

**CONSULTATION ON DRAFT NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY AND CONDITIONS**

North Northamptonshire Council is reviewing its policies in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing, as it is currently operating under the four former sovereign council policies and conditions in respective areas of North Northamptonshire.

A draft policy and conditions have been formulated by combining the four sovereign policies and conditions as far as possible, whilst incorporating relevant updated guidance and statutory requirements.

Due to the complex nature of combining and updating four separate policies and licensing conditions, it is not possible to map existing changes from the previous policies to the new draft one. As such, this consultation has been devised to permit the widest possible scope of responses, as we want to implement a new policy and conditions which fairly balances the interests of all parties and stakeholders, whilst maintaining appropriate standards.

Due to the scope of this consultation it has been set up to be managed via electronic media. However, should anyone require paper copies of any documentation, please contact the relevant licensing team for that area using the contact details overleaf.

The consultation is running for 8 weeks from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Responses can only be accepted in writing and must be submitted by 5pm on the closing date above. Late responses will not be accepted. The process for consultation, review and implementation of the amended policies is outlined below:

- Consultation for 8 week period;
- Consultation responses considered, amendments made where appropriate and draft report compiled for Licensing and Audit Committee; Recommendations from Licensing and Audit Committee to Full Council;
- Proposed amendments and draft policies considered by Full Council;.
- Policy ratified by Full Council;
- New policies and conditions of licensing come into force

1	<b>Licensing Policy</b>			
	<b>Section Reference Number</b>	<b>Comment on Policy Section</b>	<b>Likely Impact or Justification For Comment</b>	<b>Reference to Evidence (if applicable)</b>
	<b>5.12.1 Knowledge Test</b>	While I understand why a knowledge test is needed, it is difficult to understand why seasoned private hire drivers, who have been doing this work for years with no issues, are also being made to sit the test.	It will cause unnecessary stress and paperwork for these drivers, when in reality they have shown through their work, they have the needed knowledge and English proficiency.	
	5. 12.2 Safeguarding training	If the council require drivers to undergo a safeguarding course, it should be provided or paid for by the council.	All major employers provide the necessary training courses required for the job. Or at least reimburse the cost of these courses.	
	5. 12. 3 Driving assessment practical test	Existing drivers have already sat and passed this test	It is somewhat arbitrary the council are repeating this test for existing drivers, at the drivers own expense, when they have already shown they have the needed driving skills needed. This will again place yet another financial strain on existing drivers for something they have already shown competency in	
	5. 12.4 Equality and diversity training	If the council require drivers to undergo this training, it should be provided or paid for by the council.	All major employers provide the necessary training courses required for the job. Or at least reimburse the cost of these courses	
	6.1.1 Vehicle age	A four year requirement for a vehicle when first registering will place a large financial strain on drivers.	Existing drivers who are due for renewal and have vehicles older than 10 years will have to buy a replacement vehicle. In this current economic crisis when the price of living has increased massively, the requirement to buy a vehicle less than 4 years will be almost impossible for people who are already struggling financially. If possible, raising this age would be more feasible for drivers, with regular vehicle testing such as MOT to ensure the vehicle functions safely.	
	6.2.16	Electric vehicles	Finding charging ports for electric vehicles will prove very difficult, especially when it is expected all private hire vehicles will be electric or hybrid vehicles in the future. Before setting this as a rule, the council should wait to see whether this would be a feasible expectation. It is also another financial strain on drivers, again making it impossible for drivers to afford in this current economic crisis.	

























**Do you have any other general comments or observations on the Councils Draft Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy and Conditions?**

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

In order to minimise the opportunity of multiple responses from one individual or organisation, anonymised responses will be highlighted as such and may not be given as much weight or credence as other responses. The same will apply to those responses which are not anonymised but which are clearly duplicated.

Please provide the following information:-

Name of respondent ... [REDACTED] .....

Representing Organisation (if applicable).....

North Northamptonshire Council Licence holder? **YES/NO**      If Yes please state licence number ... [REDACTED] .....

Contact telephone number ..... [REDACTED] .....

Contact e-mail address ..... [REDACTED] .....

Please note responses received from this consultation may be published in public reports.

If you do not wish your comments to be attributed to you or your organisation in any published report please tick the box below. Please be aware that any submission may still be disclosable:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation exercise.

Please note that all comments must be received in writing by North Northamptonshire Council by **5pm on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022**. Any comments received after this date will not be considered as part of the consultation review.

All responses should be returned to: [licensing.BCW@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:licensing.BCW@northnorthants.gov.uk) **marked** with the subject header titled “**Taxi Consultation response**”.

Or by post to:  
North Northamptonshire Council,  
Sheerness House,  
41 Meadow Road,  
Kettering,  
NN16 8TL.

Please mark the envelope to Kettering Licensing - Taxis

If you require this document or any related consultation documents in any other format, please contact:

[licensing.BCW@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:licensing.BCW@northnorthants.gov.uk) or

Telephone: 01933 231966