

Part 5 – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles

Fylde Council does not have a general policy to limit the number of hackney carriages, which may be licensed within its area. The policy adopted in 2005 required that any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences are only granted in respect of vehicles that:

- (i) are less than a year old at the time of the initial grant of the Hackney Carriage licence and
- (ii) conform, initially and thereafter, to the Conditions of Fitness as laid down by the Metropolitan Police and the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 until further conditions are issued by the Department for Transport concerning technical requirements.

The effect of the introduction of this condition has been to relax the policy of on restriction of licensed hackney vehicle numbers whilst establishing a control measure in respect of the number of additional vehicles licensed. Any new vehicles to the licensed taxi fleet have now to be purpose-built taxis and are, therefore, wheelchair accessible.

The Policy was subsequently amended in 2006 to that shown below.

Any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences are only granted in respect of vehicles that are:

- (i) less than two years old at the time of the initial grant of the new Hackney Carriage licence and
- (ii) a TX11 taxi or purpose built Euro Cab, designed and developed for use as a wheelchair accessible taxi. Wheelchair access must be from the side and not from the rear. The vehicle must be unaltered from the manufacturers/converters specification and documentation must be produced to show that the vehicle is certified to M1, European Whole Vehicle Approval or Low Volume Approval standards. Any replacement vehicle must also meet the standard required of such newly licensed hackney carriage vehicles.

It could be argued the policy has had limited success and the Council continues to be concerned about the availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles within the Borough.

Therefore, through this revised Taxi Licensing Policy it is proposed to update the Policy as follows:

Any new Hackney Carriage vehicle licences are only granted in respect of vehicles that are:

- i) less than six years old at the time of the initial grant of the new Hackney Carriage licence and
- (ii) a purpose-built vehicle, designed and developed for use as a wheelchair accessible taxi. Wheelchair access must be from the side and not from the rear. The vehicle must be unaltered from the manufacturers/converters specification and documentation must be produced to show that the vehicle is certified to M1, European Whole Vehicle Approval or Low Volume Approval standards. Any replacement vehicle must also meet the standard required of such newly licensed hackney carriage vehicles.
- iii) Any application should be submitted with supporting information in relation to the Intended Use Policy