

Summary of proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy 2025-2030

The Taxi Policy is reviewed periodically and in line with current guidance and statute. Rushcliffe undertake this on a rolling 5 years and additionally throughout the policy period we will update the policy as new legislation or guidance is published and keep a track of this via a changes table at the start of the document.

As such a number of changes have taken place over the preceding 5 years as indicated in the change log under the current published policy on our website.

However this current update is a more fundamental change and is subject to public consultation with changes designed to help increase Hackney capacity, increase efficiency and lower overall costs. Taking a pragmatic approach to licencing.

It should be noted that Hackneys (currently the black cabs) in particular are at an all-time low in Rushcliffe, there being only 7 Hackneys licenced, and are falling due to increase vehicle costs and the predominance of Private Hires who are offering fast bespoke pickup service.

The table below sets out the areas of important changes in the policy showing current and proposed changes with a comment where necessary, but it should be remembered the document has been reviewed as a total and amendments made through out, although the basic structure of the document remains unaltered. The policy however should be read in its entirety.

This consultation is 6-weeks using Survey Monkey and responses will be considered before final recommendations (endorsement) to the licensing committee in October 2025. The survey covers the 2 June 2025 to 14 July.

The policy will require approval at Council in November 2025 and the approved policy will take effect on the 27 November 2025 and remain in force for 5 years.

As legislation and guidance changes take place subsequently the policy will be updated and a log kept of ongoing approvals via delegated powers..

Table showing the major changes to be implemented in the November 2025 policy

Current	Proposed change
Section 2 legislation references	Updated to include new Acts/guidance
4. Delegations	Confirms that delegations' arrangements for refusals and suspensions etc
6.1 Fit and proper	Updated definition
6.2 Currently we have a registration process, then application process and a fee for each. The driver can take 3-4 months to go through the registration completion requirements. If he/she pulls out there is no application fee to refund. Subsequently they then apply online and pay the fee references or re-submitting their pre app documents.	<p>Propose to remove the registration element (and fee). Have a single application process moving forward.</p> <p>Should the applicant fail in time to provide the required documents then they will be refused. Refunds will normally not be permitted (only administrative refunds e.g. if they paid twice, withdrawn promptly or authorised by formal complaint).</p> <p>Applications are to be determined in 3 months and may be refused if not complete or pending further supporting documents (as not fit and proper being demonstrated)</p>
We introduced twice annual DBS checks, it is noted that this section still refers to annual checks	Amended to twice yearly checks for DBS and confirms can be suspended/revoked if not provided.
Asylum seekers are not specifically mentioned currently	We have included a comment on how to deal with Asylum seekers applications as drivers
6.5 Knowledge tests. All drivers to complete, current limit of 3 test for KT.	A taxi driver is still required to undertake the KT. However, we are allowing an alternative such that drivers can undertake the more demanding and costly Green Penny test. Multiple tests can be taken with no limit, paying for each test.
6.5 English test. All drivers need to demonstrate their ability to speak and write read English to an acceptable level	Emphasises that cheating will be dealt with seriously and can lead to refusal. Multiple tests can be taken, no limit on tests that can be taken
6.6 Medicals are required at certain age	Clarifies when a medical is required to be provided. From prior to within 3 months of the application.

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6.7 EUSS, the European settle scheme is included	This is removed as it is now ended
Duration of licence is three years.	Suggest one year for new entrants as the cost of a three year may be prohibitive or not preferred
Safeguarding training	Training is now combined safeguarding and disability training into one course
Right to work is required to be demonstrated & link to asylum seekers	Clarifies what needs to be provided due to changes in these documents and schemes. Asylum seekers are also included as a group as they have difficulty in providing certain documents.
NR3S	Wording reworded and includes "suspension", reduced wording same effect Retention period has been reduced
Private Hire Vehicles/Hackney Carriage application process is an online form now.: Currently requires an MOT, Compliance test, insurance and v5. Tests are booked by admin.	It is proposed to remove the additional compliance test and rely on the MOT standards. The MOT will be required within 14 days before the application at RBC approved garage. No additional compliance test at application is required. As the application process is online we will accept scanned or photos of documents. Brand new vehicles will not require a mot or other test.
Currently we will accept an application from any vehicle up to 12 years old and 14 for specially adopted vehicles. Vehicles over 5 years old require to be tested every 6 months so are granted a 6 month license not 12 months.	We propose to accept only NEW vehicles that are less than 5 years to the fleet. Those that are older but are currently licenced can renew up to 15 years old. Those vehicles 0 to 7 will be granted a 1 year licence. Those vehicles that are 7-15 will be issued a 6 months licence. The licence fee is the same. EXEMPTION: Electric and ZEV not limited age. SEND (Special Educational needs) vehicles not age limited on renewal. New table included in policy in 7.3
7.1 Application process for vehicles Currently requires MOT and then we arrange a taxi test in addition.	Updated to include online and digital evidence Simplified process requiring all evidence to be provided on application. MOT at RBC garage is required within 14 days prior to applying. Applicant to arrange and pay direct to the garage. No further taxi test is required

