

### 3.0 Licences to Use a Vehicles as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle

#### 3.1.0 Vehicle categorisation

3.1.1 In this part of the policy vehicles will be categorised as in accordance with the following table:

Category A	Vehicles that are fully powered by electric or hydrogen, emit no exhaust gases at any time and ARE NOT capable of being used to transport a wheelchair user whilst they remain seated in their wheelchair.
Category AX	Vehicles that are fully powered by electric or hydrogen, emit no exhaust gases at any time and ARE capable of being used to transport a wheelchair user whilst they remain seated in their wheelchair.
Category B	Vehicles that are ultra-low emission vehicles or “ULEV” (a vehicle having less than 75 grams of CO <sub>2</sub> per kilometre (g/km) from the tail pipe) and ARE NOT capable of being used to transport a wheelchair user whilst they remain seated in their wheelchair.  This category includes all hybrid vehicles including plug-in hybrid vehicles
Category BX	Vehicles that are ultra-low emission vehicles or “ULEV” (a vehicle having less than 75 grams of CO <sub>2</sub> per kilometre (g/km) from the tail pipe) and ARE capable of being used to transport a wheelchair user whilst they remain seated in their wheelchair.  This category includes all hybrid vehicles including plug-in hybrid vehicles
Category C	Vehicles fuelled by petrol or diesel engines that MEET Euro 6 (diesel) or Euro 4 (petrol) emissions standards and ARE NOT capable of being used to transport a wheelchair user whilst they remain seated in their wheelchair.
Category CX	Vehicles fuelled by petrol or diesel engines that MEET Euro 6 (diesel) or Euro 4 (petrol) emissions standards and ARE capable of being used to transport a wheelchair user whilst they remain seated in their wheelchair.
Category D	Vehicles fuelled by petrol or diesel engines that DO NOT MEET Euro 6 (diesel) or Euro 4 (petrol) emissions standards and ARE NOT capable of being used to transport a wheelchair user whilst they remain seated in their wheelchair.
Category DX	Vehicles fuelled by petrol or diesel engines that DO NOT MEET Euro 6 (diesel) or Euro 4 (petrol) emissions standards and ARE capable of being used to transport a wheelchair user whilst they remain seated in their wheelchair.

### 3.2.0 **Obtaining a licence to use a vehicle as a Hackney Carriage for the first occasion - Application Requirements**

#### General vehicle requirements

3.2.1 An applicant for a licence to use a vehicle as a hackney carriage must ensure the vehicle is a fully enclosed four wheel passenger vehicle with a M.1 or M.2 European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA) or a UK Low Volume Approval, or an Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) and which meets the following criteria:

- manufactured from new as a right hand drive vehicle;
- constructed or adapted to seat in comfort at least 4 passengers and not more than 8 passengers;
- has sufficient doors of sufficient size to allow safe ingress and egress of passengers;
- where only one passenger door is fitted, that door is on the near-side (kerbside) of the vehicle;
- has no side facing seats;
- each provided seat has a minimum width of 431 mm (17 Inches) per passenger measured at the narrowest part of the seat and each passenger seat is fitted with a seat belt
- the boot or luggage compartment is of sufficient size to carry a reasonable amount of luggage relative to the seating capacity;
- the boot or luggage compartment is separated from the passenger compartment by a suitable barrier
- Vehicles that have been subject to conversion must have appropriate SVA / IVA type approval from VOSA.

#### Vehicle categories

3.2.2 Until **31<sup>st</sup> December 2029** any vehicle being licensed to be used as a hackney carriage for the first occasion must be from one of the following categories:

- Category A or AX
- Category B or BX
- Category C or CX

3.2.3 From **1<sup>st</sup> January 2030** any vehicle being licensed to be used as a hackney carriage for the first occasion must be from one of the following categories:

- Category A or AX
- Category B or BX
- Category CX

#### New hackney carriages (additional vehicles)

3.2.4 Where the vehicle that is identified in the application would be an additional hackney carriage entering the licensed fleet, the vehicle must meet one of the following requirements:

- Be a category CX that is under 6 years of age.
- Be a category A, AX or BX vehicle that is under 8 years of age.

3.2.5 The above dates will be calculated based on the date of first registration shown on the vehicle registration certificate (VC5).

### New hackney carriages (replacement vehicles)

3.2.6 Where the application is being made by a person who already holds a licence from the Council to use a vehicle as a hackney carriage and that person is making the application in order to replace the vehicle that they are currently licensed to use, the vehicle that is identified in the application must meet one of the following requirements:

3.2.7 **Until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2029:**

- Be a category D or DX vehicle that is under 6 years of age
- Be a category C or CX vehicle that is under 7 years of age
- Be a category B, BX, A or AX vehicle that is under 8 years of age

3.2.8 **From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2030:**

- Be a category CX vehicle that is under 7 years of age
- Be a category B, BX, A or AX vehicle that is under 8 years of age

3.2.9 The above dates will be calculated based on the date of first registration shown on the vehicle registration certificate (VC5).

