

Appendix 3 - Breakdown of Proposed Changes

The table below outlines the more significant proposed changes to the Council's policy. The more general re-organisation of the policy and factual corrections have not been noted in the table below and are instead highlighted and explained in the draft policy.

Proposed Change	Comment/Explanation
<p>Uniform Colour</p> <p>Proposal to adopt a uniform black colour for all licensed Hackney Carriages.</p> <p>It is not intended that licensed vehicles be required to re-spray their vehicles to comply with the proposed uniform colour. The intention is that when licensed vehicles are replaced, the replacement vehicle will be required to be black.</p> <p>The opposite effect of the proposals is that private hire vehicles cannot be black in colour. The same proposed implementation of the uniform colour will apply to private hire vehicles i.e. when licensed vehicles are replaced.</p>	<p>The Council is proposing to introduce a uniform colour for all licences Hackney Carriages. The proposal is intended to clearly distinguish hackney carriages from other licensed vehicles and to improve the appearance of the public hire licensed fleet.</p> <p>It is important to note that to limit the impact of this proposal on the licensed trade, the implementation will be gradual as and when licensed vehicles are replaced or re-licensed. If this policy were to be adopted, it will mean that any new hackney carriage licences will be subject to the condition that the vehicle to be licensed must be black in colour.</p>
<p>QR Codes</p> <p>It is proposed that QR Codes be printed on driver's badges, vehicle licences and driver licences.</p> <p>The QR Codes will link directly to the licence holder's entry on the Council's Licensing Public Access record.</p>	<p>Introducing QR technology, which is free technology, will enable the public and/or authorised officers to check in real time whether a driver or vehicle is properly licensed at any time of the day or night. The introduction of QR technology will promote public safety and protection.</p>
<p>Driving Standards Agency (DSA) Assessment</p> <p>Proposal to introduce the requirement for all new applicants for a driver's licence to successfully pass a DSA assessment.</p>	<p>Whilst there is already a requirement for new applicants to undertake a driver assessment through the County Council's driver assessment unit, the DSA test is specifically designed for taxi drivers whereas the County Council's is not.</p> <p>It is considered the DSA test will be more effective in assessing the expected higher driving standards for taxi drivers. The DSA test has been adopted by the majority of other licensing authorities.</p>
<p>Annual Insurance Policies</p> <p>It is proposed that the Council only accept annual</p>	<p>The current requirement is that licensed vehicles</p>

<p>insurance policies.</p>	<p>be adequately insured for either public or private hire.</p> <p>There have been instances where drivers have taken out “pay as you go” or other forms of temporary insurance. This has led to instances where vehicles were found to be uninsured due to problems with payment or renewals not submitted in time.</p> <p>To overcome this problem, the Council is proposing to only accept annual insurance policies.</p>
<p>Manufacturer’s Recall of Motor Vehicles</p> <p>Proposal to introduce a new requirement that the proprietor of any licensed vehicle that has been recalled by the vehicle manufacturer to notify the Council of the recall.</p>	<p>There was a strong recommendation from the working group that this new requirement be introduced. This will ensure the Council is aware when a vehicle may be unsafe and can act accordingly.</p>
<p>Licensed Operator Public Liability Insurance</p> <p>It is proposed that any licensed operator be required to have public liability insurance if their premises is open to the public.</p>	<p>Promote public protection.</p>
<p>Minimum Interior Dimensions</p> <p>The current minimum dimensions policy has been completely overhauled.</p>	<p>Due to the significant numbers of vehicle makes and models, the current policy has resulted in anomalies where some makes and models did not comply.</p>
<p>Tinted Windows</p> <p>It is proposed that the policy with regards to tinted windows be amended to only permit factory-fitted standard tints.</p>	<p>There are a number of licensed vehicles with custom fitted tints which are darker than standard tints.</p> <p>It is considered in the interest of public safety that only factory-fitted standard tints be accepted.</p>
<p>Re-cut and Remoulded Tyres</p> <p>It is proposed that the Council adopt a policy of not accepting any type of re-cut tyres and only accept remould tyres under very limited circumstances.</p>	<p>This is to promote public safety.</p>
<p>Advertising on licensed vehicles</p> <p>The current advertising policy has been completely overhauled.</p>	<p>The current policy has been criticised for being too restrictive and inflexible.</p>

<p>Diabetes Policy</p> <p>The current diabetes policy has been completely overhauled.</p>	<p>Revision is to simplify the rules and bring it up to date with guidance and changes in treatment.</p>
<p>Policy on the relevance of convictions</p> <p>Has been revised to apply to current licence holder as well as new applicants.</p>	<p>The current policy primarily relates to new applicants with limited relevance to existing licensed drivers.</p>