

LICENSING COMMITTEE
Tuesday, 11 March 2025 at 7.00 pm
Council Chamber - Civic Centre

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors' declarations of interest (if any) in relation to any matters on the agenda.
3. Minutes (Pages 2 - 5)
4. Matters Arising
5. Written Questions and Petitions
6. Driver Training – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire (Pages 6 - 15)
7. Consultation for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (Pages 16 - 79)
8. Committee Work Plan (Page 80)
9. References from Other Committees

Any references arising from meetings held after the publication of this agenda will be circulated separately.
10. Matters of Urgent Business

Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be received as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances to be specified in the minutes.

**MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD ON**

5 September 2024

7.00 pm - 8.07 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Clive Souter (Chair)
Councillor Andrew Johnson (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Danielle Brown
Councillor Joel Charles
Councillor James Griggs
Councillor Alastair Gunn
Councillor Luke Howard
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop
Councillor Russell Perrin

Officers

Ella-Hope Crocker, Junior Legal Assistant (Development Post)
Julie Galvin, Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer
Sally Haggerstone, Senior Environmental Health Officer/Interim Environmental Health Manager
Nicole Parker, Corporate Support Officer
Adam Sherwood, Premises and Taxi Licensing Manager
Julie Snooks, Senior Licensing Officer

12. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Houlihan and Lanie Shears.

13. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor James Griggs declared an interest in item 8 as he has as responsibility for the delivery of food safety for Harlow Foodbank and Bounty Club.

14. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2024 be agreed and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

15. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

16. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None.

17. **GAMBLING ACT POLICY**

The Licensing Committee received a report for the adoption of the proposed Gambling Act Policy recommend to Full Council.

The Committee agreed the following changes be made to the Gambling Act Policy:

- i. The wording on point 6.3 on page 15 of the policy is not removed
- ii. Harlow Education Trust be listed in the list of consultees and that this had not been included. Adam Sherwood, Premises and Taxi Licensing Manager, advised he had included the BMAT Trust as requested but advised he would include the Harlow Education Trust also.
- iii. The probation service be added onto point 6.3 page 15 as a proposed consultee.
- iv. The Quakers Harlow religious group to be added to the statutory consultees
- v. An amendment to point 13.7 of the policy that there were four primary authority arrangements on the previous policy, which has now been updated to six, so the narrative would need to be changed from four to six.

RESOLVED that:

- A** The Licensing Committee recommend to Full Council adoption of the proposed Gambling Licensing Policy Statement attached at Appendix A.

18. **PAVEMENT LICENSING PROCEDURE**

The Committee received a report on the Pavement Licensing Committee.

Adam Sherwood advised an amendment to condition C to include the full name of the act the recommendation refers to.

RESOLVED that:

- A** Subject to any amendments required by the Committee, members approve the new pavement procedure in Appendix A for recommendation to Full Council, for adoption on 20 September 2024.

- B** The relevant fees be agreed and recommended to Full Council, for adoption on 20 September 2024, in accordance with the maximum cap of £500.00 for new applications and £350.00 for renewal applications, and to extend the issue of a pavement licence to 2-years, unless specified for a shorter duration.
- C** Delegation of the relevant responsibilities under BPA2020 be approved as set out in the Pavement Procedure and Appendix B to the report.
- D** Where an application is refused, there be an internal option to appeal that decision to the Regulatory Sub-Committee as set out in the Pavement Procedure.

19. **FOOD SAFETY SERVICE PLAN**

The Committee received a report on the Food Safety Service Plan.

RESOLVED that the Licensing Committee:

- A** The Committee approves the Food Safety Service Plan 2024/2025 attached as Appendix A to the report.

20. **LICENSING ENFORCEMENT AND SERVICE DELIVERY 2023-24**

The Committee received a report on Licensing Enforcement and Service Delivery 2023-2024.

RESOLVED that:

- A** The Licensing Committee noted the enforcement activity and service delivery carried out by the Licensing Team from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

21. **LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE DECISIONS**

The Committee received a report on the Licensing Sub Committee Decisions for 2023/24.

RESOLVED that the Committee noted the contents of the report.

22. **COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

RESOLVED that the work plan was noted.

23. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

24. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

Driver Training – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire



Report to: Licensing Committee

Date: 11 March 2025

Lead Officer: Tanusha Waters, Assistant Director Planning and Environment
(01279) 446595

Contributing Officer: Adam Sherwood, Premises and Taxi Licensing Manager
(01279) 446010

Executive Summary

A Department for Transport's Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards state drivers should be required to undertake safeguarding training and that it should include County Lines and Child Sexual Exploitation. The Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice Guidance also requires that drivers should be trained in disability awareness. This report aims to establish driver training standards for Harlow drivers and to tender for a training provider.

Recommended that the Licensing Committee recommends to Full Council that:

- A** The proposals in paragraphs 22-31 of the report for driver training standards and procedures be adopted.
- B** The driver training for licensees and applicants is outsourced to qualified training providers as proposed in paragraphs 32-36 of the report.

Reason for decision

- A** To establish a suitable driver training programme for licensees and applicants of the taxi and private hire trades.

Other Options

- A Where driver training in safeguarding (including child sexual exploitation and county lines) and disability awareness is not to be provided, a local authority should provide reasons why they choose to defer from DfT recommendations.

Background

1. In March 2016 and March 2017, this committee approved a roll out of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE or Safeguarding) awareness training and Disability awareness training respectively. Partial funding for this Safeguarding initiative was provided by the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner through the Safer Harlow Partnership.
2. The driver licence application form was amended to remind applicants on every application made that being a licensed driver includes a requirement to undertake periodic training to ensure drivers are trained and suitable to being a professional driver.
3. The courses were made available for drivers and applicants to attend by invitation, the courses covered the basics of either Safeguarding or Disability Awareness, attendance was mandatory but with no test. Invitation was also made to private hire operator licensees whom all attended voluntarily.
4. From the outset, licensed drivers were given 2 years to attend the training, and new applicants were attending the same courses as licensees. Both training courses ran approx. for 1.5 hours - 2.5 hours each.
5. As demand for the Safeguarding course reduced and not wanting either course to act as a barrier to the application process, in September 2017 it was agreed by the Committee that drivers and applicants had to attend any training within a reasonable time frame (ideally within 12 months of first being licensed where courses were available).
6. Exceptions to attend were permitted where a driver had attended a safeguarding or disability awareness course provided by another licensing authority and the course curriculum was equivalent to that provided by Harlow Council. Secondly, applicants that could demonstrate they had received training in another profession to a standard equivalent or higher than that offered by the Council within the preceding 3 years were also exempt, this was expected to capture persons working as teachers, social workers or similar occupations. Lastly, and on a rare occasion, where a driver was able to show exceptional circumstances why they were unable to attend a group training session, the Council provided a one-to-one training session with our designated Safeguarding Officer, with any additional cost borne by the applicant.
7. Between June 2016 and February 2019 safeguarding awareness training was provided to drivers and new applicants. Feedback responses were positive from attendees. During the Covid pandemic, the Licensing Team resourced and arranged three dates to offer an

online virtual classroom safeguarding course to new applicants. Any remaining new applicants will be picked up through the new and ongoing training arrangements.

8. Between May 2017 and February 2018, disability awareness training was provided to drivers and new applicants. Feedback from attendees was not very positive which hampered the number of courses being provided with discussions on course content taking place with the training provider, no further training was provided before Covid in March 2020. During the Covid pandemic, the Licensing Team resourced and arranged a date for an online virtual classroom disability awareness course. The course was not well attended including driver availability changing on the day, which in turn raised the cost per attendee at the Council's expense. Approximately 45% of drivers have never attended the disability awareness course and a permanent solution is sought through new and ongoing training arrangements.
9. In the absence of a current training programme, the Council is at a good moment in time to reconsider the provision of training to drivers and applicants. Reasonable time has passed (at least 3 years) and therefore all licensed drivers ought to be due training again, dependent on how often training should be.
10. Refresher training was initially discussed at implementation stage suggesting attendance every 3-5 years but was not brought back to this committee for a final decision.
11. Following discussion with Legal Services, training for drivers should be outsourced through the procurement process to allow training providers to apply to provide the driver training for Harlow Council. The tender is likely to last for 5 years, should refresher training be every 3 years then the tender will capture training provision for the bulk of drivers in the first year, and another refresher course 3 years later.

Issues

12. Driver training should be an integral part of the licensing process, a part of the overall requirement of being a safe and suitable person to hold a driver or operator licence. As with other industries, this training should be refreshed at reasonable intervals.
13. The Department for Transport recommends that all licensing authorities should require taxi and private hire vehicle drivers and operators as a minimum, to undertake safeguarding training (including CSE and County Lines) and disability awareness training.
14. Safeguarding awareness training looks at the role of the taxi and private hire industry can play in spotting the abuse, exploitation or neglect of children and vulnerable adults. Those within the industry can be an asset in the detection and prevention of abuse or neglect of children and vulnerable adults, but this is only the case if they are aware of and alert to the signs of potential abuse.

15. Following the Council's initial provision of delivering driver training, a permanent, ongoing solution is required, there are several options that the committee should consider:
 - a) New applicants - course content: To cover Safeguarding and Disability Awareness only? New applicants may be new to passenger transport and be interested in additional support.
 - b) Existing licensees – course content: To cover Safeguarding and Disability Awareness only?
 - c) To require that the licensees of a private hire operator licence and all their staff in customer facing roles and people managing service delivery should attend the refresher training.
 - d) Whether to include an end of course test?
 - e) Face-to-face, e-learning or online (virtual classroom)?
 - f) How often refresher training should be required?
16. Basic safeguarding and disability awareness training can be provided separately or combined; they require approx. 1.5 hours – 2.5 hours each. If provided together, the content is sufficient for a half day course, allowing time for registration and a short break i.e. approx. 09:30 – 13:30/14:00.
17. Training courses of this nature are traditionally 10-15 delegates per session.
18. Initial discussion with training providers has suggested that the option of a test is feasible but adds additional time to sit the test and for them to be assessed at the end. The courses previously provided by the Council worked well without a test; however, attendees are likely to be more focussed knowing they are being tested. Inclusion of a test would raise the fee of the course to cover additional time as well as drivers having to pay to re-sit the test should they fail (usually one additional attempt before resitting the whole course again).
19. Although not mandatory, training may also cover other important aspects of being a licensed driver, such as customer service, legislation / local policy or vehicle maintenance. Inclusion of any of these matters would then require a full day training course. It should be considered by the Licensing Team, that information regarding these matters can be provided using other methods, such as the sharing of information through communications or provided on the licensing pages of the website and expansion of the taxi licensing policy. There is also the potential for future courses on a mandatory or voluntary level.
20. The training may be face-to-face, e-learning or online via a virtual classroom. If the courses were face-to-face, the Council Chamber can be booked, alleviating the cost of an alternative venue, however, there would be a small cost to the Council arranging the bookings, which would include anticipated changes to bookings for insufficient attendance numbers and rebooking new dates. E-learning is an online course, that an individual would pay and complete the course in their own time and convenience. An online virtual classroom is essentially to be in a classroom, but without the need to travel,

there is also no venue hire costs and minimal administrative upkeep to accommodate any changes.

21. Neither the guidance nor best practice stipulates how often training should be provided, but state that drivers should be required to attend refresher training. Most licensing authorities require refresher training every 3 years in line with 3-year licences.

Proposals

22. The course(s) shall incorporate all the requirements of what is considered the basic elements of Safeguarding and Disability Awareness.
23. A safeguarding training programme helps the taxi and private hire trade to achieve provision of a safe and suitable service to vulnerable passengers of all ages, recognise what makes a person vulnerable and to understand how to respond or report safeguarding concerns and where to get advice.
24. A disability training programme helps the taxi and private hire trade achieve a better inclusive service by providing the industry with an understanding of appropriate behaviours, communication and assistance to passengers, whether that be with assistance dogs, wheelchairs or mobility aids, and understanding barriers that people face along with their legal obligations.
25. Officer recommendations for driver training:
 - a) New applicants:
 - i) Attend training course(s) online via virtual classroom.
 - ii) Minimum coverage: two topics - Safeguarding and disability awareness.
 - iii) Additional topics not essential: customer service, local policy/legislation, personal safety, basic arithmetic. Tender comment: Favourable weight scored for inclusion of additional items.
 - iv) Duration: a maximum of 1-day.
 - v) Test is not essential. Tender comment: Favourable weight scored for inclusion of a test.
 - vi) Refresher due 3 years after successful course completion.
 - b) Licensed drivers:
 - i) Attend training course(s) online via virtual classroom.
 - ii) Minimum coverage: two topics - safeguarding and disability awareness.
 - iii) Duration: ideally under 2.5 hours for each topic.
 - iv) Test is not essential. Tender comment: Favourable weight scored for inclusion of a test.
 - v) Refresher due 3 years after successful course completion.

26. It is felt regarding the training provision that the use of a virtual classroom can be just as good as attending in person, the quality of service is in the content and the delivery of the training, and so officers feel this option would be best suited. This helps retain a minimal fee without the need of venue hire and is also a more convenient way for drivers to attend without the cost of parking and transportation.
27. It is also considered important that drivers have an understanding of matters such as customer service, local policy and personal safety, but also that material is either already provided or will be available soon in the licensing section of the website and made available to new applicants, much of this extra content should also be covered by operator businesses when taking on drivers and is therefore desirable, but not essential.
28. It is recommended that the following be applied once the training is available:
 - a) All new applicants to attend driver training before a licence can be issued.
 - b) All licensed drivers and operator staff to attend the training within 12 months.
29. The 12-month 'window' for training will be communicated to all drivers once set.
30. Attendance at any future refresher course may be done so up to 12 months prior to due date whilst maintaining the same 3-year anniversary for the following refresher course after that.
31. It is not anticipated that there will be many, if any, exceptions to attending online training, however, cases will be considered on their individual merit, in particular for drivers who meet one of the two criteria below:
 - a) Able to demonstrate attendance of an equal to or higher-level course(s) that covers both Safeguarding and Disability within the last 3 years.
 - b) Able to demonstrate attendance of an equal or higher-level course provided by another licensing authority within the last 3 years.