### Replacement of wheelchair accessible and zero-emission vehicles.

3.2.10 A person who already holds a licence from the Council to use a vehicle that is capable of carrying a wheelchair user whilst they remain seated in their wheelchair as a hackney carriage can only replace such a vehicle with another vehicle that also has this capability.

3.2.11 A person who already holds a licence from the Council to use a vehicle that is a category A vehicle as a hackney carriage can only replace such a vehicle with another vehicle that is also a category A or category AX vehicle.

3.2.12 A person who already holds a licence from the Council to use a vehicle that is a category AX vehicle as a hackney carriage can only replace such a vehicle with another vehicle that is also a category AX vehicle.

### Vehicles written off for insurance purposes

3.2.13 The Council will not licence any vehicle to be used as a hackney carriage if it has been graded as a Category A, Category B or Category C or Category S write-off for insurance purposes.

### Vehicles licensed by other local authorities

3.2.14 The Council will not issue a licence in respect of any vehicle that is already licensed another local authority to be used as either a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.

### Documentation required to be submitted

3.2.15 Before a licence to use a vehicle as a hackney carriage can be issued, the applicant must have submitted all of the following:

- Completed application form
- A current MOT certificate
- Valid insurance showing the vehicle is insured for use for hire and reward for public hire or in accordance with a hackney carriage licence.
- The V5C certificate for the vehicle or other equivalent proof of ownership
- A certificate confirming the vehicle has been found fit for use at the Council's appointed testing station for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.
- The appropriate application fee
- A basic criminal record disclosure certificate in respect of all relevant individuals.

3.2.16 "Relevant individuals" means any person named as a proprietor of the vehicle on the application and in the case of an application made by a limited company, each director of that company. The requirement to provide a basis criminal record disclosure certificate will be waived in respect of any person licensed by the Council to drive hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicles.

### 3.3.0 **Obtaining a licence to use a vehicle as a private hire vehicle for the first occasion - Application Requirements**

#### General requirements

3.3.1 An applicant for a licence to use a vehicle as a private hire must ensure the vehicle is a fully enclosed four wheel passenger vehicle with a M.1 or M.2 European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA) or a UK Low Volume Approval, or an Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) and which meets the following criteria:

- manufactured from new as a right hand drive vehicle;
- constructed or adapted to seat in comfort at least 4 passengers and not more than 8 passengers;
- has sufficient doors of sufficient size to allow safe ingress and egress of passengers;
- where only one passenger door is fitted, that door is on the near-side (kerbside) of the vehicle;
- has no side facing seats;
- each provided seat has a minimum width of 431 mm (17 Inches) per passenger measured at the narrowest part of the seat and each passenger seat is fitted with a seat belt
- the boot or luggage compartment is of sufficient size to carry a reasonable amount of luggage relative to the seating capacity;
- the boot or luggage compartment is separated from the passenger compartment by a suitable barrier
- Vehicles that have been subject to conversion must have appropriate SVA / IVA type approval from VOSA.

#### Vehicle categories

3.3.2 Until **31<sup>st</sup> December 2029** the vehicle must be from one of the following categories:

- Category A or AX
- Category B or BX
- Category C or CX

3.3.3 From **1<sup>st</sup> January 2030** the vehicle must be from one of the following categories:

- Category A or AX
- Category B or BX
- Category CX

#### Requirements in respect of the age of the vehicle

3.3.4 A category D or DX vehicle being licensed to be used as a private hire vehicle for the first occasion must be under 6 years of age.

3.3.5 A category C or CX vehicle being licensed to be used as a private hire vehicle for the first occasion must be under 7 years of age.

3.3.6 A category A, AX, B or BX vehicle being licensed to be used as a private hire vehicle for the first occasion must be under 8 years of age.

3.3.7 All the above dates will be calculated based on the date of first registration shown on the vehicle registration certificate (VC5).

#### Vehicles written off for insurance purposes

- 3.3.8 The Council will not licence any vehicle to be used as a private hire vehicle if it has been graded as a Category A, Category B or Category C or Category S write-off for insurance purposes.

#### Vehicles licensed by other local authorities

- 3.3.9 The Council will not issue a licence in respect of any vehicle that is already licensed another local authority to be used as either a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.

#### Documentation required to be submitted

- 3.3.10 Before a licence to use a vehicle as a private hire vehicle can be issued, the applicant must have submitted all of the following:
- Completed application form
  - A current MOT certificate
  - Valid insurance showing the vehicle is insured for use for hire and reward for private hire hire or in accordance with a private hire licence.
  - The V5C certificate for the vehicle or other equivalent proof of ownership
  - A certificate confirming the vehicle has been found fit for use at the Council's appointed testing station for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.
  - The appropriate application fee
  - A basic criminal record disclosure certificate in respect of all relevant individuals.
- 3.3.11 "Relevant individuals" means any person named as a proprietor of the vehicle on the application and in the case of an application made by a limited company, each director of that company. The requirement to provide a basis criminal record disclosure certificate will be waived in respect of any person licensed by the Council to drive hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicles.

