

Hackney Carriage & Private Hire – Licensing Policy

Introduction and Background

Cambridge City Council has responsibility for licensing Hackney carriage, Private Hire and Dual Drivers, proprietors and operators within the City.

Cambridge City Council has adopted the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, which governs the licensing of Private Hire Vehicles, Private Hire Operators and drivers. The adoption of this act also encompasses the adoption of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, which governs the licensing of Hackney Carriages.

The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy applies to all drivers, vehicles and operators.

The policy is intended to ensure that both the trade and the public have a document that fully explains the Council's Licensing requirements in context for all parties in a clear and transparent manner.

The current policy has been in effect since the 16th October 2016; however, since then the Environmental Health Manager has received several requests from the trade for the policy to be amended.

Consultation

Cambridge City Council is conducting a consultation to review the proposed changes to the policy. This will ensure that it complies with government best practice guidance and will provide protection for the public using the service.

The consultation is open to the members of the taxi and private hire licensing trade, public and stakeholders. The closing date for submitting consultation responses is the end of: **Sunday 3rd September 2017.**

All feedback is encouraged and all comments will be considered as part of the review and in preparation of the final policy document.

The results of the consultation exercise will be put to Members at the next Licensing Committee on Monday 16th October 2017 to take account of the feedback from the trade and other stakeholders in order to consider any amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

Any comments that you forward to the Licensing Authority should clearly state your name and any organisation or persons you may be responding on behalf of.

Please send your response to:

- By email to taxi@cambridge.gov.uk please include the words 'Taxi Policy' in the subject field; or
- In writing to Commercial & Licensing Team, Environmental Services, Cambridge City Council, and PO Box 700, Cambridge, CB1 0JH.

Summary of Proposals

1	Removal of the need for licensed vehicles to carry a first aid kit.
2	Removal of the need for licensed vehicles to carry a fire extinguisher.
3	Change of age limits for vehicles: Currently the policy provides that a new vehicle cannot be granted a licence if it is more than 4 years old. Additionally a renewal will not be granted to a vehicle more than 9 years old. It has been suggested that vehicles older than 4 years could be granted a new licence, although the 9 year age limits for renewals should remain.
4	Adding a condition attached to the licences of all Hackney Carriage Vehicles to carry a card payment machine and accept debit/credit card payments
5	Adding a livery requirement for all Hackney Carriage Vehicles: This could, for example, be a colour scheme exclusively for Hackney Carriage Vehicles, which would help the public to distinguish between a Hackney Carriage Vehicle and a Private Hire Vehicle. 'Cambridge Blue' has been suggested as a possible option.
6	Adding a condition attached to all vehicles licences that CCTV be installed, be kept locked and only accessed by the licensing authority and Police.
7	Allowing rear loading wheelchair accessible vehicles: Currently the policy provides that all new licensed Hackney Carriages must be side loading; the Council will not licence rear loading wheelchair accessible vehicles.