Procurement of driver training

32. It is recommended that the Council procures the driver training by going through the necessary tender process. To ensure drivers get the best deal financially, the fees charged to drivers shall form 75% of the graded assessment, the other 25% of the graded assessment shall ensure any minimum requirements are met, the course content, having a test, trainer experience, booking arrangements, and any other added value.
33. Applicants/licensees will pay for the course direct to the outsourced training provider.
34. As part of the tender assessment, favourable weight shall be scored to training providers who have capacity to deliver a minimum of 300 licensed driver course spaces in the first 12 months.

35. As part of the tender assessment, favourable weight shall be scored for capability of providing at least one new applicant course each month. Even if cancelled for insufficient number of attendees.
36. Upon successful completion of the tender process, the first courses should be available within 3 months of the tender contract agreement.

Benchmarking

37. A benchmarking exercise was conducted of other licensing authority's driver training, which can be viewed in Appendix A.
38. An overview of training provided for new applicants by other licensing authorities is predominantly online, but a few do require face-to-face, most courses for new applicants include more than just Safeguarding and Disability Awareness, but with the fee reflecting this. Refresher training is almost completely delivered online. It also appears apparent that depending what training provider authorities have selected to deliver their training, has some influence whether a test is required.

Implications

Equalities and Diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment will be required before the training is commenced.

Climate Change

None specific.

Finance

Budget provision for training requirements are included within the medium term financial plan.

Author: Jacqui Van Mellaerts, Assistant Director – Finance

Governance

The Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards set out training requirements; including recommended training content. The proposed tender process for procuring a training provider complies with the councils Contract Standing Orders.

Author: Rebecca Farrant, Assistant Director – Corporate Services and Improvement

Appendices

Appendix A - Benchmarking of Licensing Authorities Driver Training Requirements

Background Papers

[Taxi and private hire vehicle licensing best practice guidance for licensing authorities in England - Department for Transport](#)

[Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards - Department for Transport](#)

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

DfT - Department for Transport
The guidance - Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards guidance – DfT
Best practice - Taxi and private hire vehicle licensing best practice guidance for licensing authorities in England - DfT

Appendix A

Licensing Authorities Driver Training Requirements

Authority	Content	Test type	Duration	Cost	Test	If applicable, retest cost
New Applicants						
East Herts	Safeguarding Disability	Online (virtual classroom)	Full-day	£98	N	n/a
Uttlesford	Safeguarding Disability	In-person	Full-day	£130	Y	£19.50
Chelmsford	Safeguarding Disability	Online (virtual classroom)	Full-day	£130	Y	£19.50
Maldon	Safeguarding Disability	In-person	Full-day	£130	Y	£19.50
Thurrock	Safeguarding Disability	Online (virtual classroom)	Half-day	£70 (£40 for Disability, £30 Safeguarding)	N	n/a
Colchester	Safeguarding	Online (virtual classroom)	Half-day	£30 Safeguarding only	N	n/a
TfL	Safeguarding Disability	Online (but attend in person)		£36	Y	£16
Wolverhampton	Safeguarding Disability	In-person	Full-day	£50	Y	£20
Licensed Drivers						
East Herts	Safeguarding	Online (virtual	Half-day	-	N	n/a

Appendix A

	Disability	classroom)				
Uttlesford	Safeguarding Disability	Online (virtual classroom)	Half-day	£60	Y	£19.50
Chelmsford	Safeguarding Disability	Online (virtual classroom)	Half-day	£60	Y	£19.50
Maldon	Safeguarding Disability	Online (virtual classroom)	Half-day	£60	Y	£19.50
Thurrock	Safeguarding Disability	Online (virtual classroom)	Half-day	£70 (£40 for Disability, £30 Safeguarding)	N	n/a
Colchester	Safeguarding	Online (virtual classroom)	Half-day	£30 Safeguarding only	N	n/a
TfL	Safeguarding Disability	Online (but attend in person)	-	£36	Y	£16
Wolverhampton	Safeguarding Disability	In-person	Full-day	£50	Y	£20

Consultation for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy



Report to: Licensing Committee

Date: 11 March 2025

Lead Officer: Tanusha Waters, Assistant Director Planning and Environment
(01279) 446595

Contributing Officer: Adam Sherwood, Premises and Taxi Licensing Manager
(01279) 446010

Executive Summary

A The DfT published the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards setting out minimum standards for licensing authorities to apply with regards to certain aspects of taxi and private hire licensing. It is recommended that Licensing Authorities should have a single, overarching and cohesive policy document that brings together all current taxi and private hire policies and procedures.

Recommended that:

- A** The Licensing Committee approve the proposed draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing policy (attached at Appendix A) for consultation.
- B** A further report to be presented to this committee which shall set out any representations received following a 6-week consultation.

Reason for decision

A This policy must be consulted upon as part of the review process. If there are relevant representations made this committee will have opportunity to consider those before referral to Full Council.

Other Options

A The Council may not want a taxi licensing policy but should provide its reasoning why it chooses not to follow the national recommendation.

Background

1. The Council is responsible for licensing hackney carriage and private hire drivers, vehicles as well as private hire operators. In undertaking those responsibilities, the Council has regard to the legislation in place including case law, relevant guidance, best practice documentation and its own policies and procedures.
2. On 21 July 2020 the Department for Transport (DFT) published “Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards.” The publication of these standards was long-awaited and follows an extensive period of consultation by the Department for Transport following a number of high-profile incidents and issues highlighting the risk to members of the public and to drivers. The standards reflect the significant changes within the industry in recent years, and lessons learned in respect of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSAE).
3. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 made provisions for the Secretary of State for Transport to issue statutory guidance on exercising taxi and private hire vehicle licensing functions, to protect children and vulnerable individuals who are over 18 from harm when using these services. Although the focus of the standards produced, is on protecting children and vulnerable adults, it is expected that any passengers of these licensed vehicles will benefit from the recommendations, which aim to better regulate the taxi and private hire vehicle sector. It is felt that these issues are, in part, a result of the significant differences in standards applied to the licensing of drivers and vehicles across the country.

Issues/Proposals

4. Harlow Council has several policies, procedures and relevant licence conditions that relate to the licensing of Hackney Carriage Vehicles and Drivers, as well as Private Hire Drivers, Vehicles and Operators.
5. A draft, single cohesive policy has been created. The document lays out the foundations of taxi and private hire licensing, and includes several recent requirements already been introduced by this committee in line with the guidance, whilst the Appendices within the policy list out all licence conditions.
6. The draft policy is attached at Appendix A, inserted text for the new policy is written in purple, with any pre-existing text such as licence conditions in black.
7. The policy also suggests some minor amendments to licence conditions (shown in purple on Appendix A).
8. The draft policy draws together information from other policies to locate them in a single document. Policies that have been combined into the cohesive document include the General Enforcement Policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing, National

Register of Refusals, Revocations and Suspensions (NR3S) policy, Stretched Limousines Additional Conditions, as well as the separate conditions for each licence type.

9. Noteworthy items included in the draft policy:
 - New: aims and objectives
 - New list of consultees
 - Updated necessary conditions: reporting of Convictions, Cautions etc. includes all Warnings or Orders within criminal law (e.g. Anti-Social Behaviour Order)
 - Updated necessary conditions: reporting of Convictions, Cautions etc. for clarity includes fixed penalty notice which results in penalty points being endorsed on the licence holders UK driving licence.
 - Updated necessary conditions: Carriage of Persons with a disability, including wheelchairs and Assistance Dogs.
 - Updated driver conditions: vehicle to be checked regularly for lost property and to be returned to local operator office.
 - Appendix E: Updated PH driver condition: shall not carry fewer persons than the vehicle is licensed to carry without reasonable excuse.
 - Appendix G: Updated operator condition: "The licensed Operator shall not dispatch any driver to drive any Harlow licensed private hire vehicle unless that person has a current private hire driver's licence issued by Harlow Council."
 - Appendix G: Updated operator condition: to include the word hackney carriage for words not permitted in advertising. Separation of one condition into two, to distinguish between what is displayed on a on vehicle, and general advertising.
 - Appendix H: Updated PHV condition: removal of BHP requirement.
 - Appendix J: Updated HC vehicle condition: removal of a minimum light transmittance in windows and replaced with tinted windows may be fitted only when supplied as standard by the original manufacturer.
 - Appendix K: Guidance for applicants - new and current.
10. Any changes to licensing policy will come into immediate effect for new applicants once adopted. Existing licence holders shall be required to meet any new criteria regarding reporting of criminal convictions with immediate effect. For any other changes, a reasonable implementation period shall be specified or by condition upon licence renewal.
11. A public consultation shall be undertaken on the draft policy document.
12. All licence holders will be written too, to invite views on the draft policy, with facility to make any comments in writing to the Licensing Team.
13. Consultation will also be undertaken with other stakeholders such as disability access groups, safeguarding and transport professionals/bodies.
14. The draft policy will be available to be viewed on the council's consultations webpage.

15. The consultation shall run for 6-weeks. Any relevant representations made will be included in a further report to this committee for consideration before referral to Full Council for adoption.

Implications

Equalities and Diversity

An Equality Initial screening has been carried out. An Equality Impact Assessment will be required before policy adoption.

Climate Change

None specific.

Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Author: Jacqui Van Mellaerts, Assistant Director – Finance

Governance

The Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards set out minimum standards for licensing authorities includes that Licensing Authorities should have a publicly available cohesive single document. The proposed policy brings together a number of existing policies and pays due regard to the Standards. The final policy for adoption will be brought back to Committee in line with delegations.

Author: Rebecca Farrant, Assistant Director – Corporate Services and Improvement

Appendices

Appendix A - Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Background Papers

[Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards - Department for Transport](#)

[Harlow Council webpage - Convictions Policy](#)

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

DfT	- Department for Transport
The guidance	- Department for Transport Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards

Appendix A



Harlow Council

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

In effect from XX 2025

Licensing Committee Date	Version	Amendments	Date of Change
2025	1.1	Policy adopted	XX 2025

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Minor amendments

Administrative amendments to this policy (required by virtue of legislative changes, revised statutory guidance, a Council restructure or administrative procedural changes) may be made authorised by the Assistant Director for Public Protection. Amendments under this provision are restricted to those required to accurately reflect legal or administrative position rather than amendments that change the focus of local policy.

Introduction

This document is the Council's statement of licensing Policy in respect of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.

The overriding aim of Harlow Council when carrying out its functions relating to the licensing of Hackney or Private Hire Drivers, Vehicle Proprietors and Operators, is the protection of the public and others who use, or can be affected by, Hackney Carriage and Private Hire services.

This policy brings together, into one cohesive document, all previous policy and procedures on all aspects of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing. To help promote consistent and proportionate decision making, ensuring the approach that the licensing authority will take is clear to all working within the regulated trades, and informs every one of the action they may face if they do not satisfy these expectations.

This policy has been developed with regards to the Department for Transport Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards and other relevant guidance and legislation. Consultation on this policy has been undertaken with both the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade; and with groups that are likely to be the trade's customers, such as groups representing disabled people, organisations with a wider transport interest etc. a full list of those that were consulted is attached as Appendix A.

This policy came into effect on XX 2025 and will be reviewed every 5 years, or sooner should there be significant changes required, or reason to consider all or part of this policy.

This policy takes immediately effect for new applicants and existing licensees unless where a timeframe is stated.

Background

The operation of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles has a specific role to play in local transport, connecting residents to the local economy and in enabling businesses and residents to reach wider transport networks. They can provide services where public transport is not available (for example in rural areas, or outside

“normal” hours of operation such as in the evenings or weekends) and provide for those with mobility difficulties.

This Policy sets out the approach the Authority will take in the licensing of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators when considering and making decisions on applications made under this regime. The Authority will aim to apply this Policy in a consistent manner; however, the Authority may depart from this Policy if it has reason to do so but will give justification for any departure.

Scope

Legislation provides that the following must be licensed:

- Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers
- Private Hire Vehicle
- Private Hire Operator
- Hackney Carriage Vehicle

The above licences include regulation of drivers (a licensed driver), a person who owns a licensed vehicle (vehicle owner/proprietor), and a person who takes bookings for private hire vehicles (an operator and their associated staff).

Aim of the policy

The paramount consideration in licensing of the hackney carriage (taxi's) and private hire vehicle (PHV's) trades is to protect the public.

Objectives

This authorities' licensing objectives are:

- Public safety;
- To promote a professional and responsible hackney carriage and private hire trade;
- Access for all, to efficient and effective transport;
- Prevention of environmental impacts.

About Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences

Licensing authorities can issue two types of licence allowing an individual to act as hackney carriage or private hire driver, while driving an appropriately licensed vehicle.

The two licence types convey separate entitlements. A hackney carriage driver licence allows the holder to drive a hackney carriage vehicle, but not a private hire vehicle. A private hire driver licence allows the holder to drive a private hire vehicle, but not a hackney carriage. Where an individual needs to drive both types of licensed vehicle, it will be necessary for them to hold both types of driver's licence.

Hackney carriages are public transport vehicles which are licensed to "ply for hire".

They can:

- carry passengers or goods for hire or reward (pre-booked)
- be hailed by prospective passengers in the street
- stop on a rank to be approached by passengers.

Hackney carriage vehicles have a roof light which is illuminated when available for hire. They have a white plate affixed to the rear of the vehicle.

Hackney carriages are also known as taxi

Private hire vehicles are a provision of private transport. They must therefore be pre-booked through a private hire operator e.g. via a telephone call, the internet or an app on a mobile device.

A private hire vehicle can only be used to:

- Carry passengers or goods for hire or reward (pre-booked)

Harlow private hire vehicles have a white and turquoise green plate affixed to the rear of the vehicle, they also have door stickers affixed to the front doors with the vehicles licence number.

Role of hackney carriage and private hire transport

These services provide where buses, trains and other public transport are not always available. They can be the link between other modes of transport and support the night-time economy. People with mobility difficulties may find it easier to use wheelchair-accessible hackney carriages than other forms of public transport.

