



TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY REVIEW
SUMMARY OF PROPOSED UPDATES
CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

The following is a summary of some of the points open to consultation from the report considered by the Licensing Committee at its meeting on 14th February 2017.

The Committee approved the draft policy be the subject of a public consultation. Close of consultation to be **24th of May 2017**.

The full report / policy can be viewed at:-

www.ryedale.gov.uk

Some areas of Proposed Consultation

- i) Age (vehicle licence) – Our present policy prescribes an age limit of 5 years when submitting an application to first licence a vehicle with the Council and a maximum age of 10 years. With public safety in mind it is proposed to consult on whether or not these time frames should be reduced or increased. If reduced, this may improve the general standard of vehicles and may also help improve local air quality through the reduction of emissions from taxis.
- ii) Safeguarding Training - Following on from the Child Abuse issue in Rotherham, the Council proposes to introduce compulsory safeguarding training for all new drivers.
- iii) Knowledge / geographical Test - The Council would like all drivers to have a good working knowledge of the area within which they intend to work. The Council is proposing that all **new** drivers undertake a knowledge and geographical test as part of the application process.
- iv) Drivers Ages - Currently, an applicant for a Hackney Carriage Drivers licence must be at least 21 years old, whereas an applicant for a Private Hire drivers licence must be 18 years old. In order to achieve consistency, the Council proposes that a licence shall not be granted to a person who is under 18 years of age and that a licence cannot be granted to any person over 18 who has not held a full driving licence for a period of 1 year.
- v) A requirement that drivers have to subscribe to the DBS update service – This is presently at the discretion of an applicant at the time of applying for an Enhanced DBS. It is an additional fee of £13 per year but this will allow the Council to access the service when necessary to confirm whether there has been any change to the DBS status necessitating a full DBS check and assist in the renewal process. It would be entirely reasonable on the basis of public protection. The Council would check an applicant has successfully subscribed to the service prior to the granting of a driver's licence.



- vi) Dress Code – The Council is committed to encouraging the professional image of licensed drivers and the tourism industry and is considering a minimum standard of dress (Males - long legged trousers or tailored shorts with a collared shirt(polo shirt for example) which has a full body with either short or long sleeves. Females - long legged trousers, tailored shorts, knee length skirt or dress and a collared shirt or blouse which has a full body and short or long sleeves).
- vii) Proprietors of Vehicles – consideration around potentially requiring Hackney Carriage proprietors to maintain an accurate record of their use of that vehicle in order to assist in the determination of whether that vehicle is predominantly plying for hire in the District of Ryedale.
- viii) Suitability of fitness of Private Hire Operators – Presently the Council does not have any requirement to demonstrate the fitness of a Private Hire Operator. It is proposed to consider that Private Hire Operators who do not already hold a Hackney Carriage Drivers/Private Hire Licence where an Enhanced DBS has already been obtained, then a basic disclosure must be obtained prior to licence being granted of this process and renew every year thereafter.
- ix) Please remember this list is not exhaustive, any comments received concerning any issue contained in the proposed new policy is open to consultation and comment.