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7.7 Hackneys must be black and London cab type (in Appendix F)	Hackneys must be one colour gloss but no colour specified. Appendix F contains specification, but this will be the same as a private hire. So not a black London cab. Must have 'For Hire' roof sign
7.8 Fire extinguishers	These will become optional, but where fitted must work.
9.1 operators' length of a licence. States should be 5 years	We will accept 1-5 years applications.
9.2 Entitlement to work	Reemphasised for operators Restates the need to remain fit and proper and to be adequately trained
9.9 Operator responsibility	Emphasises the need to cooperate and act with integrity and honesty
9.12 9.12 To apply for a new PHO licence use the following link.	New wording on how to access the online application process
11.3 Drivers' points is in place. Currently 12 points in any 12 months can lead to referral to committee.	move to 12 points in 36 months as the trigger and points are retain for longer e.g. from 12 to 36 months
Appendix A sets out the driver's application process	Updated to remove the registration process Changes as indicated above repeated Asylum considerations included now Advised to complete KT if applicable, note exemptions apply e.g. have done Green Penny or are a local driver with Gedling, Broxtowe, Nottingham city Application documents re-ordered to indicate the most cost-effective way to apply, list has been amended
Appendix B DBS	Removes attendance requirement, can be online. Changed to should rather than must for DBS subscription.
Appendix C convictions policy	Reference made to the suitability guidance Section 5 onward replaced with the IOL guidance for convictions. Reference to penalty codes used by gov are referenced rather than copied.
Appendix D Driver conditions.	Section 6 updated to re-state the licence original is to be deposited with the operator and not a copy. Section 8 should be 6 monthly DBS checks

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	Section 9 includes disability in any training.
Appendix E Vehicle Application process	<p>Allows online document submission, payment, online document submission of the original.</p> <p>MOT must be within 14 days at nominated garage</p> <p>No additional compliance test</p>
Appendix F Vehicle Specifications	<p>Changes to the age of vehicles is included as described above.</p> <p>Those that are older can renew up to 15 years old.</p> <p>Those vehicles 0 to 7 will be granted a 1-year licence. Those vehicles that are 7-15 will be issued a 6 month licence. The licence fee is the same.</p> <p>We will issue a licence for 6 months if the vehicle is in nearing 15 and meets the standards as opposed to only issuing a limited period licence</p> <p>EXEMPTION: Electric and ZEV not limited. SEND vehicles not limited on renewal</p> <p>Hackney Carriages will need to meet the PHV standard and the black London cab specification is deleted.</p> <p>Specification for wheelchair accessible vehicles remain e.g. Special Adapted Vehicles or other larger wheelchair capable.</p> <p>Imperial conversion removed to avoid confusion in minimum acceptable dimensions</p> <p>The executive plate requirements are amended to allow only for 'executive work'.</p> <p>a fire extinguisher is NOT mandatory in the new policy.</p>

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Appendix H Hackney Carriage vehicle conditions	Rewording to confirm cheques are not accepted A fire extinguisher is NOT mandatory in the new policy
Appendix I	No material change
Appendix J	No material change
Appendix K	No material change
Appendix L	No material change
Appendix M Enforcement points scheme	Updated in certain areas. But these will last longer.
Appendix P	Changes to links and reduced retention for NR3S to 11 years from 25
Through out	Changes to designations or titles as necessary, formatting and numbering and tables. There are minor amendments to wording throughout the policy.