Decision Making

The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle licensing functions of local councils are non-executive functions – that is, they are functions of the council rather than executive (such as the Cabinet). The functions include the determination of licence applications, reviews and renewals, along with the attachment of conditions when considered appropriate. Functions may be delegated to licensing committee, a sub-committee or an officer.

Harlow Council's Scheme of Delegation is attached as Appendix B

When the Council is making a determination on applications or considering whether existing licensees remain 'fit and proper', it shall consider its Convictions policy, which promotes the modern expression of whether the applicant/licensee is 'safe and suitable'. The Convictions Policy is a separate document and can be viewed on the Council's website at the [driver licence webpage](#)

Complaints about licence holders will be recorded on the Council's database. All complaints will be investigated, and appropriate action taken. A pattern of complaints

about a licence holder may be sufficient on the balance of probabilities to take more formal action than an individual complaint may warrant alone.

The Council shall take into consideration the 'General Enforcement Policy for Licensing Services: Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing', located in Appendix C, when deciding the appropriate action to take. Options available to the licensing authority include:

- To provide oral advice
- To provide an advice letter
- To provide a written warning and advice
- To suspend a Licence
- To revoke a Licence

Licensing judgements are based on the balance of probabilities and shall apply the following tests.

Drivers:

"Would you (as a member of the licensing committee or other person charged with the ability to grant a driver's licence) allow your son or daughter, spouse or partner, mother or father, grandson or granddaughter or any other person for whom you care, to get into a vehicle with this person alone?"

Private Hire Operators:

"Would I be comfortable providing sensitive information such as holiday plans, movements of my family or other information to this person, and feel safe in the knowledge that such information will not be used or passed on for criminal or unacceptable purposes?"

Vehicle Proprietors:

"Would I be comfortable allowing this person to have control of a licensed vehicle that can travel anywhere, at any time of the day or night without arousing suspicion, and be satisfied that he/she would not allow it to be used for criminal or other unacceptable purposes, and be confident that he/she would maintain it to an acceptable standard throughout the period of the licence?"

Failure to disclose information

Withholding information when submitting an application can be interpreted as deception and may lead to refusal of the application for this reason alone.

Failure to notify the licensing team of any arrest, conviction, caution or other relevant matter during the duration of the licence in accordance with a licence condition or bylaw, will also be treated as deception and may lead to refusal or revocation of a licence for this reason alone.

Driver Licensing Overview

For the safety and protection of the public, any person that drives a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Vehicle that is licensed by Harlow Council, must hold the relevant driver's licence that is also issued by Harlow Council.

For the purposes of this policy the term “driver licence” is in reference to a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver Licence.

Drivers cannot be granted a licence unless the authority is satisfied that they are a "fit and proper person" to hold that licence (see Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 ss 51 and 59).

Failure to comply with any pre-licensing requirement or condition of the licence may be grounds for refusal of the application or revocation of a licence where already held for this reason alone.

Only a person who holds a Private Hire Driver licence granted under Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 is legally permitted to drive a private hire vehicle.

A private hire vehicle can only be dispatched to a customer by a private hire operator. This is a person who holds an Operator licence granted under Section 55 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

To legally undertake private hire work. The private hire operator, vehicle and driver must all be licensed with the same Licensing Authority.

Only a person who holds a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence granted under Section 46 Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and Section 53 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 is legally permitted to drive a Hackney Carriage Vehicle.

An applicant has a right of appeal under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 S52 against the refusal of a local authority to grant or renew a private hire driver licence under S51 of the Act.

Section 59 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court against the refusal of the Local Authority to grant a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence. Whilst, Section 61 provides a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court against the refusal to renew a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence.

Duration of Licences

A Driver licence can be issued for a one- or three-year duration.

Any other duration will only be issued when the applicant has time limited right to work in the UK.

Pre-licensing requirements

To qualify for a driver licence, you must:

- be aged 21 years or over
- held a full UK driving licence for at least 12 months
- have the right to work in the UK
- if any applicant has spent six continuous months or more living outside the United Kingdom then criminal records information or a 'Certificate of Good Character' from overseas must be provided
- submit a fully completed application form with the relevant fee
- complete the tax check requirements for taxi and private hire drivers
- have been checked against the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) database (NR3S) on refusals, revocations and suspensions of taxi and private hire licences
- be subject to an Enhanced DBS check with barring lists checks (category: other workforce)
- be registered with the DBS Update Service
- be registered with TaxiPlus, who carry out fortnightly DBS status checks on behalf of Harlow Council (arranged by Harlow Council once licensed)
- have met the Council's Medical Fitness Criteria which is in line with the DVLA Group 2 standard (including additional checks/tests as required)
- be subject to a DVLA, online UK driving licence check
- have passed the knowledge test
- have passed a Driving assessment (for taxi and private hire)
- have passed a Wheelchair assessment (taxi only)
- have met the Council's Language Proficiency requirements
- have met the Council's safeguarding and child sexual exploitation awareness training requirements (new arrangements to come)
- have met the Council's disability awareness training requirements (new arrangements to come)

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check

Hackney carriage and private hire drivers are subject to an Enhanced DBS with both Barring List Checks under the Other Workforce category.

The DBS check is required as part of the overall checks that licensing authorities use to ascertain whether an applicant is 'fit and proper' to hold a licence.

Harlow Council uses an online service called TaxiPlus to provide licensees and applicants with a DBS certificate.

Information about obtaining the DBS certificate can be viewed in Appendix K.

DBS Update Service

Licensees are required to be registered with the DBS Update Service for the issue of a licence. An applicant must subscribe directly to the DBS for this service.

Harlow Council shall check the status of DBS certificates every two weeks using the online service TaxiPlus. Licensees whose subscription to the DBS Update Service fails, shall provide a new DBS certificate registered on the DBS Update Service, the new certificate shall be provided within 6-months of the previous DBS status check.

Driver Suitability – Convictions Policy

The Council uses its Convictions Policy - 'Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney and private hire trades' a copy of which is located on the Council's [driver licence webpage](#)

The policy allows for consideration of an individual's convictions, cautions and any other information that the Council deems relevant including driving licence endorsements, previous complaints and patterns in behaviour.

Previous Refusals and Revocations of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licences

A check of the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) database on refusals, revocations and suspensions of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licence (NR3S database) will be made for every licence application.

The applicant will also be required to disclose if they hold or have previously held a licence with another authority, and if they have had an application for a licence refused, revoked or suspended by any other licensing authority.

Where an applicant has a previous refusal, suspension or revocation by another authority, contact will be made with the relevant licensing authority to seek further information. If information is disclosed, this information will be taken into account in determining the applicant's fitness to be licensed.

The Council's policy and procedure on how we use the NR3S database can be found at Appendix D.

Medical Fitness Criteria

Up to the age of 65 years, drivers will be required to undergo a medical examination to DVLA Group 2 standards to assess their fitness to drive, every 5 years, or any lesser period that the examining doctor may decide.

Drivers over 65 years of age, will be required to undergo a medical examination to Group 2 standards annually, or any lesser period that the examining doctor may decide.

The Council shall only accept the Harlow Council medical questionnaire and certificate. The medical assessment can be taken with any Group 2 medical provider,

medical assessment providers experienced with Harlow medicals are listed in Appendix K.

For health reasons, some drivers require additional checks to ensure they meet the DVLA Group 2 Medical Standard, including insulin-treated diabetes (12-monthly examination with either a specialist doctor or diabetes specialist nurse) or coronary / ischaemic heart disease (every 3-years to attend a treadmill or equivalent test).

All medical examinations including additional tests, will be at the expense of the individual driver. The Council reserves the right in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to require an applicant or driver to undertake an independent medical examination to DVLA Group 2 standards at such clinic or hospital as the Council may direct.

Further information on the Group 2 medical can be found in Appendix K

Language proficiency requirements

New applicants are required to provide a suitable qualification in English or a closely related subject.

If an applicant is unable to provide a suitable qualification, they are required to pass the Green Penny English Proficiency assessment. The fee is paid direct to the assessment provider.

Where complaints are received about an individual licensee, the Council reserves the right to require the individual to attend the English Language Proficiency assessment.

To book an English Proficiency assessment see Appendix K.

Knowledge Test

The Council's knowledge test is a spoken test, applicants shall recall the name of the road to a given place or landmark, the test comprises of the following topographical areas:

Type	Number	Pass mark
Residential Areas	30 questions	25 or above
Hatches and Health Centres	10 questions	8 or above
Industrial Areas	8 questions	6 or above
Pubs, Clubs and Hotels	12 questions	10 or above
Schools and Places of Worship	12 questions	10 or above
Procedures and Conditions	18 questions	a sound understanding

The knowledge test fee shall be paid direct to Harlow Council's Contact Harlow Payment Service.

Applicants may only take the knowledge test after they are able to demonstrate that they are ready to take the test by participating in a short taster test conducted by telephone.

Driving Qualification

New applicants will be required to undergo a driving assessment provided by an approved test provider.

Approved providers can be viewed in Appendix K.

Safeguarding and Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Training

All new applicants must have undergone the Council's approved Safeguarding and Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness training courses within 12 months of being licensed.

To book a course, see Appendix K

<Awaiting Update: New and Refresher training to be tendered to suitable training providers.>

Disability awareness training

All new applicants must have undergone the Council's approved Disability Awareness training within 12 months of being licensed.

To book a course, see Appendix K

<Awaiting Update: New and Refresher training to be tendered to suitable training providers>

Private Hire Operator Licensing Overview

For the safety and protection of the public, Private Hire Operators within Harlow must have a licence issued by Harlow Council. The licence permits you to accept bookings for Private Hire work.

If you intend to take bookings from an operating base situated outside Harlow, you must apply for an Operator's licence from the appropriate local council.

The objective in licensing Private Hire Vehicle Operators is to protect the public, who may be using Operators' premises and trusting that the drivers and vehicles dispatched are above all else safe. It is important therefore that licensing authorities are assured that those that are granted a Private Hire Vehicle Operator licence also pose no threat to the public and have no links to serious criminal activity. Although Private Hire Vehicle Operators may not have direct contact with passengers, they are still entrusted to ensure that the vehicles and drivers used to carry passengers are appropriately licensed to maintain the safety benefits of the driver licensing regime.

Private Hire Vehicle Operators have a duty under data protection legislation to protect the information they record. The Information Commissioner's Office provides comprehensive on-line guidance on registering as a data controller and how to meet their obligations.

Section 55(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows a Local Authority to impose any conditions that it considers 'reasonably necessary' on a Private Hire Operator's Licence.

Failure to comply with any pre-licensing requirement or condition of the licence may be grounds for refusal of the application or revocation of a licence where already held for this reason alone.

An applicant may appeal to the Magistrates Court against the refusal of the Local Authority to grant a licence or to the imposition of conditions on the licence under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 S55(4).

Duration of Licence

An Operator licence can be issued for a one- or five-year duration.

Any other duration will only be issued when the applicant has time limited right to work in the UK.

Suitability of applicant/licence holder

A Private Hire Vehicle Operator licence may be applied for by an individual, a company or partnership; the 'fit and proper' test will be applied to each of the directors or partners in a company or partnership.

The Council will consider whether an applicant or licence holder with a conviction meets the 'fit and proper' threshold using its Convictions Policy; 'Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney and private hire trades'.

Refusal to licence an individual as a driver or to suspend or revoke a driver licence does not automatically mean that that individual cannot be issued or continue to hold a Private Hire Vehicle Operator licence; this decision will be independent of a driver licence refusal and based on the appropriate information – that is, it should not consider information that would only be available via an enhanced DBS check but instead that which would be disclosed on a basic DBS disclosure. DBS certificate information can only be used for the specific purpose for which it was requested and for which the applicant's full consent has been given.

Pre-licensing requirements

To apply for a Private Hire Operator Licence you need to submit the following:

- submit a fully completed application form with the relevant fee
- a plan of the premises for new applications
- have the right to work in the UK
- a Basic DBS disclosure (unless the applicant is a licensed driver with Harlow Council)
- a Tax check share code
- if any applicant has spent six continuous months or more living outside the United Kingdom then criminal records information or a 'Certificate of Good Character' from overseas must be provided

The Licensing Team will consult Planning services that an application for an Operator licence had been received.

Vehicle licensing Overview

The objective of vehicle licensing is to protect the public, who trust that vehicles dispatched are above all else safe. It is important therefore that Harlow Council is assured that those granted a vehicle licence pose no threat to the public and have no links to serious criminal activity. Although vehicle proprietors may not have direct contact with passengers if not also licensed as a driver, they are still entrusted to ensure that the vehicles used to carry passengers are properly licensed and so maintain the safety benefits of the licence regime.

Private Hire Vehicle legislation

A private hire vehicle once licensed is always a private hire vehicle and can only be driven by a private hire driver who holds a licence under Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Private Hire Vehicles are licensed under Section 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. The Act allows a Local Authority to impose conditions that it considers 'reasonably necessary' in respect of private hire vehicles.

Statutory rights for appeal against the decisions made by the Licensing Authority in respect of the grant or renewal of a Private Hire vehicle licence are to be found in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to, a) appeal against conditions imposed on a Private Hire Vehicle licence, and b) appeal against refusal to grant a Private Hire Vehicle licence (to the magistrates' court).

Hackney Carriage vehicle legislation

Harlow District Council under section 37 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 licenses hackney carriages. Such a licence is referred to in the legislation as a hackney carriage proprietor's licence but is often referred to in day-to-day usage as a hackney carriage vehicle licence.

A Hackney Carriage Vehicle once licensed is always a Hackney Carriage Vehicle and may only be driven by a Hackney Carriage Driver who holds a licence under Section 46 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Section 47 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows a Local Authority to impose conditions that it 'considers reasonably necessary' in respect of Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

Harlow Council operates a system referred to as 'mandatory orders'. This has no legal meaning but traditionally accepted to refer to a local authority adopting the Transport for London Conditions of Fitness (formerly Metropolitan CoF, and Public Carriage Office CoF) to provide that all taxis in their area must be of a London Style Cab.

A vehicle submitted for the first time for a new Hackney Carriage licence must be minimum Euro 6 compliant.

