

Proposed amendments to Taxi Policy following the July 2023 meeting of the Committee

6.1	<p>Added the following: Cautions - (Simple or Conditional) Where an applicant has received a caution these will be accessed on its own merits and may mean that the application needs to be determined by the Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee. References to convictions in this policy shall be taken to also encompass cautions for the offences concerned. The relevant period for a caution (normally) making an applicant/licensee unsuitable to hold a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver Licence will be considered on a case by case basis up to the relevant period set out for a caution.</p>
6.1	<p>The wording: which has been recommended by the DfT statutory standards is amended to identify that those standards will be applied by Tendring District Council unless expressly stated alongside those standards.</p> <p>In relation to the above, a reference shall be made against the period identified for drink driving (7 years in the DfT standards) shall normally be extended to 10 years following conviction in respect of applicants to Tendring District Council.</p>
10.0	<p>All applicants for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver licences will be assessed on their individual merits. The Council does not consider it necessary to set an age limit for drivers provided that regular medical checks are made and that the applicant has held a DVLA driving licence for at least 3 consecutive years at the time of application and duration of licence.</p>
22.5	<p>The Authority requires all Hackney Carriage vehicles to be fitted with working roof mounted signs. The roof sign has to be standard white in colour from the front and no smaller than 30" in length and shall bear the words "Licensed by Tendring District Council – TAXI" on the front face of the sign (for new vehicles and upon replacement vehicles).</p>
22.5	<p>The Council's Licence Plates shall be affixed to the front and rear of the vehicle by the use of the plate platform and/or bracket provided in a position so that the details shown on the plate may be seen clearly and are not illegible, defaced or concealed from public view except where provided for by Statute. Such plate shall be affixed by use of the bracket beneath the registration number plate in accordance with the instructions provided or, in cases where this is not practical, by riveting the plate platform to the bodywork of the vehicle just above the bumper. The vehicle may not be used for the purpose authorised by the vehicle licence without such plate being so affixed.</p>
24.3	<p>Removal of Council Officers annual visual inspection and replaced with: All vehicles that are (10) ten years old plus, will be subject to an additional mechanical test within the year at the Council's nominated testing station for compliance with the Council's policy.</p>
26.0	<p>Removal of restriction of minimum and maximum ages and replaced with: Vehicle will only be licensed until they are (15) fifteen years old, from the date of first vehicle registration in accordance with the Vehicle log book. For vehicles over (10) ten years of age there shall be a requirement for a third mechanical test. Consideration to the NCAP rating.</p>
29.1-29.6	<p>Plate Exempt Vehicles – added content.</p>

39.2	Operators Licence Basic Disclosure – Removed the requirement for signing up to DBS status as this is not available on Basic level
41.1	Warning Protocol for Hackney Carriage Drivers/Vehicles Owners and Operators – to be removed and replaced with Penalty Point System.
Appendix B	Rework of Condition 8. The driver shall not convey in the vehicle a greater number of passengers than the number of persons specified on the plate affixed to the outside of the vehicle., Children under the age of three years shall not be counted for the purpose of a fare but still count as a passenger and must at all times be under the supervision of a responsible adult other than the driver of the vehicle.
Appendix D & E	Plate reference to include “Front of the vehicle”