

**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 1st June to 27th 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	Licensing Policy			
	Section Reference Number	Comment on Policy Section	Likely Impact or Justification For Comment	Reference to Evidence (if applicable)
	1.0.4	Groups that use taxis the most are young women and those with mobility difficulties. This seems to be some sort of an assumption.	Taxis are used by a large range of people and policy should not be determined on assumptions. A proper survey should be conducted.	
	1.0.9	Consultation will be undertaken before any significant changes are made to the policy.	Given the recent consultation over garden waste collection and the outcome was against the wishes of the residents, how can anyone have confidence this consultation will be fair and not biased?	
	5.12.1.1 5.12.3.5	Knowledge and driving assessment tests for new and existing drivers.	This is understandable for new drivers, however, what is the point of testing established drivers who probably have unblemished records and 10, 20, 30 or more years of experience?	
	6.1.1.1 6.1.1.3	Vehicles older than 4 years not admissible for initial licence or have missed the vehicle licence expiry date.	Why should age be a barrier if the vehicle conforms to test standards?	
	6.1.1.4	Licensed vehicle cannot be over 10 years of age.	Purpose built taxis (like buses) are designed and constructed to operate well in excess of 10 years. Does the Council really expect operators to dispose of perfectly good vehicles for an arbitrary rule?	
	6.1.2.3	Two MOTs and Council tests annually.	Why two MOTs ?	

6.2.16	Emissions	Corby has very open streets and green areas. There are no narrow streets with large imposing buildings, as such, it must be one of the most under polluted towns in the country. the same can be said for most of North Northamptonshire. The government is not banning petrol and diesel vehicles on the road (even when they are no longer available to buy in 2030). Why does the Council see fit to ban these vehicles? As the consultation paper ratifies Hackney Carriages as a form of public transport, can it therefore be assumed that buses will be similarly affected by the emissions and 10 year age limit or is the Corby Hackney Carriage trade being unfairly persecuted?	
6.3.6	All new Hackney Carriages must be black in colour	Surely this is a backward step? This rule was abolished over 30 years ago. All major cities have vehicles of different colours.	
6.9.7	Exceptional condition policy	Vehicles subject to the exceptional age policy will not be considered for relicensing if they fail any test. For	

			clarification purposes, does this include an initial test and retest (e.g. a brake bulb could easily blow on the way to the test station and render a fail, but the vehicle itself would be fit for the road otherwise)?	
6.9.9	Authorised officer of the Council		Will the officer of the Council inspecting the vehicle have any mechanical/motor qualifications? The officer should be suitably qualified to make a legitimate decision.	
6.11.5	Advertising panel		To limit the advertising space to 2 x 45cm x 60cm is an outdated policy. Current rules allow for taxis to have full wrap advertising.	

Please use additional lines or a separate sheet if necessary				

4	Appendix C			
	Section Reference Number	Comment	Likely Impact or Justification	Reference to Evidence (if applicable)

Please use additional lines or a separate sheet if necessary

5	Appendix D			
	Section Reference Number	Comment	Likely Impact or Justification	Reference to Evidence (if applicable)

Please use additional lines or a separate sheet if necessary

6	Appendix E			
	Section Reference Number	Comment	Likely Impact or Justification	Reference to Evidence (if applicable)

Please use additional lines or a separate sheet if necessary

7	Appendix F			
	Section Reference Number	Comment	Likely Impact or Justification	Reference to Evidence (if applicable)

Please use additional lines or a separate sheet if necessary				

8	Appendix G			
	Section Reference Number	Comment	Likely Impact or Justification	Reference to Evidence (if applicable)

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

While the new proposed Hackney regulations will be welcomed from the Green Lobby, they are light years away from reality. The costs involved to the operators will undoubtedly have to be passed on to the public. In this present climate of high inflation, shortages of household commodities and soaring energy costs, these unnecessary policy changes must be nonstarter.

Why should the Council introduce green policies only for Hackney Carriages, when the government are not making similar policies for car owners (that far outnumber taxis)?

Hackney Carriages and buses are the main form of public transport in Corby – surely the operating policies should mirror each other? At present most of the buses in general service in Corby are 15–20 years old and school buses are often in excess of 20 years old. All of these buses are over Euro4 emissions, never mind Euro6.

As mentioned previously, I think the Corby Hackney Carriage trade is being unfairly persecuted.

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).....N/a.....

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 27th 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 **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 or Telephone: 01933 231966