

Appendix B

Research Local Authority Taxi Questionnaire

	Population in the District/Borough
Tendring (at present)	
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	Across both districts there is 193,894
Colchester City Council	190000
East Suffolk Council	248,000
Ipswich	Unknown

	Is you District/Borough zoned?
Tendring (at present)	No
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	No
Colchester City Council	Yes
East Suffolk Council	Yes - Yes we have a North and a South zone (harping back to the days of the former Suffolk Coastal DC and Waveney DC). Drivers have to choose which zone they wish to work in and the plate is issued accordingly.
Ipswich	No

DRIVERS

	How many licensed Hackney Carriage Drivers do you have?
Tendring (at present)	Dual or Private Hire
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	Dual Only
Colchester City Council	131
East Suffolk Council	Dual or Private Hire
Ipswich	54

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	How many licensed Private Hire Drivers do you have?
Tendring (at present)	
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	Dual Only
Colchester City Council	600
East Suffolk Council	349
Ipswich	130

	How many licensed dual Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers do you have?
Tendring (at present)	
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	288
Colchester City Council	731
East Suffolk Council	171
Ipswich	334

	Do you require new drivers to undertake a suitability test before they can apply for a licence? (e.g. Our test covers: Money & Finance, Literacy, Times & Dates, Using an A-Z)
Tendring (at present)	Yes
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	Level 2 Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver's Course
Colchester City Council	Yes
East Suffolk Council	Yes
Ipswich	No

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	Do you require a Knowledge Test for Hackney Carriage or Private Hire applications?
Tendring (at present)	Yes
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	Level 2 Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver's Course
Colchester City Council	Yes
East Suffolk Council	Yes
Ipswich	Yes

	Do you have different Knowledge Test Categories for Hackney Carriage or Private Hire applications?
Tendring (at present)	No – both the same
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	Level 2 Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver's Course
Colchester City Council	No – both the same
East Suffolk Council	The knowledge test forms part of the driving standards assessment carried out by the assessor. Geographical knowledge test
Ipswich	We only have Dual licences now, so one test for all.

	What categories does your Knowledge Test cover?
Tendring (at present)	Road Signage , Highway Code, Routes of roads within the Tendring area, Places of Interest and local knowledge, Conditions, Law and Equality
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	Level 2 Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver's Course
Colchester City Council	Highway Code, Mapping, Conditions, Policy and maths

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East Suffolk Council	There are questions based on our policy - eg. what do you have to do if you change address or your medical situation changes etc
Ipswich	Covers the conditions of licence for a combined driver, some monetary questions and some highway code (mainly road signs)

	What is the pass mark for your Knowledge Test?
Tendring (at present)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage - Answer 5 out of 5 questions correctly • Highway Code - Answer 5 out of 5 questions correctly • Routes – Surrounding areas - Answer 1 of 2 questions correctly in each group (Clacton / Holland / St Osyth / Jaywick) (Harwich / Dovercourt / Parkeston) (Walton / Frinton / Thorpe / Weeley) (Manningtree / Wix / Mistley) (Brightlingsea / Thorrington / Great Bentley) • Places of Interest / Local Knowledge – Surrounding area - Answer 3 of 5 questions correctly in each group (Clacton / Holland / St Osyth / Jaywick) (Harwich / Dovercourt / Parkeston / Manningtree / Wix) (Walton / Frinton / Thorpe / Weeley) (Brightlingsea / Thorrington / Great Bentley & Alresford) • Conditions, Law and Equality - Answer 4 of 5 questions correctly
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	N/A
Colchester City Council	25
East Suffolk Council	80%
Ipswich	80%

	Is there a limit on the number of Knowledge Tests an applicant can undertake?
Tendring (at present)	Applicants are permitted to take the knowledge test a maximum of three times with the licensing managers discretion allowing a fourth attempt. The applicants only have to retake parts of the test they have failed in. After fourth attempt the application is withdrawn and part refunded.
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	N/A
Colchester City Council	Unlimited, Have to pay each time (external company)

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East Suffolk Council	Applicants will be permitted to take the knowledge test a maximum of three times and if it is not passed at the third attempt, they will be required to wait for a period of 6 months before re-taking the assessment. Additional study of the legislation and licensing requirements will be encouraged.
Ipswich	3 then 6 month break

	Do you allow Sat Navs to be used in licensed Hackney Carriage and/or Private Hire Vehicles?
Tendring (at present)	Yes
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	Yes
Colchester City Council	Yes
East Suffolk Council	Yes
Ipswich	Yes

	Is the use of Sat Navs covered in your Knowledge Test?
Tendring (at present)	No
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	No
Colchester City Council	No
East Suffolk Council	No
Ipswich	No

	The following training is part of the application process
Tendring (at present)	Passenger Assistant Training Scheme Course (PATs); DSA - Advanced Driving Assessment (or similar); with the proposal for Child Sexual Exploitation Training (CSE)
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	Child Sexual Exploitation Training (CSE); Full Safeguarding; Level 2 Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver's Course

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Colchester City Council	Passenger Assistant Training Scheme Course (PATs); DSA - Advanced Driving Assessment (or similar); Child Sexual Exploitation Training (CSE)
East Suffolk Council	DSA - Advanced Driving Assessment (or similar); Child Sexual Exploitation Training (CSE); New applicants have to undertake a college course - Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver
Ipswich	DSA - Advanced Driving Assessment (or similar); Child Sexual Exploitation Training (CSE); College course, Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and PH driver

VEHICLES

	How many licensed Hackney Carriage Vehicles do you have?
Tendring (at present)	
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	147
Colchester City Council	131
East Suffolk Council	64
Ipswich	121

	How many licensed Private Hire Vehicles do you have?
Tendring (at present)	
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	139
Colchester City Council	600
East Suffolk Council	399
Ipswich	420

	Do you require a vehicle to be under a certain age when first licensed?
Tendring (at present)	Under 5 years at date of first registration
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	No more than 8 years of age from the date of first registration

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Colchester City Council	Under 5 years at date of first registration
East Suffolk Council	No
Ipswich	Hackney Carriage - only wheelchair accessible and less than 4 years old. Private hire - less than 15 years old, changing to less than 10 years old in 2025

	What maximum age do you allow a vehicle to be licensed to
Tendring (at present)	All vehicles are subject to a visual inspection by licensing officers from 10 years. Normal Vehicles 12 Years; CO2 Emission reading of not greater than 110 – 13 years; Purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicles and London 'Black Cab' type vehicles – 15 years.
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	No maximum age but once a vehicle reaches 10 years of age require 6 monthly testing
Colchester City Council	12 Years
East Suffolk Council	None
Ipswich	15 – (Private hire - less than 15 years old, changing to less than 10 years old in 2025)

	Do you require vehicles to be mechanically inspection in addition to the MOT and if so, how often?
Tendring (at present)	Yes, every 6 months
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	yearly unless over 10 years old
Colchester City Council	yearly then after five years, twice yearly
East Suffolk Council	Yes, every 6 months
Ipswich	Yes. All vehicles over 4 years old have 2 tests a year

	Does your Taxi Policy require a mixed fleet of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles?
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Tendring (at present)	Yes
Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils	Yes
Colchester City Council	Yes
East Suffolk Council	No
Ipswich	Yes