

LICENSING COMMITTEE 29 NOVEMBER 2021
PROPOSED REVISIONS TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE
POLICY

Existing Policy Safeguarding	
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Decision of the Workshop
<p>Existing drivers, operators and vehicle proprietors must undertake safeguarding course within 12 months of Policy, and on renewal with the pass date no later than 3 months prior to renewal. This would mean that a non-driver operator or vehicle owner would be required to do an annual safeguarding course, and;</p> <p>An existing driver could potentially be required to undertake a course by September 2022, and then complete a further course in January for renewal of his badge in March.</p> <p>Options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leave as is 2. Require only drivers to undertake the same course on renewal provided the renewal is at least 1 year since completion of the first safeguarding course. 3. All existing drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators to undertake a safeguarding course within 12 months, and all new applicants prior to licensing. A refresher course may be required (may be scope to deliver in-house/online facility). 	<p>Agreed that:</p> <p>All existing drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators to undertake a safeguarding course within 12 months, and all new applicants prior to licensing. A refresher course may be required.</p>

Proposal - Policy Driving Experience 2.4	
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Decision of the Workshop
<p>To increase Minimum driving licence of 12 months to 3 years to enhance customer safety. (remove condition 2.4 d) and amend 2.9 a) accordingly).</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>To increase passenger safety and raise driving standards.</p>	<p>Agreed that the condition should read: 2.4d) An applicant (for a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage) must have held a valid full United Kingdom issued Driving Licence for at least 3 years. Therefore the minimum age a person could be eligible to apply is 20 years of age.</p>

Proposal - References 2.6

South Cambridgeshire District Council	Decision of the Workshop
<p>To remove this requirement as part of the application process.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>There seems to be little benefit of retaining this additional administrative burden for new applicants. Does not increase standards overall.</p>	<p>Agreed that this requirement should be removed.</p>

Proposal - Surrender of Licences 2.23

South Cambridgeshire District Council	Decision of the Workshop
<p>Surrender of Licence would be accepted in exceptional cases only, and not where the licence holder is subject to current investigation and/or legal proceedings.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>To allow surrender of licences in exceptional circumstances.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

Proposal - Hackney Carriage Vehicles 3.6 c) and 3.16

South Cambridgeshire District Council	Decision of the Workshop
<p>The Policy has had a requirement that all Taxis will be WAV since 2019, but this has not been effectively implemented.</p> <p>All existing hackney carriages to be white and WAV by December 2023.</p> <p>Any newly licensed vehicles to meet this standard on implementation of the Policy changes.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>With the pandemic this has hindered progress, so would propose a “deferment” of this so that all Hackney Carriages licenced by this Authority (i.e. to include current fleet changeover) to be wheelchair accessible and white in colour by 1 December 2023.</p>	<p>Agreed to align the vehicle related amendments by 1 December 2023.</p>

Proposal - General Vehicle conditions - 3.12, 3.16, 3.19, 3.27

Proposed amendments	Decision of the Workshop
<p>3.12 Certificate of Compliance - every 12 months for all vehicles (six monthly is probably no longer appropriate due to the implementation of age limits for vehicles). However, where an Officer considers necessary (such as a report of a vehicle defect), a Certificate must be produced every 6 months.</p>	<p>Deferred. Members wished to see the previous decisions and rationale as to why this was previously amended from 12 months to 6 months and will consider at the Licensing Committee.</p> <p>Note: In November 2019, the Licensing Committee agreed to increase certificate of compliance testing to six monthly in light of introducing a nine-year age limit, and to ensure vehicles met emissions standards.</p> <p style="color: red;">This requirement has not been implemented to date and implementing the requirement at this time may appear perhaps to be an unnecessary burden on the trade. Officers suggest that the requirement for a six-monthly MOT and Certificate of Compliance should only be where advisories on the MOT are noted or reported concerns raised.</p>
<p>3.16 Accessibility – remove the terms “disabled people” and replace with “wheelchair users”.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>3.19 Exempt vehicles, executive chauffeur services. Delete the word(s) “and plate” so that an alternative identification could be sourced in line with the review of the plate production materials.</p>	<p>Refused the removal. Agreed to amend to read “and plate or identification” to ensure that any alternative system does not compromise customer safety or visibility of identification of the vehicle.</p>
<p>3.27 Age Limits; The current policy stipulates a 9-year age limit for all vehicles from December 2021, considering the pandemic and to continue to offer support to the trade propose this is moved to 1 December 2023.</p>	<p>Agreed. In order to support the trade following the pandemic, it is proposed that allowing an additional two years for drivers to change their vehicles would be a reasonable step and would support the Council’s Business Plan priority area of supporting the local economy to recover post-pandemic.</p>
<p>3.27 (i) (and elsewhere in the documents) Delete the reference made to aligning with City of Cambridge Policy .</p>	<p>Agreed. Whilst Members wished to see continued partnership working, there was no need to mention such in the Policy.</p>
<p>Appendix D (i) – remove “and to an angle of at least 60 degrees” (doors).</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>Appendix D (i) insert new requirement Maximum number of seats All vehicles licensed to carry in excess of four passengers will only be licensed where:</p>	<p>Agreed. (Effective 1 December 2021).</p>

