

Taxi Licensing Policy Consultation

City of York Council is consulting on issues relating to the licensing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

Hackney carriage vehicles, more commonly known as 'Taxis' (and will be referred to as 'Taxis' throughout this consultation), can use designated taxi ranks, be hailed/flagged down in the street and have a roof light indicating that they are a 'TAXI'.

Private hire vehicles can only be used if they are pre booked through an operator. They cannot use taxi ranks or be hailed/flagged down in the street. All vehicles must display door signage giving details of their operator.

Taxi licensing law currently allows councils, if they wish, to restrict the number of licences issued to vehicles. We do restrict the number of licences issued. To justify restricting the number of licences an 'unmet demand' survey is carried out every three years. The last survey (in 2011), identified no significant unmet demand . We currently licence 183 taxis, 45 of which must be wheelchair accessible.

Private hire vehicle licensing law does not permit councils to restrict the number of licences issued to vehicles. We currently licence 576 private hire vehicles.

York has a serious problem with traffic pollution. This pollution causes health problems, often to the most vulnerable (the elderly, children, those with breathing problems). Diesel vehicles are some of the worst polluters. We can reduce this pollution and poor health through low emission vehicles (e.g. electric-hybrids, all electric, bio-methane fuelled, CNG, LNG or LPG fuelled vehicles). Low emission vehicles can also reduce fuel and running costs.

To help us develop a new policy on taxis and private hire vehicle licensing we would welcome your views on the following:

1. Do you think York has enough licensed taxis operating in the city?

Yes

No

Don't know

2. If you answer no, why not? (only tick one box)

- a) There are always long queues of customers at taxi ranks.
- b) Taxis are never available at ranks.
- c) There are never enough taxis at peak times, e.g. pub closing times or school closing times.
- d) Other (please specify)

3. How many more taxis do you believe York needs? (only tick one box)

- a) 0 - 5
- b) 6 - 10
- c) 11 - 15
- d) 16 - 20
- e) More than 20 taxis please stipulate how many taxis you believe we need.

4. Do you think that we have enough wheelchair accessible taxis?

Yes

No

Don't know

5. If you answered no to question 4, why don't you think that there are enough wheelchair accessible taxis in York? (only tick one box)

- a) There are never enough wheelchair accessible taxis at taxi ranks.
- b) There are never enough wheelchair accessible taxis at peak times, e.g. school closing time.
- c) Other (please specify)

6. How many more wheelchair accessible taxis do you believe York needs? (only tick one box)

- a) 0 - 5
- b) 6 - 10
- c) 11 - 15
- d) 16 - 20

e) More than 20 taxis please stipulate how many taxis you believe we need.

7. We currently have a policy that new taxi licences will only be issued to wheelchair accessible vehicles. Should this policy remain as it is, or should the policy be updated to also include low emission vehicles as well? (only tick one box)

a) Keep the current policy of only issuing to wheelchair accessible vehicles should remain.

b) Update the policy to also include low emission vehicles.

c) Update the policy to only include low emission wheelchair accessible vehicles.

d) A vehicle type policy should not be in place.

8. Do you believe that we should introduce a policy that new private hire vehicle licences will only be issued to low emission vehicles?

Yes

No

Don't know

9. Do you believe that we should introduce a policy that all replacement vehicles for both taxis and private hire should be low emission vehicles?

Yes

No

Don't know

10. Are you?

The holder of a York hackney carriage vehicle licence

The holder of a York hackney carriage driver licence

The holder of a York private hire vehicle licence

The holder of a York private hire driver licence

The holder of a York private hire operator licence

Currently on the waiting list for a York hackney carriage vehicle licence

Resident of the York area

Other (please specify)

11. What is the first part of your postcode? e.g. YO10

Prefer not to say

If you have any additional comments please add them here:

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