### **3.4.0 Renewing a licence to use a vehicle as a Hackney Carriage – Application Requirements**

3.4.1 An applicant seeking to renew a licence to use a vehicle as a hackney carriage must ensure the vehicle continues to meet the Council's requirements set out at paragraph 3.2.1 of this policy.

#### Requirements as to the age of the vehicle upon renewal of licence

3.4.2 A licence to use a vehicle as a hackney carriage will not be renewed if the vehicle concerned does not meet the following requirements at the time that the existing licence is due to expire:

- A category D vehicle must be under 10 years of age.
- A category DX vehicle must be under 12 years of age.
- A category C vehicle must be under 11 years of age.
- A category CX or DX vehicle must be under 13 years of age
- A category B vehicle must be under must be under 13 years of age
- A category BX vehicle must be under must be under 15 years of age
- A category A vehicle must be under 15 years of age
- A category AX vehicle must be under 17 years of age

3.4.3 The above dates will be calculated based on the date of first registration shown on the vehicle registration certificate (VC5).

#### Vehicles written off for insurance purposes

3.4.4 The Council will not renew any licence to use a vehicle as a hackney carriage if the relevant vehicle has become graded as a Category A, Category B or Category C or Category S write-off for insurance purposes after the date on which the vehicle was first licensed by the Council to be used as a hackney carriage.

#### Vehicles licensed by other local authorities

3.4.5 The Council will not issue a licence in respect of any vehicle that is already licensed another local authority to be used as either a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.

#### Documentation to be submitted:

3.4.6 Before a licence to use a vehicle as a hackney carriage can be renewed, the applicant must have submitted all of the following:

- Completed application form
- A current MOT certificate
- Valid insurance showing the vehicle is insured for use for hire and reward for public hire or in accordance with a hackney carriage licence.
- The V5C certificate for the vehicle.
- A certificate from the Council's appointed testing station for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles confirming the vehicle remains fit for use.
- The appropriate application fee
- A basic criminal record disclosure certificate in respect of all relevant individuals.

- 3.4.7 “Relevant individuals” means any person named as a proprietor of the vehicle on the application and in the case of an application made by a limited company, each director of that company. The requirement to provide a basis criminal record disclosure certificate will be waived in respect of any person licensed by the Council to drive hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicles.
- 3.4.8 If an application to renew a licence to use a vehicle as a hackney carriage is received more than 14 days after the previous licence has expired, the application will be treated as if it were an application to licence the vehicle to be used as a hackney carriage for the first occasion and will have to meet the stated criteria for such vehicles.

### **3.5.0 Renewing a licence to use a vehicle as a Private Hire Vehicle Application Requirements**

3.5.1 An applicant seeking to renew a licence to use a vehicle as a private hire vehicle must ensure the vehicle continues to meet the Council's requirements set out at paragraph 3.3.1 of this policy.

#### Requirements as to the age of the vehicle upon renewal of licence

3.5.2 A licence to use a vehicle as a private hire vehicle will not be renewed if the vehicle concerned does not meet the following requirements at the time that the existing licence is due to expire:

- A category D vehicle must be under 10 years of age.
- A category DX vehicle must be under 12 years of age.
- A category C vehicle must be under 11 years of age.
- A category CX or DX vehicle must be under 13 years of age
- A category B vehicle must be under must be under 13 years of age
- A category BX vehicle must be under must be under 15 years of age
- A category A vehicle must be under 15 years of age
- A category AX vehicle must be under 17 years of age

3.5.3 The above dates will be calculated based on the date of first registration shown on the vehicle registration certificate (VC5).

#### Vehicles written off for insurance purposes

3.5.4 The Council will not renew any licence to use a vehicle as a private hire vehicle if the relevant vehicle has become graded as a Category A, Category B or Category C or Category S write-off for insurance purposes after the date on which the vehicle was first licensed by the Council to be used as a private hire vehicle.

#### Vehicles licensed by other local authorities

3.5.5 The Council will not issue a licence in respect of any vehicle that is already licensed another local authority to be used as either a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.

#### Documentation to be submitted:

3.5.6 Before a licence to use a vehicle as a private hire vehicle can be renewed, the applicant must have submitted all of the following:

- Completed application form
- A current MOT certificate
- Valid insurance showing the vehicle is insured for use for hire and reward for private hire or in accordance with a private hire licence.
- The V5C certificate for the vehicle.
- A certificate from the Council's appointed testing station for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles confirming the vehicle remains fit for use.
- The appropriate application fee
- A basic criminal record disclosure certificate in respect of all relevant individuals.

3.5.7 "Relevant individuals" means any person named as a proprietor of the vehicle on the application and in the case of an application made by a limited company, each director of that company. The requirement to provide a basis criminal record disclosure certificate will be waived in respect of any person licensed by the Council to drive hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicles.

- 3.5.8 If an application to renew a licence to use a vehicle as a private hire vehicle is received more than 14 days after the previous licence has expired, the application will be treated as if it were an application to licence the vehicle to be used as a private hire vehicle for the first occasion and will have to meet the stated criteria for such vehicles.