<p>(i) the access and egress of passengers can be achieved without the need to remove existing seating, and</p> <p>(ii) all seats are fitted with seat belts in accordance with legal or manufacturer standards, and</p> <p>(iii) the height between the seat and the foot well of the rear seats is consistent.</p>	
Proposal - Amendments to Appendices and Driver Handbook	
Proposed amendments	Decision of the Workshop
<p>Appendix A Code of Conduct</p> <p>Delete duplications at 12, 16 and 25 (Competency Test, Safeguarding and DBS update). as these are covered elsewhere in the Policy and/or conditions.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>Appendix E Private Hire Exemptions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove the word “plate” and replace “notice” with “certificate” 2. Delete not required 3. Delete “internal licence” 4. Delete “internal plate” 5. Replace “notice” with “certificate” 	<p>Agreed amendments as per 3.19 above.</p>
<p>Driver Handbook</p> <p>31. Competency Test</p> <p>Scope to move to an external provider which offers combined competency with driving skills, so replace c) course as approved by the Council. Delete the rest in this section.</p> <p>32. Replace b) with as approved by the Council. Delete the rest of this section.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Administrative changes only to reflect move to online assessments.</p>
<p>34. References – proposed this requirement is removed as above at 2.6</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>39. DBS</p> <p>Reword “Applicants are required to produce an original enhanced DBS certificate to a) Applicants are required to apply online for an enhanced DBS ...</p> <p>Delete b), Reword c) The Authority will require evidence of your identity to complete the online DBS</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Members noted that there is no compromise to the existing standard of checks and is an administrative amendment only.</p>
Existing Policy Vehicle Restrictions	
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Decision of the Workshop
<p>A new petrol or diesel vehicle will only be granted if it is under 4 years old until December 2021</p>	<p>Agreed to an amendment:</p>

<p>Proposal/Option: In order to support the trade following the pandemic, it is proposed that allowing an additional two years for drivers to change their vehicles would be a reasonable step and would support the Council's Business Plan priority area of supporting the local economy to recover post-pandemic.</p>	<p>A new diesel vehicle will only be granted if it is under 4 years old until 1 December 2021. *</p> <p>A new petrol vehicle will only be granted if it is under 4 years old until 1 December 2023.</p> <p>*Note: Following the workshop a request that consideration be given to allow diesel wheelchair accessible vehicles to continue to be licensed until December 2023.</p> <p>Officers recommend this approach considering the request from Panther Cars which stated “ the low-level, rear-loading options that are popular among wheelchair customers and which we are trying to encourage more drivers to purchase, such as the Peugeot Horizon etc. – are nearly all diesel only. If purchase/licensing of these is forbidden from Dec 2021 there will major provision issues in an already severely stretched sector of provision.”</p> <p>Taking the above into consideration, and in light of the fact there are only 7 Hackney Carriage vehicles, which are currently all saloon cars, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee are supportive of permitting diesel wheelchair accessible vehicles to be newly licensed until December 2023.</p>
<p>A licence will not be renewed for a petrol or diesel vehicle unless it is less than 9 years old and at least Euro 5 emission standard until December 2023.</p> <p>Proposal/Option: In order to support the trade following the pandemic, it is proposed that allowing an additional two years for drivers to change their vehicles would be a reasonable step and would support the Council's Business Plan priority area of supporting the local economy to recover post-pandemic.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>Any newly licensed vehicle must be ULEV or Zero emission from 1 December 2021</p>	<p>Members discussed at length the results of the combined CCC/SCDC project and heard how of the 17 proposed sites for charging points in the District, none were progressed, and all charging</p>

	<p>points were installed in the City. Further discussions will need to take place to review the situation, and raise awareness of the lack of charging points, and promote our Green to the Core agenda. In light of this, and the high cost of drivers having to switch to an ULEV/zero emission vehicle so close to the pandemic, Members Agreed it was appropriate to move the implementation date to 1 December 2023.</p>
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