Statutory rights for appeal against the decisions made by the Licensing Authority in respect of the grant or renewal of a Hackney Carriage vehicle licence are to be found in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to, a) Section 47, appeal against conditions imposed on a Hackney Carriage Vehicle licence, and b) Section 60, appeal against refusal to grant a Hackney Carriage Vehicle licence (to the magistrates' court).

Duration of licences

A vehicle licence will only be issued for a one-year duration.

Suitability of the applicant/licence holder

A vehicle licence may be applied for by an individual, a company or partnership; the 'fit and proper' test will be applied to each of the directors or partners in a company or partnership.

The Council will consider whether an applicant or licence holder with a conviction meets the 'fit and proper' threshold using its Convictions Policy; 'Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney and private hire trades'.

Refusal to licence an individual as a driver or to suspend or revoke a driver licence does not automatically mean that that individual cannot be issued or continue to hold a vehicle licence; this decision will be independent of a driver licence refusal and based on the appropriate information – that is, it should not consider information that would only be available via an enhanced DBS check but instead that which would be disclosed on a basic DBS disclosure. DBS certificate information can only be used for the specific purpose for which it was requested and for which the applicant's full consent has been given.

Pre-licensing requirements

To apply for a vehicle licence, you must submit the following:

- A completed application form and the relevant fee
- if any applicant has spent six continuous months or more living outside the United Kingdom then criminal records information or a 'Certificate of Good Character' from overseas must be provided
- A Basic DBS disclosure (unless the applicant is also a licensed driver with Harlow Council)
- The original V5C vehicle registration certificate (logbook), which must be in the applicant's name and current address. When the vehicle is newly acquired, the V5C new keepers slip or other proof of purchase may be provided such as bill of sale or hire purchase agreement. The full V5C must be submitted once received.

- If the vehicle is hired or leased, proof of the hire contract must be provided which must clearly state that the vehicle will be used as a licensed vehicle. In these circumstances the logbook may remain in the name of the organisation providing hire.
- An MOT test certificate issued by the Council's nominated garage.
- A vehicle Compliance test certificate issued by the Council's nominated garage.
- A valid insurance certificate.
- A taximeter certificate issued by the installer (Requirement for all hackney carriage vehicles. Where a taximeter has been installed in a private hire vehicle, this shall apply).

Appendix A

List of Consultees for Policy

Consultees:

Private Hire Licence Holders

Hackney Carriage Licence Holders

Local Area Access Groups

Disability Panel

Public consultation via Harlow Council web portal

Appendix B

Scheme of Delegation

The Authority discharges its functions as described within the Council's Constitution. Licensing matters relating to this policy are discharged through the Licensing Committee and the Regulatory Sub-Committee, with delegations to officers for certain functions. Restrictions on the exercise of delegated functions are detailed in the scheme of delegation below.

Licensing Function	Regulatory Sub-Committee	Assistant Director	Licensing Manager	Senior Licensing Officer
Grant of Licence where there is no reason for refusal	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Refusal or Grant of a licence where there may be reasons for refusal, such as applications where any pre-licensing conditions are not met, matters falling outside policy guidance, matters giving rise to serious concern that the granting or the continuation of the licence may undermine public safety.	Yes	No	No	No
Suspension of a licence	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Revocation of a licence	Yes	Yes	No	No
Suspension or Revocation with immediate effect under Public Safety grounds	Yes	Yes	No	No
Agreement to depart from policy where policy allows officer discretion	No	Yes	Yes	No

Appendix C

General Enforcement Policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing

Harlow District Council has a responsibility to protect the community it serves, using the legislative powers delegated by Central Government.

The ultimate priority of the Council is to ensure that drivers, operators and vehicle proprietors licensed by the Council carry out their trade in accordance with both the relevant law and the conditions attached to the licences.

Any enforcement action taken in accordance with this policy will be based on upon the seriousness of the breach and the possible consequences arising out of it.

Decision Making Process

The Council's primary duty is for the protection of public safety. In order to maintain a consistent approach, this Policy will be considered by the Council when determining whether a licence holder is "fit and proper" to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence, Private Hire Operator Licence, or Hackney Carriage Driver Licence. In reaching any decision the Council will have regard to the following:

- i. The seriousness of any offences
- ii. The licence holders past history
- iii. The consequences of non-compliance
- iv. Likely effectiveness of the various enforcement options
- v. Danger to the public

Enforcement options

Once the Council has considered all the evidence and relevant information, the following options will be considered:

- To take no action
- To provide oral advice
- To provide an advice letter
- To provide a written warning and advice
- To suspend a Licence
- To revoke a Licence
- To issue a formal caution
- To begin prosecution proceedings

Take no action: No action will be taken where the operator, vehicle or driver standards are found to be satisfactory.

Oral Advice: There will be occasions when information and advice may be provided to a licence holder during the course of an investigation but where no further action is considered necessary.

Advice Letter: Where the licensee's behaviour or an offence is not serious enough to warrant more formal action or where the consequences of non-compliance do not

pose a significant risk to public safety, the Licensing Team may issue an advice letter if it can be assumed that informal action will achieve compliance.

Written Warning and Advice: In circumstances where the behaviour or offence is serious enough to warrant disciplinary action, the Licensing Team may issue a written warning clearly identifying the contravention. This may contain advice on how to remedy the matter, and may include a deadline by which this must be done. Failure to comply could result in further enforcement action being taken in the future.

The advice may include recommendations that the driver attends a driving standards assessment or tuition, local knowledge test and /or communications test, delivered by an accredited provider within a prescribed timescale to establish the competence of a driver to drive a taxi or private hire vehicle.

Suspension. Whilst each case will be taken on its own merit, generally, a suspension notice will normally be issued where the licence holder (individual or organisation) has met one or more of the following criteria:

- Breached legal obligations.
- Has been convicted of a relevant offence.
- Caused material loss to others.
- Engaged in activities that caused distress or put at risk the safety of passengers or the general public.
- Failed to provide information or details that if made available may have resulted in a licence not being granted or renewed.
- Non compliance with Council licensing procedures, licensing conditions or legislation.
- Ignored written warning(s) or failed to remedy an earlier contravention.
- Obstructed, abused, intimidated, threatened or assaulted an officer whilst undertaking his or her duties.
- Any other reasonable cause.

~~When issuing a suspension due consideration must be given to the financial outcome that the individual will be subject to as a result of this sanction.~~

When considering whether to suspend or revoke a licence, the Licensing Authority can use powers under S.52 of the Road Safety Act 2006 (which amends the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 by inserting s.61(2A) and 2(B)) to immediately suspend or revoke a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers' Licence if 'the interest of public safety require the suspension or revocation of the licence to have immediate effect'.

Revocation. A licence may be revoked where the licence holder (individual or organisation) has met one or more of the following criteria:

- Engaged in fraudulent activity.
- Provided false information to obtain a licence.

- Breached legal obligations.
- Been convicted of a relevant offence.
- Put at risk the safety or wellbeing of persons.
- Caused material loss to others.
- Engaged in activities that caused distress or put at risk the safety of passengers or the general public.
- Failed to provide information or details that if made available may have resulted in a licence not being granted or renewed.
- Breached Council licensing procedures or conditions.
- Where a licence has previously been suspended.
- Obstructed, abused, intimidated, threatened or assaulted an officer whilst undertaking his or her duties.
- Any other reasonable cause.

When considering whether to suspend or revoke a licence, the Licensing Authority can use powers under S.52 of the Road Safety Act 2006 (which amends the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 by inserting s.61(2A) and 2(B)) to immediately suspend or revoke a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers' Licence if 'the interest of public safety require the suspension or revocation of the licence to have immediate effect'.

Formal Caution: A formal caution may be issued by the Licensing Authority as an alternative to prosecution in order to deal quickly and simply with less serious offences and/or where the use of a caution will reduce the likelihood of re-offending and where it would be in the public interest to do so.

To safeguard the offender's interests, the following the conditions will be fulfilled before a formal caution is administered:

- There must be evidence of the offender's guilt to give a realistic prospect of conviction;
- The offender must admit the offence, and
- The offender must understand the significance of a formal caution and give informed consent to being cautioned.

Where a person declines to accept a formal caution, alternative enforcement action will be considered. There is no right of appeal against a formal caution.

Prosecution. Discretion will be used in deciding whether to initiate a prosecution. Other approaches to enforcement can often promote compliance more effectively but there are circumstances where prosecution without prior warning and recourse to alternative sanctions may be appropriate.

Prosecution will be considered in circumstances where:

- The gravity of an alleged offence, taken together with the seriousness of any actual or potential harm, or the general record and approach of the offender warrants it;
- There has been a reckless disregard of the law, byelaws or condition of licence;
- There have been repeated breaches which give rise to significant risk, or persistent and significant poor compliance;
- An activity has been carried out without or in serious non-compliance with an appropriate licence;
- A licence holder's standard of operation and activity is found to be far below what is required by law and condition and to be giving rise to significant risk;
- There has been a repetition of a breach that was subject to a formal caution;
- False information has been supplied wilfully, or there has been an intent to deceive, in relation to a matter which gives rise to significant risk;
- An officer has been intentionally obstructed in the lawful course of his/her duties.

The decision to prosecute will take into account the criteria set down in the Code for Crown Prosecutors. The [Assistant Director for Public Protection Environment and Licensing Manager](#) may recommend legal proceedings to prosecute offenders where it is considered there is sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction.

Licensing Subcommittee

Current Licensees may be referred to the Licensing Subcommittee for a review of their licence. The Licensing Subcommittee may consider appropriate disciplinary measures on a case by case basis. A referral may take place in the following circumstances:

- Where a licensee has received a criminal conviction, police caution or, major motoring conviction,
- Relevant history of the licence holder,
- Where the Licensing Team has received a complaint(s) about the actions or conduct of a licence holder,
- Where a licensee has accumulated DVLA penalty points for motoring convictions;
- Where the licensee has breached licensing conditions,
- Where the Council has received non-conviction information which gives cause for concern that a licensee is not a fit and proper person.

The Subcommittee may decide to take one or more of the following actions:

- No action,
- Issue an advice letter or written warning,

- Suspend a licence,
- Revoke a licence.

Where cases are referred to the Licensing Subcommittee, the Licensing Team will:

- Give sufficient notice of the date on which the matter is to be considered
- Give proper notice to the licence holder of the allegations against them
- Give notice to other affected parties with a right of appearance
- Allow the licence holder the opportunity to address the Subcommittee to present his/her case and provide supporting evidence
- Ensure the matter is determined in an impartial manner in accordance with the rules of natural justice
- Provide a written notice of the decision with reasons, and details of any right of appeal.

In situations where immediate action is required to secure public safety, and the Licensing Authority are unable to convene a Licensing Subcommittee within a reasonable time, the [Assistant Director for Public Protection Environment and Licensing Manager](#) shall under delegated authority and in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee take action to suspend a licence.

Appeals

Appeals against decisions of the Licensing Subcommittee may be made to the Magistrates Court. Written notification of enforcement actions will include written information on how to appeal, if applicable. This will explain how, where and within what period an appeal may be bought.

Appendix D

National Register of Refusals, Revocations and Suspensions (NR3S) Policy

Policy for Harlow Council in respect of requests for information, disclosure of information, and use of information as a result of an entry on the National Register of Refusals, Revocations and Suspensions (NR3S)

In this policy, the 'first authority' refers to a licensing authority which made a specific entry onto the National Register of Refusals and Revocations. The 'second authority' refers to a licensing authority which is seeking more detailed information about the entry.

I. Overarching principles

This policy covers the use that this authority, Harlow Council will make of the ability to access and use information contained on the National Register of Taxi Licence Revocations, Refusals and Suspensions (NR3S). The NR3S contains information relating to any refusal to grant, or revocation of, a taxi drivers' licence.¹ This information is important in the context of a subsequent application to another authority for a drivers' licence by a person who has had their licence refused or revoked in the past.

Harlow Council has signed up to the NR3S. This means that when an application for a taxi drivers' licence is refused, or when an existing taxi drivers' licence is revoked or suspended, that information will be placed upon the register.

When an application for a new drivers' licence, or renewal of an existing drivers' licence is received, Harlow Council will make a search of the NR3S. The search will only be made by an officer who has been trained in the use of the NR3S and who is acting in accordance with this policy. If details are found that appear to relate to the applicant, a request will be made to the authority that entered that information for further details.

Any information that is received from any other authority in relation to an application will only be used in relation to that application, and the determination of it, and will not be used for any other purpose. Any data that is received will only be kept for as long as is necessary in relation to the determination of that application. This will include the period of processing that application, making a decision, notifying the applicant of the outcome of that decision, and the appeal processes.

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¹ Throughout this policy reference is made to 'taxi drivers licence'. For the benefit of this policy, this generic term is to cover a hackney carriage drivers licence, a private hire drivers licence and any other combined/dual licence that a licensing authority may use.

For the avoidance of doubt, any such data will be kept for a period of no more than 35 days from the date of the service of the written notification of the determination of the application.²

Where an appeal to the magistrates' court is made, the data will be retained until that appeal is determined or abandoned. Where the appeal is determined by the magistrates' court, there is a further right of appeal to the Crown Court. In these circumstances, the data will be retained for a period of no more than 35 days from the date of the decision of the magistrates' court. If an appeal is made to the Crown Court, the data will be retained until that appeal is determined or abandoned. Where the appeal is determined by the magistrates' court or the Crown Court, it is possible to appeal the decision by way of case stated.³

Accordingly, the data will be retained for a period of no more than 35 days from the date of the decision of the Crown Court (if the decision was made by the magistrates' court, the retention period has already been addressed). If an appeal by way of case stated is made, the data will be retained until all court proceedings relating to that appeal by way of case stated (which will include potential appeals to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court) have been determined.⁴

The data will be held securely in accordance with Harlow Council's general policy on the secure retention of personal data. At the end of the retention period, the data will be erased and/or destroyed in accordance with Harlow Council's general policy on the erasure and destruction of personal data. Information regarding the retention and destruction of personal data policies of Harlow Council can be found at www.harlow.gov.uk/your-council/accessing-information/privacy-notice

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² The appeal period is 21 days from the date on which the written notification of the decision was received by the applicant/licensee. An appeal must be lodged within that time period, and no extension of that period is permissible (see *Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council v Latif* [2009] LLR 374). However, to ensure that the information is available if an appeal is lodged and there is a dispute over time periods, a period of 35 days is specified.

