

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Inspections

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Sub-Committee

Date: 20th March 2012

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Regeneration & Community**

Parish / Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To approve vehicle Inspection criteria together with a check list for vehicle Inspections

Recommendation

The Sub-Committee is asked to :-

- Agree the vehicle Inspection criteria and check list
- Grant delegated authority to the Licensing Officer to refuse to licence any vehicle after inspection if in their opinion the vehicle does not meet the Inspection Criteria.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 On the 22ND February 2012 the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Sub-Committee approved a change to vehicle age limits for Private hire vehicles and Hackney carriages licensed by this Authority. These changes to take effect from the 1st April 2012.

2. Detail

- 2.1 Officers are of the opinion that the overarching principle behind the licensing of private hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles is one of public safety. Based on this overarching principle the Council implemented a policy that limits the age at which a vehicle can be first licensed, and the age upon which a vehicle must cease to be licensed.
- 2.2 The vehicle age limit extension is subject to additional testing, in the case of a wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage there will be a requirement for two inspections and two MOT tests each year when the vehicle reaches ten years of age. Thereafter and upon each subsequent renewal until the vehicle reaches its maximum age of fifteen years at which time it will cease to be licensed.

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- 2.3 In the case of Hackney Carriage saloons and private hire vehicles the vehicle age limit extension is also subject to additional testing and there is a requirement for two inspections and two MOT tests each year when the vehicle reaches five years of age. Thereafter and upon each subsequent renewal until the vehicle reaches its maximum age of ten years at which time it will cease to be licensed.
- 2.4 Vehicle proprietors will be sent details of the inspection criteria and will be required to present their vehicle for inspection at least four weeks before the expiry of the licence. The Inspection criteria is attached at Appendix A. Licensing officers will carry out the vehicle inspections using this Criteria and use a check list as attached at Appendix B. If a vehicle fails the inspection a proprietor will be given fourteen days in which to rectify any defects. If a proprietor fails to carry out the requirements of an inspection failure then the vehicle licence shall be suspended. All defects should be rectified before the expiry of the vehicle licence.
- 2.5 The Taxi Licensing team Leader to have delegated authority to refuse to licence any vehicle if in their opinion the vehicle does not pass the Inspection criteria at Appendix A.

Alternative Options

- None

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- There are no direct financial implications arising from this report
- There are no procurement issues arising from this report

Legal / Human Rights Implications

- There are no legal or Human Rights implications arising from this report

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

Priority: We can all benefit from a growing economy and a better town centre

Priority: Living independently protected from harm, leading healthy lives and making a positive contribution.

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Consultees

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
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Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix A Inspection criteria
- Appendix B Inspection check list