

## **Consultation on Conditions Relating to Licensed Vehicles**

This consultation only relates to the matters detailed below.

It proposed to:

- introduce two new vehicles licence conditions for both hackney carriage and private hire;
- amend the wording of two vehicle licence condition relating to hackney carriage;
- remove two vehicle licence conditions relating to hackney carriage;
- amend the wording to one vehicle licence conditions relating to private hire; and
- remove two vehicle licence conditions relating to private hire.

### **Proposed New Conditions**

It is proposed to introduce a single mandatory colour, Black, for hackney carriage vehicles. By introducing a mandatory single colour for hackney carriage it is proposed to introduce a mandatory requirement that private hire vehicles cannot be Black.

The new condition with regards to vehicle colour to be introduced as follows:

- Hackney carriage – new grants and change of vehicles from 1 June 2019.
- Private hire – new grants and change of vehicles from 1 November 2019.

#### Proposed Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Condition

- The paintwork of the vehicle should be all black.

#### Proposed Private Hire Vehicle Licence Condition

#### New Requirements

- The paintwork of the vehicle should not be all black.

It is proposed to introduce a new requirement with regards to licensed vehicles displaying a window discs, by introducing this new provision the need to display an internal sign (plate) will be removed.

The new condition with regards to window discs will be introduced as follows:

- Hackney carriage vehicles – 1 June 2019
- Private hire vehicles – 1 November 2019

If the vehicle licence is suspended at anytime by an authorised officer the window disc will be removed and retained by the officer. The disc will only be returned to the licensed vehicle once the suspension is lifted.

#### Proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence Condition

- Every vehicle shall display a window disc, supplied by the Council, to the nearside of the windscreen, clearly visible for the public to view both inside and outside the vehicle. The disc will remain the property of the Council and must be returned to the Council when requested upon the suspension, revocation or expiry of a vehicle licence.

### **Proposed Updates to Current Hackney Carriage Vehicles Licence Conditions**

Amendments / removal of conditions to be introduced from 1 June 2019.

By amending the conditions (15 and 21) relating to the positioning of licence plates and door signage on licensed vehicles makes the plates and signage clearly visible and therefore makes the vehicle clearly identifiable; this safeguards passengers, other road users and the general public.

By introducing the requirements of a window disc negates the requirements to display an internal sign (plate) inside the vehicle.

The Council encourages the use of low emission vehicles, a number of which do not have a minimum engine capacity, therefore a minimum engine capacity if not required.

#### Amended wording of Condition 15

- Every vehicle shall display a licence plate, supplied by the Council, externally on the rear of the vehicle, it must be permanently secured to the lower rearmost part of the bodywork of the vehicle with the whole of the plate visible at all times. The licence plate will remain the property of the Council and must be returned to the Council immediately upon a change of vehicle or when requested upon the suspension, revocation or expiry of a vehicle licence.

A 'temporary' plate shall be affixed to the inside of the rear window so not to obscure the visibility of the driver.

#### Removal of Condition 16

- Licensed vehicles must display a sign, supplied by the Council, inside the vehicle in a visible position to passengers, displaying the Council's details and the plate number of the vehicle. The sign will remain the property of the Council and must be returned to the Council when requested upon the suspension, revocation or expiry of a vehicle licence.

## Removal of Condition 19

- The licensed vehicle shall have a minimum engine capacity of 1250cc except for vehicles fitted with an engine rated with Euro 4 (or better) emission standard.

## Amended wording of Condition 21

- The licensed vehicle will be supplied with the official coat of arms decal which must be displayed at all times, centrally, on each front door panel.

## **Proposed Updates to Current Private Hire Vehicles Licence Conditions**

Amendments / removal of conditions to be introduced from 1 November 2019.

By amending the condition relating to the positioning of licence plates on licensed vehicles makes the plates clearly visible and therefore makes the vehicle clearly identifiable; this safeguards passengers, other road users and the general public.

By introducing the requirements of a window disc negates the requirements to display an internal sign (plate) inside the vehicle.

The Council encourages the use of low emission vehicles, a number of which do not have a minimum engine capacity, therefore a minimum engine capacity if not required.

## Amended wording of Condition 1 (a) and (b)

- The Licensed vehicle shall display the following signs:
  - (a) Every vehicle shall display licence plates, supplied by the Council, externally on the front and rear of the vehicle, the plates must be permanently secured to the vehicle with the whole of the plates visible at all times, the rear plate must be secured to the lower rearmost part of the bodywork of the. The licence plate will remain the property of the Council and must be returned to the Council immediately upon a change of vehicle or when requested upon the suspension, revocation or expiry of a vehicle licence.
  - (b) A sign, centrally, on the rear passenger doors including the name and telephone number and/or the website address of the firm and the words 'PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE – PRE BOOKED ONLY' in suitable lettering at least 50mm (2") high. The approval of the Council should be sought before the display of the sign. The sign must not include the words 'FOR HIRE', 'TAXI', or 'HACKNEY CARRIAGE'.

## Removal of Condition 4 (f)

- Have a cubic capacity of not less than 1250cc (engine) except for vehicles fitted with an engine rated with Euro 4 (or better) emission standard.

## Removal of Condition 18

- Licensed vehicles must display a sign, supplied by the Council, inside the vehicle in a visible position to passengers, displaying the Council's details and the plate number of the vehicle. The sign will remain the property of the Council and must be returned to the Council when requested upon the suspension, revocation or expiry of a vehicle licence.