³ Any appeal by way of case stated must be lodged within 21 days of the decision of either the magistrates court or the Crown Court (see *The Criminal Procedure Rules R35.2*). To ensure that the information is available if an appeal is lodged by way of case stated and there is a dispute over time periods, a period of 35 days is specified.

⁴ Decisions of the local authority, magistrates' Court and Crown Court are also susceptible to judicial review. Generally any right of appeal should be exercised in preference to judicial review, but there are occasions when leave has been granted for judicial review in the circumstances. Any application for judicial review must be made "promptly; and in any event not later than 3 months after the grounds to make the claim 1st arose" (see *The Civil Procedure Rules R54.5*). If an application for judicial review is made after any relevant data has been destroyed, this authority will request the information again and then retain that information until all court proceedings relating to that judicial review (which will include potential appeals to the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court) have been determined.

II. Making a request for further information regarding an entry on NR3S⁵

When an application is made to Harlow Council for the grant of a new, or renewal of, a taxi driver's licence, Harlow Council will check the NR3S.

Harlow Council will make and then retain a clear written record⁶ of every search that is made of the register. This will detail:

- the date of the search
- the name or names searched
- the reason for the search – new application or renewal
- the results of the search
- the use made of the results of the search – entered to the register at a later date

This record will not be combined with any other records – that is, combined with a register of licences granted – and will be retained for the retention period of 11 years.

If Harlow Council discovers any match – that is, there is an entry in the register for the same name and identifying details – a request will be made to the authority that entered those details (the first authority) for further information about that entry. That request will also include details of Harlow Council's data protection policy in relation to the use of any data that is obtained as a result of this process.

This request will be made in writing in accordance with the form available on request from licensing@harlow.gov.uk It will be posted or emailed to the contact address of the authority that entered those details (the first authority) which will be detailed in the register.

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⁵ This section of the policy relates to the submission of a request by the second authority.

⁶ This can be electronic, rather than "pen and paper" hard copy.

III. Responding to a request made for further information regarding an entry on NR3⁷

When Harlow Council receives a request for further information from another authority a clear written record will be made of the request having been received. This record will not be combined with any other records – that is, combined with a register of licences granted – and will be retained for the retention period of 11 years⁸

Harlow Council will then determine how to respond to the request. It is not lawful to simply provide information as a blanket response to every request.

Harlow Council will conduct a Data Protection Impact Assessment. This will consider how the other authority (the second authority) will use the data, how it will store that data to prevent unauthorised disclosure, the retention period for that data, and the mechanism for erasure or destruction of the data at the end of that period. It is expected that if the second authority has adopted a policy similar to this, that should be a reasonably straightforward process.

If Harlow Council is satisfied that the other authority's (the second authority) data protection procedures are satisfactory, consideration will then be given as to what information will be disclosed.⁹ This will be determined by an officer who has been trained to discharge this function.

Any disclosure must be considered and proportionate, taking into account the data subjects' rights and the position and responsibilities of a taxi driver. Data is held on the NR3S register for a period of 11 years, but Harlow Council (the first authority) will not disclose information relating to every entry. Each application will be considered on its own merits.

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⁷ This section of the policy relates to the handling by the first authority of a request for information by the second authority.

⁸ This record can be combined with the written record of the action taken as a result of the request.

⁹ If the first authority is not satisfied that the second authority's data protection policy is satisfactory, no disclosure can be made. In such circumstances it is essential that discussion takes place as a matter of urgency between the data protection officers of the first authority and the second authority.

Harlow Council will disclose information relating to a revocation or refusal to grant a drivers' licence in accordance with the timescales contained within Harlow Council's Statement of Policy and Guidelines relating to the relevance of Convictions, Formal / Simple Cautions, Complaints and/or other matters.¹⁰ Where the reason for refusal to grant or revocation relates to a conviction (or similar as defined in Harlow Council's statement of policy) which is within the timescales determined in those guidelines, the information will be disclosed. Where the reason for refusal to grant or revocation relates to a conviction (or similar as defined in Harlow Council's statement of policy) which is outside the timescales determined in those guidelines, the information will not be disclosed. However, in every case, consideration will be given to the full circumstances of the decision and there may be occasions where information is provided other than in accordance with this policy.

Any information about convictions will be shared in accordance with this policy under part 2 of schedule 1 to the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018; that is, the processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest in connection with the exercise of a function conferred on the authority by an enactment or rule of law.

The officer will record what action was taken and why. Harlow Council will make and then retain a clear written record¹¹ of every decision that is made as a result of a request from another authority. This will detail:

- the date the request was received
- how the data protection impact assessment was conducted and its conclusions
- the name or names searched
- whether any information was provided
- if information was provided, why it was provided and details of any further advice obtained before the decision was made
- if information was not provided, why it was not provided and details of any further advice obtained before the decision was made
- how and when the decision and any information was communicated to the requesting authority

This record will not be combined with any other records – that is, combined with a register of licences granted – and will be retained for the retention period of 11 years.

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¹⁰ Available at www.harlow.gov.uk/business/licensing/taxi-and-private-hire-licences/driver-licence

¹¹ This can be electronic, rather than "pen and paper" hard copy.

IV. Using any information obtained as a result of a request to another authority

When Harlow Council receives information as a result of a request that has been made to another authority, it will take that information into account when determining the application for the grant or renewal of a taxi drivers' licence. This will be in accordance with the usual process for determining applications and Harlow Council's Statement of Policy and Guidelines relating to the relevance of Convictions, Formal / Simple Cautions, Complaints and/or other matters.

Harlow Council will make and then retain a clear written record of the use that is made of the results of the search (this information will be added to the register detailed above).

Information that is received may warrant significant weight being attached to it, but it will not be the sole basis for any decision that Harlow Council will make in relation to the application.

Appendix E

Private Hire Driver Conditions

Convictions Cautions Summonses Arrests Fixed Penalty Notices Etc.

Any of the following events in respect of the licence holder, must be reported in writing within 48 hours, giving full details of: ~~Any driver holding a Private Hire Driver Licence issued by Harlow Council must notify the Council in writing, within 48 hours of:~~

- Any charge or conviction ~~(motoring or criminal)~~
- Any caution, ~~warning or reprimand~~ (issued by the Police or any other agency)
- Their arrest for any offence (whether or not charged)
- Issue of any magistrates' court summons against them
- Issue of any fixed penalty notice for any matter.
- Any harassment or other form of Warning or Order within criminal law, includes Anti-Social Behaviour Orders or similar
- Issue of a fixed penalty notice which results in penalty points being endorsed on the licence holders UK driving licence

Failure to notify the Council may result in enforcement action being taken against the licensed driver.

Changes to personal details, including addresses, must be notified to the Licensing Team within ~~14 days~~ 7 days in writing or by email to licensing@harlow.gov.uk

~~Section 54(2) of the 1976 Act requires the driver to wear the badge at all times when acting as a private hire driver. Failure on the part of a licensed private hire driver to wear the badge is an offence. The badge must be worn on the upper body in order to make it conspicuous.~~

~~A driver shall at all times when working, wear their badge on their person so that it is clearly visible.~~

~~A driver shall not refuse to carry fewer persons than the vehicle is licensed to carry without reasonable excuse.~~

Conduct

A driver should be courteous to passengers and offer such reasonable assistance with bags etc. as is necessary.

~~A driver shall convey a reasonable quantity of luggage and afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading such luggage.~~

A driver should be suitably dressed, be clean in appearance and must not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

When picking up passengers a driver is not to sound the vehicle horn as an indication that he/she is there. The driver should go to the premises and make their presence known.

A journey should be undertaken using the most direct and cost-effective route available.

Private hire vehicles should be driven in a manner that does not cause discomfort to passengers.

Once a Private Hire Vehicle has been hired, a driver shall not carry anyone else during that hire, without the explicit consent of the first hirer.

The driver shall not demand from any hirer of a Private Hire Vehicle a fare greater than that agreed with the Operator or, if the vehicle is fitted with a taximeter and there has been no previous agreement as to the fare, the fare shown on the face of the taximeter.

The driver of a Private Hire Vehicle shall, immediately after the termination of the hiring, search the vehicle for any property, which may have been accidentally left therein. On finding any property left in his vehicle, a driver shall carry it as soon as possible and in any case within 48 hours, to his operator's local office and deposit it there.

Smoking

Private hire drivers must ensure that the requirements of the current smoke free legislation are being complied with.

Vehicles

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Road Traffic Act, the Proprietor of a private hire vehicle shall report to the Licensing Team as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case within 72 hours of the occurrence, details of all motor vehicle accidents including those causing minor damage.

Private hire drivers are not permitted to use private hire vehicles to ply for hire or wait on or obstruct Hackney Carriage Ranks.

Private hire drivers must ensure that during the time their vehicle has a valid Private Hire Vehicle licence, there is also in place a current insurance policy/certificate relating to private hire work, a current MOT test certificate and a current compliance test certificate.

Carriage of Persons with a disability, including wheelchairs and Assistance Dogs

No person shall, being the driver of a Private Hire Vehicle:

- without reasonable excuse, refuse to attend the needs of, or refuse assistance to any person with a disability, whether or not they are the user of a wheelchair.
- without reasonable excuse, refuse to provide reasonable assistance to a person with a disability, which could include help getting in and out of the vehicle, help finding the vehicle, carrying a mobility aid, reading out the fare, explaining what route is being taken
- without reasonable excuse, refuse to permit the carriage of a dog used as a guide dog for a blind or partially sighted person, a hearing dog for those otherwise impaired, or any trained assistance dog
- charge for carrying a guide dog, hearing dog or assistance dog, or for the carriage of a wheelchair

A driver is required to carry any disabled person and provide mobility assistance unless they have a medical exemption notice granted by the Licensing Team.

A driver is required to carry an assistance dog in their vehicle unless they have a medical exemption ~~card~~ notice granted by the Licensing Team.

Appendix F

Hackney Carriage Model Byelaws

Throughout these byelaws ‘the Council’ means Harlow District Council and ‘the District’ means the District of Harlow.

Provisions regulating the manner in which the number of each hackney carriage corresponding with the number of its licence shall be displayed

The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall:

- a) Cause the number of the licence granted to him in respect of the carriage to be legibly painted or marked on the outside and inside of the carriage, or on plates affixed thereto.
- b) Not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer any such number to be concealed from public view while the carriage is standing or plying for hire
- c) Not cause or permit the carriage to stand or ply for hire with such painting, marking or plate so defaced that any figure or material particular is illegible.

The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall:

- a) Provide sufficient means by which any person in the carriage may communicate with the driver
- b) Cause the roof or covering to be kept water-tight
- c) Provide any necessary windows and a means of opening and closing not less than one window on each side
- d) Cause the seats to be properly cushioned or covered
- e) Cause the floor to be provided with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable covering
- f) Cause the fittings and furniture generally to be kept in a clean condition, well maintained and in every way fit for public service
- g) Provide means for securing luggage if the carriage is so constructed as to carry luggage
- h) Provide an efficient fire extinguisher which shall be carried in such a position as to be readily available for use
- i) Provide at least two doors for the use of persons conveyed in such carriage and a separate means of ingress and egress for the driver

The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause any taximeter with which the carriage is provided to be so constructed, attached and maintained as to comply with the following requirements, that is to say:

- a) The taximeter shall be fitted with a key, flag or other device the turning of which will bring the machinery of the taximeter into action and cause the word ‘HIRED’ to appear on the face of the taximeter.

- b) Such key, flag or other device shall be capable of being locked in such a position that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action and that no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter.
- c) When the machinery of the taximeter is in action there shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter in clearly legible figures, a fare not exceeding the rate or fare which the proprietor or driver is entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage by time as well as for distance in pursuance of the tariff fixed by the Council.
- d) The word 'FARE' shall be printed on the face of the taximeter in plain letters so as clearly to apply to the fare recorded thereon.
- e) The taximeter shall be so placed that all letters and figures on the face thereof are at all times plainly visible to any person being conveyed in the carriage, and for that purpose the letters and figures shall be capable of being suitably illuminated during any period of hiring.
- f) The taximeter and all fittings thereof shall be so affixed to the carriage with seals or other appliances that it shall not be practicable for any person to tamper with them except by breaking, damaging or permanently displacing the seals or other appliances.

Provisions regulating the conduct of the proprietors and drivers of hackney carriages plying within the district in their several employments, and determining whether such drivers shall wear any and what badges

The driver of a hackney carriage provided with a taximeter shall

- a) When standing or plying for hire keep the key, flag or other device fitted in pursuance of the byelaw in the behalf locked in the position in which no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter.
- b) Before beginning a journey for which a fare is charged for distance and time, bring the machinery of the taximeter so that the 'HIRED' is legible on the face of the taximeter and keep the machinery of the taximeter in action until the termination of the hiring.
- c) Cause the dial of the taximeter to be kept properly illuminated throughout any part of the hiring which is between half and hour after sunset and half and hour before sunrise, and also at any other time at the request of the hirer.

A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not tamper with or permit any person to tamper with any taximeter with which the carriage is provided, with the fittings thereof, or with the seals affixed thereto.

The driver of a hackney carriage shall, when plying for hire in any street and not actually hired:

- a) Proceed with reasonable speed to one of the stands appointed by the Council.

- b) If a stand, at the time of his arrival, is occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, proceed to another stand.
- c) On arrival at a stand not already occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, station the carriage immediately behind the carriage or carriages on the stand and so as to face in the same direction.
- d) From time to time, when any other carriage immediately in front is driven off or moved forward cause his carriage to be moved forward so as to fill the place previously occupied by the carriage driven off or moved forward.

A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage, when standing or plying for hire, shall not make use of the services of any other person for the purpose of importuning any person to hire such carriage.

The driver of a hackney carriage shall behave in a civil and orderly manner and shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of persons conveyed in or entering or alighting from the vehicle.

