



Taxi Policy (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire)

Licensing Committee –
16 October 2023

Serving Local People



Overall Role

"The department recommends all 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. When formulating a taxi and private hire vehicle policy, **the primary and overriding objective must be to protect the public**. The importance of ensuring that the licensing regime protects the vulnerable cannot be overestimated."

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Vehicles, Drivers and Operators

- Town Police Clauses Act 1847 – licensing of Hackney Carriages
- S46 of the 1976 Act - Vehicles used for Private Hire need a licence as do those who drive them and who operate them.



Vehicles

- S47 of the 1976 Act – Council may attach conditions to a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence
 - S48 of the 1976 Act – Council may issue a licence to a proprietor of a Private Hire Vehicle ONLY if satisfied:
 - (i) suitable in type, size and design for use as a private hire vehicle;
 - (ii) not of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a hackney carriage;
 - (iii) in a suitable mechanical condition;
 - (iv) safe and
 - (v) comfortable;And insured
- And can attach conditions to the Vehicle Licence



Drivers

- S51 and S59 – shall not grant unless satisfied
 - (i) that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a driver's licence; and
 - (ii) that the applicant is not disqualified by reason of the applicant's immigration status from driving a private hire vehicle; or
 - (b) person who has for at least twelve months been authorised to drive a motor car, or is not at the date of the application for a driver's licence so authorised
- S51 - May attach conditions to the licence



Private Hire Operators

- S55 – shall not grant unless satisfied
 - (i) that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a driver's licence; and
 - (ii) that the applicant is not disqualified by reason of the applicant's immigration status from driving a private hire vehicle; or
- May attach conditions to the licence