCP and SEND statements puts even more pressure on School transport departments.

Safeguarding and Other Compulsory Training

Since Covid lockdowns, systems for safeguarding, first aid and other areas connected to licensing have gone online, and stayed there. These should be brought back to face to face where proper interaction between educator and student produces a far higher quality of information transfer and understanding of the subject.

Research is now taking place between Kieran Hinchliffe of licensing and Rebecca Brooks from Transport planning, with the help of Readibus, to formulate a safeguarding and awareness course that satisfies safety and is fit for the future. I have no doubts that if this is approved by Wokingham it will be adopted by other councils that I work with that are in the same situation but seemingly more uncomfortable with present online options.

Driving Assessments

Driving assessments have been a part of licensing whether it be a school run or taxi/ph driver and rightly so. At present there is one option to book and complete this course with bluelamp. They do not have their own staff but aggregate the course to driving instructors. There is a very long wait time to get an appointment as backlogs due to Covid showing no signs of slowing down. An option to have a second or third organisation to complete this test with would cut wait times and increase flexibility with appointment times There are other options such as Mann Solutions that have their own staff, give timely and convenient appointments to over 16 councils in the south. This company was set up by an ex-police driving instructor, not a tech expert. There should always be more than one option in case one firm ceases trading or reaches capacity and then a long procurement process potentially brings the licensing process to a standstill meantime.

Medicals

Medicals are another area where changes would be helpful to expedite driving licence applications. Until recently all medicals had to be by an applicant's own GP. Apparently now if the GP has no availability or doesn't offer this service other arrangements can be made. If it is acceptable under certain circumstances to use a



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GP that is not yours then why isn't it acceptable in all cases. The charge is anything from £150-280 per medical from one's own GP. This money goes into the practice, not the doctors pocket. Many GP's are stretched to the limit and will see an ill member on their list rather than do a medical examination, some GP practises outright refuse to do them. It should be noted that the licensing process to become a private hire driver/taxi driver is already an expensive outlay for people who are looking at an income of £25000pa after they gain their licence. The overall cost of gaining a new badge is approaching £700 and for most there is the cost of buying and licensing a vehicle on top of that.

This illustrates another major issue in the ongoing supply of drivers whether they be taxi/private hire or school run drivers. Wokingham as opposed to other areas like Reading allow Uber drivers to operate without a local licence or accountability in the Wokingham district. There is much less scrutiny among Uber drivers as Uber is an online app not a taxi company with a local office and their drivers do not conform to or have the expense of getting a local licence. This may be a reason why local councils do not use them. It should be noted that Uber have had to expand into other areas to make a profit while destroying local cab companies with unsustainably low fares. These are the true colours of a disruptor and it takes money from the pocket of a locally licensed drivers and Wokingham Council and subsequently reduces the pool of available drivers.

All of the above points are there to illustrate the difficulties of recruitment to satisfy the needs of Wokingham's local community. This is my main thrust with this submission. I live in Wokingham, it is my local community. I serve the local people of Wokingham in my capacity as an Operator. I am sure that everyone concerned with this subject put the community first and hopefully we can modernise and streamline applications whilst keeping the high standards that already exist,

Alan Parkinson Licensee

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Licensing & Appeals Committee Action/Decision Tracker

30 January 2023	
The audit review on checks and enforcement	March 2023 L&A Committee Completed
The review of discretionary fees for 2024/25 with specific reference to street trading, dermal treatments and animal boarding	October 2023 L&A Committee
Officers should assess LGA guidance in an approach to tackling gambling related harm.	January 2024 L&A Committee
That the Committee decides to initiate a public consultation about the revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2023/2028.	January 2024 L&A Committee
22 June 2023	
To reintroduce the Action Tracker and Forward Plan	Completed
To check the percentage of current school transport vehicles that would be negatively impacted by changes in policy	October 2023 L&A Committee
Why was the Council asking for applicants living outside of the Borough for more than 6 months to produce a certificate of good character, when the Standards asked for those living outside of the area for more than 3 months to produce this.	October 2023 L&A Committee
The findings of underage sales testing for gambling premises.	October 2023 L&A Committee
Benchmarking around alcohol and betting advertising in taxis.	October 2023 L&A Committee

Licensing & Appeals Committee Forward Plan

18 October 2023	
Costs of Licensing Activities and Fees and Charges 2024/25	Annual report about fees and charges to include the review of discretionary fees for 2024/25 with specific reference to street trading, dermal treatments and animal boarding
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy public consultation responses and determination	Report about results of consultation, queries from previous meeting, additional response from Green Metro Cars and decision about implementation
23 January 2024	
Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028	Report about results of consultation and decision about implementation
Findings of the operation in relation to best practice relating to gambling	Report about results of underage test purchasing and compliance inspections.
11 March 2024	