The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage who has agreed or has been hired to be in attendance with the carriage at an appointed time and place shall, unless delayed or prevented by some sufficient cause, punctually attend with such carriage at such appointed time and place.

A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in such carriage any greater number of persons than the number of persons specified on the plate affixed to the outside of the carriage.

If a badge has been provided by the Council and delivered to the driver of a hackney carriage he shall, when standing or plying for hire, and when hired, wear that badge in such position and manner as to be plainly visible.

The driver of a hackney carriage so constructed to carry luggage shall, when requested by any person hiring or seeking to hire the carriage:

- a) Convey a reasonable quantity of luggage.
- b) Afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading.
- c) Afford reasonable assistance in removing it to or from the entrance of any building, station or place at which he may take up or set down such person.

Provisions fixing the rates or fares to be paid for hackney carriages within the district and securing the due publication of such fares

The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall be entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage the rate or fare prescribed by the Council, the rate or fare being calculated by a combination of distance and time unless the hirer express at the commencement of the hiring his desire to engage by time.

Provided always that where a hackney carriage furnished with a taximeter shall be hired by distance and time the proprietor or driver thereof shall not be entitled to demand and take a fare greater than that recorded on the taximeter, save for any extra charge authorised by the Council which it may not be possible to record on the face of the taximeter.

The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause a statement of fares fixed by Council resolution to be exhibited inside the carriage, in clearly distinguishable letters and figures.

The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage bearing a statement of fares in accordance with this byelaw shall not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer the letters or figures in the statement to be concealed or rendered illegible at any time while the carriage is plying or being used for hire.

Provisions securing the safe custody and re-delivery of any property accidentally left in hackney carriages, and fixing the charges to be made in respect thereof

The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall immediately after the termination of any hiring or as soon as practicable thereafter carefully search the carriage for any property which may have been accidentally left therein.

The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall, if any property accidentally left therein by any person who may have been conveyed in the carriage be found by or handed to him:

- a) Carry it as soon as possible and in any event within 48 hours if not sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner, to the office of the Council and leave it in the custody of the officer in charge of the office on his giving a receipt for it.
- b) Be entitled to receive from any person to whom the property shall be re-delivered an amount equal to five pence in the pound of its estimated value (or the fare for the distance from the place of finding to the office of the Council, whichever be the greater) but not more than five pounds.

Penalties

Every person who shall offend against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding Level 2 on the Standard Scale and in the case of continuing offence to a further fine not exceeding two pounds for each day during which the offence continues after conviction thereafter.

Appendix G

Private Hire Operator Conditions

Records to be kept by the Operator

Bookings

The Operator will keep, in a manner agreed with Harlow Council Licensing Team [Legal Services, Licensing Department](#); the following information of every booking of a Private Hire Vehicle invited or accepted.

- a. The date and time that the booking was made.
- b. The name, contact telephone number (where possible) and pick up point of the hirer.
- c. The time and date of the pickup.
- d. The destination.
- e. The name and call sign of the vehicle and/or driver used.
- f. How the booking was made (i.e. telephone, personal call, internet etc.)
- g. The name of any individual that responded to the booking request
- h. The name of any individual that dispatched the vehicle
- i. Where the operator subcontracts a booking, he shall keep such records as required above to allow the Local Authority to reasonably investigate any booking as effectively as if it had not been subcontracted.

The Operator will keep the above records for a minimum of 12 months, including bookings that are no pickup/cancellation etc. (Otherwise known as scrubs).

Vehicles

The Operator will keep records of the particulars of all Private Hire Vehicles operated by him/her.

- a. Make and model of each vehicle
- b. Vehicle registration and plate numbers.
- c. Owners and/or drivers of each vehicle.
- d. Radio call signs used for each vehicle.
- e. Details of vehicle insurance policies and vehicle excise expiry dates.
- f. Details of private hire vehicle licence expiry dates.
- g. Details of MOT and Compliance Test expiry dates.

Drivers

The Operator will keep records in respect of all Private Hire Drivers operated by him/her.

- a. Full name and permanent address of each driver.
- b. D.V.L.A. Driving licence expiry dates.
- c. Private hire driver badge numbers and expiry dates.

- d. Radio call signs used for each driver.

The Operator will retain all Private Hire Drivers and Vehicle licences until such time the driver and/or vehicle ceases to be operated by them.

The Operator shall produce all or any of the above records on request of any Officer of the Council Authorised under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Private Hire Operator Licence holders – Basic DBS

All applicants named on the operator licence who do not hold a private hire driver licence will be required to provide a Basic DBS disclosure to the Licensing Team on an annual basis regardless of licence duration.

The operator must provide details of any change to directors or partners responsible for the management of the business where the licence holder is a company or partnership; a new Basic DBS disclosure will be provided for all new persons added to the company or partnership.

An applicants' suitability to hold an operator licence will be guided by the General Enforcement Policy and the [Convictions Policy](#); Institute of Licensing's 'Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney and private hire trades.'

Booking and Dispatch Staff – Basic DBS

The Operator will keep a register of all staff that take bookings, dispatch vehicles or any other staff who have access to booking information or have contact with members of the public. The register can be kept either electronically or in hardcopy.

The Operator must ensure that Basic DBS checks are carried out annually on every person included in their staff register.

Basic DBS checks will be carried out by the holder of an operator licence. The certificate's date of issue, its reference/certificate number and the time, date that the certificate was first viewed, [and that the Operator has had sight of the original certificate \(although the certificate itself should not be retained\)](#) must be recorded in the staff register and signed.

[Individuals that take bookings and/or dispatch vehicles for an Operator must be required, as part of their employment contract, to advise the Operator of any new convictions while they are employed in this role.](#)

Where offences are present on a DBS certificate, the date and time of any review and the decision made with regards to a member of staff's suitability must be recorded in the staff register.

In the absence of an operator having their own stricter policy in relation to employing ex-offenders, the operator will use the Council's [Conviction Policy](#) standards applied

to private hire operators (as detailed in the Institute of Licensing's 'Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney and private hire trades').

Where bookings and vehicle dispatch are outsourced, operators are required to evidence that the outsourced staff have been vetted to at least the same level as if they worked directly for the operator.

The staff register will be made available for inspection to the Police or Licensing Team upon request.

Conduct of the Operator

The Operator will not invite or accept bookings for private hire work for any vehicle, which has not been licensed by Harlow Council for such work.

It is the responsibility of the Operator to ensure that any private hire vehicle operated by him/her is in a suitable roadworthy condition, fully licensed, taxed and insured etc.

The private hire plate must be affixed to each car in a position on the outside of the rear of the boot or bumper that makes it readily visible.

The licensed Operator shall not ~~dispatch employ or otherwise engage, whether directly or indirectly,~~ any driver to drive any Harlow licensed private hire vehicle unless that person has a current private hire driver's licence issued by Harlow Council.

The Operator shall, immediately upon receipt, notify the Licensing Team, in writing, of any complaint concerning the roadworthiness and or condition of a vehicle or a complaint against a driver.

~~An Operator may not change the address from which he/she operates without prior agreement, in writing, from the Licensing Team.~~

The Licence holder must notify in writing any change of address of the licence holder or the address of the operating centre by email to licensing@harlow.gov.uk within 48hrs of the change.

Any of the following events in respect of the licence holder, must be reported in writing within 48 hours, giving full details of:

- Any charge or conviction (criminal or driving matter)
- Any caution (issued by the Police or any other agency)
- Their arrest for any offence (whether or not charged)
- Issue of any magistrates' court summons against them
- Issue of any fixed penalty notice for any matter.
- Any harassment or other form of Warning or Order within criminal law, includes Anti-Social Behaviour Orders or similar

~~The Operator shall within seven days disclose to the Licensing Team, in writing, details of any convictions (motoring or otherwise) imposed upon him/her.~~

~~Any convictions (motoring or otherwise) imposed upon any director or partner of the company who are named on the licence application/renewal form.~~

Standard of Service

The Operator shall provide a prompt, efficient and reliable service to members of the public at all reasonable times and, for this purpose, shall in particular:

Ensure that when a private hire vehicle has been booked it attends at the appointed time and place punctually unless delayed for a genuine reason. Wherever possible the hirer should be advised of any delay in picking them up.

Ensure that any private hire vehicle despatched to pick up a customer is clean, comfortable, presentable and in a roadworthy condition.

Ensure that all private hire drivers are suitably dressed, are clean in appearance and do not appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Any part of the premises, to which the public have access for the purposes of booking and waiting, shall be adequately clean, heated, ventilated, and lit and provided with seating.

Signs on Vehicles and Advertising

~~The Proprietor of a Private Hire business must not permit the display of the word "Taxi", "Cab", "For Hire" or "Hackney Carriage" on any private hire vehicles operated by them whether in the singular or plural, or words of similar meaning or appearance whether alone or part of another word.~~

~~The Proprietor of a Private Hire business will not use any advertisement in respect of the business, or the vehicles used for private hire work, which include the words "hackney carriage", 'taxi' or 'cab' whether in the singular or plural, or words of similar meaning or appearance whether alone or part of another word.~~

The positioning of Private Hire Vehicle licensing signs and/or signage, agreed for use by Harlow Council, will take precedence over signs and/or advertising provided by the Private Hire Operator.

Signs on vehicles should be clear, not misleading and must not be offensive.

Advertising material, whether to promote the business or a booking method, must be clear and unambiguous.

Any method of booking, which includes more than one Operator, or other businesses, should not be established without the formal consent of all parties. It is, however, perfectly acceptable to pass a booking onto another Operator if the first Operator is unable to fulfil the booking.

Carriage of Guide, Hearing and Other Assistance Dogs, Equality Act 2010

~~Private Hire Vehicles (Carriage of Guide Dogs etc.) Act 2002~~

All Drivers are required to carry Assistance Dogs in their vehicles unless the driver is exempt for medical reasons.

An Operator is not permitted to refuse a booking on the basis that the hirer indicates they have an assistance dog.

If an Operator is aware that one of his/her drivers requires a medical exemption then they should contact the Licensing Team, for further advice and information.

A driver that has been granted a medical exemption will be permitted to display an exemption notice within their vehicle. The exemption, however, only applies to the named driver and vehicle.

Lost Property

The Operator will take all reasonable steps to ensure the safe custody of any items in private hire vehicles operated by him/her.

The following records should be kept of all items of lost property:

- Description of the item
- Date and time found
- Details of private hire vehicle it was left in
- Date taken to Police Station (if applicable)
- Action taken in respect of the lost item

Appendix H

Private hire vehicle conditions

Standard Conditions applicable to a Private Hire Vehicle licence

Licensing Period. A Private Hire Vehicle shall be licensed for a period of not more than 1 calendar year.

Use of the Vehicle. A private hire vehicle once licensed is always a private hire vehicle and may only be driven by a private hire driver who holds a licence under Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Persons permitted to drive a Licensed Vehicle. A vehicle licensed by Harlow Council may only be driven by a person licensed to drive a private hire vehicle by Harlow Council.

Insurance. A valid insurance policy in respect of the vehicle covering the carriage of passengers for hire and reward shall be in force throughout the period of the licence.

Cleanliness. The licensed vehicle shall be maintained in a clean, comfortable, presentable and roadworthy condition.

Vehicle Modification No material alteration or change in the specification, design or appearance of the vehicle shall be made without the approval of the Licensing Team.

Signs. Private Hire Vehicles shall not display signs using the words HACKNEY CARRIAGE, TAXI, CAB, or FOR HIRE or any form of wording which may indicate that the vehicle is presently available for hire.

Vehicle Inspection Arrangements. The licensed vehicle shall be presented for MOT and compliance testing at the garage nominated by the Council. Proprietors are required to book their MOT/compliance tests with the nominated garage at intervals specified by Council vehicle licence conditions.

Inspection intervals.

Licensed vehicles shall be presented for MOT annually and immediately prior to first being licensed. Thereafter, a licensed vehicle shall be presented for Compliance testing at the following intervals:

- a) Immediately prior to the issue of first licence (on the date of the MOT)
- b) Annually for all vehicles with <100,000 recorded miles (on the date of MOT)
- c) Every 6 months for all vehicles with >100,000 recorded miles
- e) At the request of the Council for enforcement purposes.

Trailers. A private hire vehicle may tow a trailer provided that the trailer is fully compliant with all road traffic regulations. The vehicle proprietor shall notify the Council that he/she intends to use a trailer prior to first use. A trailer used for private hire shall be presented for inspection to the Council's nominated garage prior to being used for the first time and annually thereafter.

~~**Display of Plate.** A 'private hire plate' issued by the Council shall be fixed to the outside rear of the vehicle using permanent fixing brackets supplied by the Council in a prominent position which does not obscure lights or number plate. The plate shall be displayed at all times. No other plate or roundel from any other authority shall be displayed. The plate shall not be attached to the vehicle with magnets or tape.~~

Display of plate. The identification plate issued by the Council in respect of the vehicle shall be permanently fixed on or above the bumper on the outside of the rear of the vehicle, in such a position that it shall be clearly visible from the rear of the vehicle and the driver/proprietor shall not wilfully or negligently conceal it from public view. No other plate or roundel from any other authority shall be displayed. The plate shall not be attached to the vehicle using velcro, cable ties or magnetic fastenings.

Vehicle Badge. A vehicle badge issued by the Council shall be displayed on the windscreen at all times in a position where it can be clearly seen by passengers. The badge shall not obscure the driver's vision. No other badge from another authority shall be displayed.

Door Panels. A private hire vehicle shall display offside and nearside front door vehicle identification panels. The panels shall be issued by the Council and be permanently fitted to the private hire vehicle for the entire period that the vehicle remains licensed. In the event of panels being lost, damaged or defaced, the vehicle proprietor or driver shall, as soon as practicable, notify the licensing team and obtain replacement panels.

Chauffeur Vehicles (Where exemption is issued) Chauffeur vehicles are required to be licensed as private hire vehicles and be operated through a Licensed Operator in accordance with the 76 Act. However, regulation 75 (3) of the 76 Act allows the licensing authority to alter requirements for the display of plates. Harlow Council will not require that the vehicle displays a rear plate ~~under clause 11 above~~ or door panels ~~under clause 13 or a roof sign under clause 23~~ where the vehicle meets the following requirements;

- The vehicle is an executive or prestigious vehicle,
- The vehicle is only operated in a manner which could reasonably be construed as chauffeuring where persons hire the vehicle and driver and, a higher standard of service is provided,
- The vehicle is not operated at any time for short trips, school runs, airport work and similar journeys which may be considered normal 'private hire work'.

The Council shall issue a certificate of exemption for vehicles that are not required to display plates which must be carried in the vehicle.

Emissions. All newly licensed private hire vehicles shall be compliant with Euro 4, or higher, emissions standards. ~~Vehicles continuously licensed on 22nd November 2016 which are not certified by the manufacturer as Euro 4 compliant shall not be relicensed after 22nd November 2019.~~

Meters. A private hire vehicle shall not be required to use a private hire meter but where fitted the meter must be compliant with The Measuring Instruments (Taximeter) Regulations 2006 and be sealed by the Council or persons working on behalf of the Council. For the purposes of this condition, a Personal Digital Assistant or similar device shall not be considered to be a meter.

Reporting Damage and Accidents. The proprietor of a private hire vehicle licensed by Harlow Council shall report to the council as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case within seventy-two hours of the occurrence of, any accident to such private hire vehicle whether or not causing damage materially affecting the safety, performance or appearance of the private hire vehicle or the comfort or convenience of persons carried therein.

LPG. Private Hire Vehicles converted to run on LPG by a third-party vehicle converter shall meet the legislative requirements set out in the Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (as amended). [Regulations 40 & 94 and schedules 4 & 5 lay down safety requirements for the LPG system]. There is a voluntary code of practice published by UKLPG regarding LPG conversion standards. The Council reserves the right to require that the vehicle be approved under the UKLPG accreditation scheme. Documentary evidence shall be provided to the Licensing Team to confirm that the conversion meets with legislative requirements. Private hire vehicles converted to run on LPG shall display a roundel sticker at the front and rear of the vehicle stating that the vehicle has been fitted with an LPG tank. The vehicle proprietor shall notify the Licensing Team, DVLA and their insurance company that the vehicle has been converted to run on LPG.

~~**BHP.** Petrol or diesel powered private hire vehicles shall be a minimum of 90bhp.~~

Hybrid and Electrically Propelled Vehicles. Harlow Council shall licence hybrid or electrically propelled vehicles where they meet these conditions.

Insurance Write offs. No vehicle which has been written off as a **Category C** **Category N** insurance loss shall be licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle.

Compliance and MOT Standards. The licensed vehicle shall meet the minimum standards set out in the MOT and in the Compliance standards below. A licensed vehicle which fails the MOT standard shall not be used as a Private Hire Vehicle and the proprietor shall as soon as practicable inform the Council's licensing team of any such failure. A licensed vehicle shall not be used as a private hire vehicle where it

fails a compliance test other than at the discretion of the [Assistant Director for Public Protection Environment and Licensing Manager](#). Any such failure shall as soon as practicable be notified to the Licensing Team. The Licensed Vehicle shall meet the following standards when tested annually and at 6-month intervals with the exception of vehicle emission testing which shall be carried out annually.

Roof Signs Prohibited. Any roof sign or other signage with a raised profile is prohibited from being displayed on the roof, bonnet, or boot of a private hire vehicle.

Vehicle Proprietors.

- Vehicle proprietors who do not hold a driver licence will be required to provide a Basic DBS disclosure to the Licensing Team on an annual basis.
- The vehicle proprietor must provide details of any change to directors or partners responsible for the management of the business where the licence holder is a company or partnership, a new Basic DBS disclosure will be provided for all new persons added to the company or partnership.
- An applicants' suitability to hold a vehicle licence will be guided by the General Enforcement Policy and [Convictions Policy](#); the Institute of Licensing's 'Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney and private hire trades.'

Regulations. The proprietor shall ensure that any driver complies with the Council's [Conditions and Compliance Testing Standards](#).

Statutory Requirements. The proprietor should make themselves familiar with statutory requirements in relation to Private Hire Vehicle Licensing and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. These are available at a public library or via the internet.

Private Hire Vehicle testing (Compliance Standards)

The vehicle shall meet the MOT standard when undergoing a compliance test.

A **fire extinguisher** manufactured to BSEN 3 1996 shall be readily available and fixed with a bracket in the car or boot.

Driver and passenger foot-wells: Driver and passenger foot-wells shall be kept free of obstructions.

Leg room, seat dimensions and internal arrangements: Private hire vehicles shall meet the following minimum standards:

Vehicles shall have 5 seats to accommodate a minimum of 4 passengers and have a minimum of 4 doors.

- Larger vehicles may be licensed for not more than 8 passengers.
- The aggregate internal width of seats shall not be less than 1,290mm when measured across the seats at shoulder height.
- Provide not less than 152mm leg-room between the front seat and cushion of the rear seat measured horizontally.
- The licensing team shall exercise reasonable discretion on the suitability of vehicles to be licensed as private hire vehicles.
- Seats shall be secure and backrests shall be capable of being secured in the upright position.

Bonnet. The bonnet must open and close properly and be fitted with a working safety catch in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

Vehicle Cleanliness. The vehicle shall be submitted for inspection in a clean condition to enable the vehicle inspector to carry out a full and proper inspection and examine all necessary components. Reasonable steps shall be taken to keep the licensed vehicle clean throughout the licensed period.

Floor coverings. Floor covering shall be complete and free from cuts, tears, or serious staining.

Interior (General). All interior trim, including headlining, door panels and speakers shall be clean, complete, properly fitted and free from serious cuts, tears or major soiling. Door handles and windows shall be operational. All fittings shall be secured in a manner that prevents sharp edges or other hazards protruding into the passenger carrying areas.

Rust. The vehicle shall be free from significant areas of visible rusting. Although minor blemishes will not normally constitute a failure, the following general criteria shall be followed. Any vehicle with three or more visible rust patches larger than 5sq cms each shall be failed. The vehicle examiner shall be allowed reasonable discretion when assessing rust.

Dents: Any vehicle with minor dents on three or more panels where such dents detract from the appearance of the vehicle shall be failed. The vehicle examiner shall be allowed reasonable discretion when assessing dents.

Scratches: Any vehicle with unrepaired scratches down to bare metal on three or more panels of 50mm in length or where the cumulative appearance of scratches detracts from the appearance of the vehicle shall be failed. The vehicle examiner shall be allowed reasonable discretion when assessing vehicle condition.

Paintwork: Any vehicle with panels painted in non-matching colours, or in primer, shall be failed.

Accident damage: Vehicles with significant unrepaired bodywork damage shall be failed.

Trailers. Trailers shall,

- Be maintained in roadworthy condition.
- Be fitted with lights in accordance with The Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989.
- Display a number plate of the towing vehicle.
- Not obscure the 'Local Authority Plate'.

Access Equipment and fittings for passengers with disabilities (where fitted):

Access ramps and hoists shall properly installed and maintained in working order. Wheelchair clamps and harnesses shall be correctly fitted, be available for use and, maintained in good working order. Fittings and fitments shall be capable of being used by persons using a wheelchair.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

A Private Hire Vehicle must be clearly distinguishable from Hackney Carriages.

Door panels size and design. Door identification panels shall be permanently fixed and displayed on the front passenger and driver doors. The panels may not be fixed using magnets or other non-permanent means. Panels shall measure 400mm x 127mm and clearly display the vehicle private hire plate number. The panels will be supplied by Harlow Council.

Tinted Windows: Private Hire Vehicles may be fitted with tinted windows provided that they are only supplied as standard by the original vehicle manufacturer and comply with current vehicle Construction and Use Regulations 1986 (as amended) with respect to the fitting of tinted, opaque, darkened or privacy glass windows. ~~Do-it-yourself window tint film kits are not permissible.~~ No 'after-market', do it yourself window tinting is permitted.

Appendix I

Stretched Limousines Additional Conditions and Criteria (licensed as a private hire vehicle)

Definition: A stretched limousine for the purpose of licensing in Harlow shall be a vehicle modified as a stretched vehicle, such as a Ford Lincoln, Ford Excursion, Cadillac, Volvo or Mercedes, by a converter approved by the manufacturer.

Small limousines, that is, those with fewer than 9 passenger seats, will in almost all cases not be type approved to British or European standards and thus will need to prove compliance through the Individual Vehicle Approval Scheme (IVA), formerly known as the Single Vehicle Approval scheme (SVA).

The IVA scheme provides a pre-registration inspection for all passenger and goods vehicles that have not been type-approved to British or European standards. The main purpose of this scheme is to ensure that these vehicles have been designed and constructed to modern safety and environmental standards before they can be used on public roads.

Before a vehicle is submitted to VOSA for an IVA inspection, evidence must be provided to demonstrate the modified vehicle's capability to operate at weights higher than the original vehicle's maximum gross weight where this will be exceeded when the vehicle is full of passengers. Key components such as the axles, suspension and brakes may have to be upgraded to take the extra weight of the converted vehicle, compared to the original base vehicle.

Evidence of an IVA inspection shall be required at the time of licence application.

A vehicle licence will not normally be granted if it has sustained accident damage resulting in structural distortion beyond the accepted limits of the vehicle manufacturer, or, has been disposed of under an insurance salvage agreement (categories A, B and S). The Council Private Hire Vehicle Standards allow for a category N write-off to be licensed.

Where the council's nominated garage is unable to fulfil the requirement of an MOT e.g. there is no large wheel-base ramp installed, the council shall accept an MOT from any VOSA Approved Testing Station. The vehicle will still have to attend and pass a Compliance Test at the Council's nominated garage.

The criteria for licensing these vehicles by Harlow Council will be the same as for private hire vehicles subject to the following additional conditions:

1. The vehicle will be licensed for a maximum of eight passengers, and the applicant must confirm in writing that passenger numbers will be restricted to no more than 8 passengers.

2. Tinted windows must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 in so far as the windscreen and front side windows are Concerned
3. The vehicle may be left hand drive provided it is fitted with a forward-facing camera on the offside of the vehicle (such as in the wing mirror) and a monitor displaying video from the camera and visible to the driver;
4. The correct type of tyres of both the appropriate size and the correct weight loading must be fitted.
5. A seat belt must be fitted for each seat in accordance with the Construction and Use Regulations and must be used by passengers;
6. Each passenger must be able to exit the vehicle on both sides of the vehicle by either a door or an emergency window exit. Childproof locks which prevent egress from the rear of the vehicle shall not be fitted or if fitted, shall be permanently disabled;
7. The vehicle will be required to pass a vehicle compliance inspection, before licensing and at intervals, as specified by the Private Hire Vehicle Conditions.
8. Where alcohol is supplied it must be authorised under the Licensing Act 2003 and no alcohol shall be supplied to any person below the age of 18.
9. A licence badge, issued by the Licensing Team shall be displayed on the front windscreen (not in the area swept by wipers)
10. The vehicle shall be exempted from the requirements to display a plate identifying it as a Private Hire Vehicle, and in accordance with section 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, will not have to be displayed on the rear of the vehicle. The exemption shall also apply to door stickers and roof signs.
11. The exemption certificate issued in relation to Condition 10 shall be carried in the vehicle and available for inspection at all times.
12. All granted applications shall be issued with an exemption certificate.

Appendix J

Hackney carriage vehicle conditions

Use of Vehicle: A Hackney Carriage Vehicle once licensed is always a Hackney Carriage Vehicle and as such may only be driven by a Hackney Carriage Driver who holds a licence under Section 46 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and Section 53 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 except where the vehicle or driver is being tested in accordance with the provisions specified in Schedule 7 of the Transport Act 1985.

Persons permitted to drive a licensed vehicle. A Hackney Carriage licensed by Harlow Council may only be driven by a person licensed by Harlow Council to drive a Hackney Carriage except where the vehicle or driver is being tested in accordance with the provisions specified in Schedule 7 of the Transport Act 1985.

Additional Conditions. Where necessary, the [Assistant Director for Public Protection Environment and Licensing Manager](#) shall apply specific conditions to the grant or renewal of the vehicle licence.

Inspection of the Vehicle. All MOT and Compliance tests shall be carried out by the Council's nominated garage. The Council shall not license a Hackney Carriage unless the vehicle has successfully passed an MOT and Compliance test.

Inspection intervals. Licensed vehicles shall be presented for MOT annually and immediately prior to first being licensed. Thereafter, a licensed vehicle shall be presented for Compliance testing at the following intervals;

- Immediately prior to the issue of first licence (on the date of the MOT)
- Annually for vehicles up to 6 years of age at first registration,
- Twice a year for vehicles older than 6 years of age
- At the request of the Council for enforcement purposes.

Proprietors shall be required to book their MOT and Compliance tests with the nominated garage at the specified intervals.

Insurance Write offs. No vehicle which has been written off as a [Category G](#) [Category N](#) insurance loss shall be licensed as a Hackney Carriage Vehicle.

Trailers. Prior to being used for the first time a trailer shall be inspected by the Council's nominated garage. Trailers used by Hackney Carriage vehicles will be subject to testing at the same time as the vehicle.

Plates and Badges. The Hackney Carriage plate shall be permanently fixed to the outside rear of the vehicle and shall be displayed at all times. The vehicle badge shall be displayed on the partition window where it may clearly be seen by passengers.

Fitness of the Vehicle. The vehicle shall be maintained in a clean, comfortable, presentable and roadworthy condition at all times..

Signs and advertising. Signs on vehicles shall be clear, not misleading and must not be offensive. Signs must not impede the safe operation of the vehicle.

Accidents Causing Damage to the Vehicle. The proprietor of a hackney carriage vehicle licensed by Harlow Council shall report to the council as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case within seventy-two hours of the occurrence of, any accident to such hackney carriage vehicle whether or not it causing damage materially affecting the safety, performance or appearance of the hackney carriage vehicle or the comfort or convenience of persons carried therein.

Insurance. A valid insurance policy in respect of the vehicle covering the carriage of passengers for hire and reward shall be in force throughout the period of the licence.

Plying for Hire/Hackney Carriage Ranks. Hackney carriage vehicles may ply for hire on an approved Hackney Carriage rank and may be hailed while travelling along any public highway within the District of Harlow. A Hackney Carriage vehicle may be dispatched to undertake a pre booked journey.

Hackney Carriage Meters. Hackney carriages shall be fitted with a meter compliant with The Measuring Instruments (Taximeters) Regulations 2006 and shall be periodically tested and sealed by the Council or by persons working on behalf of the Council.

Alteration of the Vehicle. No material alteration or change in the specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle shall be made without the approval of the Council at any time the licence is in force.

Wheelchair Accessibility. All Hackney Carriage Vehicles shall be 'reference wheelchair' accessible and be fitted with access ramps and fastening equipment. Hackney carriage vehicles are required to carry wheelchair passengers unless the driver has a medical exemption certificate issued by the Council on medical advice. (A reference wheelchair is one which conforms with The Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000).

Vehicle Emissions. All vehicles licensed for the first time on a newly issued plate shall be minimum Euro 6 compliant (~~There shall be no requirement for proprietors to purchase a new vehicle when making an application for a new plate for the first time~~). Vehicles (or replacement vehicles using the same plate) continuously licensed on 11th July 2017 which are not certified by the manufacturer (or by conversion) as minimum Euro 4 compliant shall not be relicensed after 1st January 2021.

Compliance and MOT Standards. The licensed vehicle shall meet the minimum standards set out in the MOT and in the Compliance standards below. A licensed vehicle which fails the MOT standard shall not be used as a Hackney Carriage and the proprietor shall as soon as practicable inform the Council's licensing team of any

such failure. A licensed vehicle shall not be used as a hackney carriage where it fails a compliance test other than at the discretion of the **Assistant Director for Public Protection Environment and Licensing Manager**. Any such failure shall as soon as practicable be notified to the Licensing Team. The Licensed Vehicle shall meet the following standards when tested annually and at 6-month intervals with the exception of vehicle emission testing which shall be carried out annually. The vehicle shall meet the MOT standard when undergoing a compliance test.

Card Payment Machines. Ensure the vehicle is equipped with a Harlow Council approved card payment terminal which can accept payment by credit/debit card from 6 April 2021. Ensure the device is connected, maintained and working at all times to ensure customers are able to pay by card. The Harlow Council approved card payment machines are specified in the following link;

<https://www.harlow.gov.uk/business/licensing/taxi-and-private-hire-licences/hackney-carriage-vehicle-licence>

A method of issuing a receipt to the customer must be available at all times. Receipts for card payment transactions can be in an email, text, printed, hand written or other acceptable format agreed with the Licensing Team. The receipt must include date of booking (and date of issue if different), description of pick up and destination, vehicle registration, vehicle licence number, drivers licence number and the amount (£).

The vehicle must be fitted with the Harlow Council approved and supplied card payment stickers in both rear passenger windows and inside the passenger compartment. The positioning of the three stickers is specified in the following link;

<https://www.harlow.gov.uk/business/licensing/taxi-and-private-hire-licences/hackney-carriage-vehicle-licence>

Vehicle Proprietors.

- Vehicle proprietors who do not hold a driver licence will be required to provide a Basic DBS disclosure to the Licensing Team on an annual basis.
- The vehicle proprietor must provide details of any change to directors or partners responsible for the management of the business where the licence holder is a company or partnership, a new Basic DBS disclosure will be provided for all new persons added to the company or partnership.
- An applicants' suitability to hold a vehicle licence will be guided by the General Enforcement Policy and the Institute of Licensing's 'Guidance on determining the suitability of applicants and licensees in the hackney and private hire trades.'

Carriage of Persons with a disability, including wheelchairs and Assistance Dogs

No person shall, being the driver of the Hackney Carriage Vehicle:

- without reasonable excuse, refuse to attend the needs of, or refuse assistance to any person with a disability, whether or not they are the user of a wheelchair
- Without reasonable excuse, refuse to provide reasonable assistance to a person with a disability, which could include help getting in and out of the vehicle, help finding the vehicle, carrying a mobility aid, reading out the fare, explaining what route is being taken
- without reasonable excuse, refuse to permit the carriage of a dog used as a guide dog for a blind or partially sighted person, a hearing dog for those otherwise impaired, or any trained assistance dog
- charge for carrying a guide dog, hearing dog or assistance dog, or for the carriage of a wheelchair

A driver is required to carry any disabled person and provide mobility assistance unless they have a medical exemption notice granted by the Licensing Team.

A driver is required to carry an assistance dog in their vehicle unless they have a medical exemption notice granted by the Licensing Team.

Regulations. The proprietor shall ensure that any driver complies with the Council's Byelaws, Conditions and Compliance Testing Standards.

Statutory Requirements. The proprietor should make themselves familiar with statutory requirements in relation to Hackney carriage licensing in the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (as amended), Sections 300-302 of the Public Health Act 1936, and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. These are available at a public library or via the internet.

Hackney Carriage Vehicle testing (Compliance Standard)

Fire Extinguisher. A fire extinguisher manufactured to BSEN 3 1996 shall be readily available and fixed with a bracket in the car or boot

Passenger door warning system. The drivers' control panel warning lights and passenger doors safety locking system must be fully operational. All doors shall lock when the foot brake is applied, or the speed is in excess of 5 mph.

Luggage space. The front luggage space shall be reasonably empty, clean and be available for use.

Taxi sign. A "Taxi" sign shall be clearly visible both by day and night when the cab is available for hire. The sign shall be operational.

Bonnet operation. The bonnet shall open and close properly and be fitted with a working safety catch.

Tyre type (London Taxi Company/London EV Company). Tyres must comply with the requirements of C & U regulations and be marked 'Taxi'. Re-tread tyres must comply with the British Standards Institution requirement BS.AU144E as amended.

Under chassis cleanliness. The vehicle shall be submitted for inspection in a clean condition to enable the vehicle inspector to carry out a full and proper inspection and examine all necessary components

Floor coverings. Floor coverings in the passenger compartment shall be non-slip and capable of being easily cleaned. The floor covering shall be complete and free from cuts, tears, or serious staining.

Seats. All seats, including the driver's seat shall be free from stains, cuts, tears and cigarette burns, except those of a very minor nature. Any repairs shall be carried out in a professional and neat manner.

General interior condition. All interior trim, including headlining, door panels and speakers shall be clean, complete, properly fitted and free from serious cuts, tears or major soiling. Door handles and window winders shall be secure and operational. All fittings shall be secured in a manner that prevents sharp edges or other hazards protruding into the passenger carrying area.

Rust. The vehicle shall be free from significant areas of visible rusting. Although minor blemishes will not normally constitute a failure, the following general criteria shall be followed. Any vehicle with three or more visible rust patches larger than 5sq cm each shall be failed. The vehicle examiner shall be allowed reasonable discretion when assessing rust.

Dents. Any vehicle with minor dents on three or more panels where such dents detract from the appearance of the vehicle shall be failed. The vehicle examiner shall be allowed reasonable discretion when assessing dents.

Scratches: Any vehicle with unrepaired scratches down to bare metal on three or more panels of 50mm in length or where the cumulative appearance of scratches detracts from the appearance of the vehicle shall be failed. The vehicle examiner shall be allowed reasonable discretion when assessing vehicle condition.

Paintwork: Vehicles with panels painted in non-matching colours or in primer shall be failed.

ACCIDENT DAMAGE Vehicles with significant unrepaired body damage shall be failed.

Trailers. Trailers shall,

1. Be maintained in roadworthy condition
2. Be fitted with an appropriate towing attachment between vehicle and trailer
3. Be fitted with lights in accordance with The Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989
4. Tyres shall have adequate tread.
5. Brakes (where fitted) shall be in operational.
6. Display a number plate of the towing vehicle.

Access Equipment and fittings for passengers with disabilities: Access ramps and hoists shall be properly installed and maintained in working order. Wheelchair clamps and harnesses shall be correctly fitted, be available for use and, maintained in good working order. Fittings and fitments shall be capable of being used by persons using a wheelchair.

~~**Tinted windows.** All rear nearside, offside, tailgate and boot windows fitted to Licensed Vehicles shall have a minimum 70% light transmittance. (This value is the same legal minimum value for front nearside and offside windows.)~~

Tinted Windows: Hackney Carriage Vehicles may be fitted with tinted windows provided that they are only supplied as standard by the original vehicle manufacturer and comply with current vehicle Construction and Use Regulations 1986 (as amended) with respect to the fitting of tinted, opaque, darkened or privacy glass windows. No 'after-market', do it yourself window tinting is permitted.

Appendix K

Driver (and Operator) useful information

Useful information contained within this Appendix has been put together to assist licensees and prospective applicants with completing the necessary checks to apply for a licence.

For Licensees and New Applicants

Enhanced DBS with Barring Lists Certificate (other workforce)

Applicants may apply for an Enhanced DBS with Barring List Checks certificate through TaxiPlus at www.taxiplus.co.uk/im-a-driver

On the TaxiPlus website: select the Harlow Council logo and follow on screen instructions (this works best on a mobile phone).

Licensees are required to be registered with the DBS Update Service for the issue of a licence. An applicant must subscribe directly to the DBS for this service.

www.gov.uk/dbs-update-service

Harlow Council shall check the status of DBS certificates every two weeks via the TaxiPlus system. Licensees whose subscription to the DBS Update Service fails, shall provide a new DBS certificate registered on the DBS Update Service, the new certificate shall be provided within 6-months of the previous DBS status check.

DVLA Driving Licence Share Code

The council will need to check your DVLA UK driving licence online using a licence check code. To log on you will need your **DVLA driving licence, national insurance number and postcode**. You can view your driving licence information at - www.gov.uk/view-driving-licence

Group 2 medical standard

Providers. The following medical providers are supportive of Harlow Council's Group 2 medical assessment, but you may take the assessment with any Group 2 medical provider:

Cotswold Medical Ltd (01454 317436) www.driversmedicals.com

Harlow Occupational Health Srv (01279 422377) www.hohs.org

If you wear glasses. Please take your most recent eye test prescription to your medical appointment, this must be no more than 2 years old. If you do not wear glasses, check your medical provider is able to conduct the Snellen chart eye test to

avoid any delay. The doctor or optician doing your medical will need to be able to confirm that you do not require glasses which have a strength of +8 dioptries or more. You should have your eyesight checked regularly.

Tablet-controlled Diabetes. If you take sulphonylureas or glinide types of medication (commonly only gliclazide), then as well as having your normal renewal medical you will need to have had a checkup with your GP/diabetes nurse.

Insulin-treated Diabetes. You are required to arrange an examination to be undertaken **every 12 months** by an independent consultant specialist in diabetes. The specialist needs to complete our approved medical questionnaire which is available on request. This is in addition to the routine interval medicals.

Ischaemic heart disease (coronary heart disease). We follow the DVLA medical standard which means that if you have ever had a heart attack or angina (even a long time ago) you will need to pass a treadmill test or equivalent **every three years** to demonstrate you continue to meet the Group 2 Standard.

Right to Work in the UK

We may only issue a licence to a person who has a Right to Work in the UK. Please see www.gov.uk/prove-right-to-work

A Right to Work share code or document is required if you're not a British or Irish citizen at each licence renewal.

Tax Check share code

If you're an individual, company or any type of partnership applying for a licence for a taxi driver, private hire driver or a private hire vehicle operator, you may need to provide a tax check share code.

HMRC require the licensing authority to confirm you are registered for tax before issuing a licence. To renew any driver licence, or if you have held a licence in the last year, or you hold the same licence with another authority, you must provide a Tax Share Code.

The same Tax Share Code cannot be used for hackney carriage and private hire driver applications.

Are you applying for a licence for the first time? You will not need to complete a tax check. However, you must read HMRC guidance on your tax obligations, so you understand how to be registered for tax. Please see www.gov.uk/self-assessment-tax-returns for further information.

You will need a Government Gateway user ID and password to complete a tax check, so you should make sure you have one before you need to make your licence application. For more information visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/changes-for-taxi-private-hire-or-scrap-metal-licence-applications-from-april-2022>

For New Applicants

Driving Assessment Providers (and wheelchair assessors)

The following driving practical assessors are approved by the Council to undertake the driving assessment for taxi and private hire:

Blue Lamp Trust on 0333 700 0157. Or visit www.bluelamptrust.org.uk (driving only assessments)

GreenPenny on 0330 111 7230. Or visit www.greenpenny.co.uk (driving and wheelchair assessments)

ExL Driving School 0800 567 7460. Or visit www.exl-driving.co.uk (driving and wheelchair assessments)

English Language Proficiency

Acceptable Qualifications that Demonstrate English Language Proficiency

An acceptable qualification may be in English language or literature, or any subject with a significant amount of English language content. Therefore, technical or IT related qualifications will not be acceptable.

Acceptable qualifications:

UK GCSE/O Level (or equivalent) certificate, grades A to G or 1 to 9.

UK AS level/A level certificate

UK BA (Hons), BSc (Hons) degree or higher i.e. masters, PhD

UK HNC/HND certificate

ESOL, SELT, TOEFL and IELTS certificate showing English language skills to level B1 (CEFR) or higher i.e. B2, C1 or C2. (English as additional language qualifications)

UK NVQ/BTEC/City & Guilds certificate, along with confirmation from the awarding body that the qualification provided is equivalent to GCSE or above.

In all cases, the Licensing Team's decision as to whether to accept a qualification not listed above will be final. If a candidate does not hold one of these qualifications, or cannot produce acceptable evidence of the qualification, they will be required to undertake the English Proficiency assessment with the Council's chosen provider.

Licensing Committee Work Plan 2024/25

June 2024	September 2024	March 2025
Hackney Carriage Taxi Tariff	Food Safety Enforcement Plan 2024/2025	Taxi Driver Training
Gambling Act Policy Jan 2025 – Consultation	Gambling Act Policy Jan 2025 – Policy Agreement	Taxi Policy – Consultation
Roof Signs on Private Hire Vehicles Review	Pavement / Highways Policy	
	Licensing Sub Committee Decisions 2023/2024	
	Licensing Team Enforcement Activity, Service Update 2023/2024	

Unassigned: none