



Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2015 - 2019

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PART 1

INTRODUCTION

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

Scope

- 1.0 The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy ('the Policy') is applicable to the licensing of hackney carriage and private hire drivers and vehicles and to the licensing of private hire operators. This policy supersedes all previous Council policies relating to Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles, Operators and Drivers, with the exception of the wheelchair accessibility requirement for Zone 4 Hackney Carriages.

Purpose

- 1.1 The fundamental purpose of the Policy is to protect the safety and welfare of the public who live, work and visit Shropshire. The importance of a thriving hackney carriage and private hire trade to the growth and prosperity of Shropshire's local economy is recognised; however, the safety and welfare of the public is the over-riding principle that will be considered when matters are dealt with under the Policy.
- 1.2 Shropshire Council ('the Council') is particularly concerned to ensure:
- the safeguarding of children, young persons and vulnerable adults;
 - that any person who applies to be a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle driver or operator is a fit and proper person and does not pose a threat (in any form) to the public;
 - that the actions to promote the welfare of children and to protect them from harm is everyone's responsibility, in particular, prospective and licenced drivers and operators who will have dealings with children and families have a duty to tackle child sexual exploitation and trafficking; that the public are safeguarded from dishonest persons;
 - that vehicles used to convey passengers are safe and fit for the purpose for which they are licensed; and
 - that the impact on the environment is reduced in line with European and national guidelines.
- 1.3 The Policy provides guidance to any person with an interest in hackney carriage and private hire licensing; in particular, but not restricted to:
- persons who wish to apply for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle, drivers or operator licences;
 - persons who hold existing licences, including those that are the subject of review;
 - the Council, in its capacity as the licensing authority, including licensing officers, members of the relevant licensing committees and the internal panel (or other relevant decision making bodies);
 - licensing consultants, solicitors and barristers advising and/or representing applicants/licence holders; and
 - magistrates and judges hearing appeals against Council decisions.

- 1.4 The Policy is also designed to put the Council's licensing requirements into context.

Consultation and Communication

- 1.5 In determining the Policy, the Council has consulted widely as set out on page 50. The views of relevant stakeholders have been taken into consideration.

- 1.6 In order to deliver a transparent, accountable and efficient licensing service the Council is committed to ongoing communicating and consultation with all stakeholders. In particular, the Council welcomes the opportunity to communicate and consult with representatives of the hackney carriage and private hire trade to enable and encourage the exchange of views and information in relation to the Policy, conditions, changes in the law and reviews. The specific methods to achieve this communication and consultation will be determined as required.

Review of the Policy

- 1.7 The policy will be formally reviewed after 3 years. However, it will be the subject of continuous evaluation and, if necessary, formally reviewed at any time. At the time of review all relevant stakeholders will again be consulted. Any licensed driver or operator may request a review of the policy at any time.

- 1.8 During the consultation process that has led to the development of this Policy, the Council has agreed that the trade be encouraged, particularly when considering vehicle replacement, to adopt the following approach:-

- all hackney carriages to be of a uniform black colour
- all private hire vehicles to be of a uniform colour and NOT black
- all hackney carriages, whilst plying for hire, must be immediately capable of providing for at least one wheelchair

- 1.9 In particular, when the Policy is due for review, it is the intention of the Council to consider the provision and mandatory use of approved parking areas, within the administrative area of Shropshire Council, for the use of private hire vehicles when waiting for bookings, the amalgamation of zones, wheelchair accessibility and vehicle colour.

Legislative framework

- 1.9 The operation of the Council's licensing service is undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation, applicable licence conditions, the Regulators' Code (BRDO 14/705 April 2014) and the Department for Transport Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing : Best Practice Guidance (March 2010), and such other guidance that may be issued from time to time by the Department for Transport and other Government departments.

- 1.10 The primary legislation relating to hackney carriage and private hire licensing is contained in the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. In addition, the service is provided in accordance with all relevant Council policies, but in particular the following:

- Equal Opportunities Policy

- Race Equality Scheme
- Data Protection Policy
- Better Regulation and Enforcement Policy

1.11 The Policy and associated conditions do not address health and safety at work requirements. Drivers and operators are required to ensure all relevant health and safety at work provisions are satisfied. This is likely to impact on the health and safety requirements associated with transporting passengers with disabilities, e.g. those who need to carry oxygen for medical purposes. This may have implications for the extent of the discretion that drivers have to refuse to carry passengers with certain disabilities.

Conditions

1.12 The Council will adopt any reasonable conditions that it deems necessary and appropriate to ensure that proprietors, operators, drivers and vehicles comply with relevant legislation and the fundamental purpose of the Policy, i.e. to protect the safety and welfare of the public. Any licensed driver or operator may request a review of any condition at any time.

PART 2

LICENSING PRINCIPLES, PROCESS AND DELEGATION

PART 2 – LICENSING PRINCIPLES, PROCESS AND DELEGATION

Introduction

- 2.0 The Council has adopted Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and, together with the provisions contained in the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, the Council carries out the licensing of hackney carriage drivers and vehicles and private hire drivers, vehicles and operators.
- 2.1 This part of the Policy focusses on the principles the Council will follow when administering licence applications, reviewing conditions, setting fees and setting the table of fares. It explains the roles and duties of the Strategic Licensing Committee, the Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee, the Panel and officers of the Council.

Licensing principles

- 2.2 The Council aims to provide a clear, consistent and responsive service to prospective and current licence holders, members of the public and other stakeholders. This includes the provision of advice to prospective applicants, including advice on the effect that convictions, etc. may have on any application, and to existing licence holders. The Council will be mindful of the needs of the applicant but this will be balanced against the over-riding duty that the Council has to protect the safety and welfare of the public.
- 2.3 All licence applications will be considered and determined on their own individual merits.

Licensing process and delegation of functions

- 2.4 The licensing of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators is a Council function that is discharged by the Council's Strategic Licensing Committee. The Strategic Licensing Committee has delegated this function, to the Licensing and Safety Sub-committee and to officers of the Council who will determine all applications in accordance with this Policy.
- 2.5 Whilst officers and the relevant committees will, in the majority of cases, follow the Policy, there may be specific circumstances that require a departure from the Policy. In such circumstances, the reasons for departing from the Policy will be made clear.

Committees and licensing panel

2.6 Strategic Licensing Committee

This Committee is made up of 15 members of the Council. It deals with policy issues, standard conditions of licence, the setting of fees and charges and hackney carriage fares.

2.7 Licensing and Safety Sub-committee

This Committee is made up of a selection of Members from the Strategic Licensing Committee. Five to six Members (Quorum of 3) will sit on hearings to deal with new applications, renewals and reviews of licences that are referred by officers. Members, when determining applications for a licence, renewals or reviews of a licence, will have regard to hackney carriage and private hire legislation, this Policy, the Department for Transport Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Best Practice Guidance (March 2010), the Road Traffic Act 1988 and other relevant road traffic legislation, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Equality Act 2010, any relevant legal case law and other relevant Council policies.

2.8 Licensing Panel

The Panel is an internal mechanism set up by the Council to assist and support the officers who have delegated authority to make licensing decisions. The manager responsible for licensing will make a decision in consultation with a legal adviser and other officers considered appropriate. Currently, the Panel consists of a licensing officer and representatives from adult and children's safeguarding and is attended by a Council solicitor in their capacity as an independent legal adviser. The Panel assists and supports officers to deal with new applications, renewals and reviews of licences that are referred directly by a licensing officer. Matters, where the officer with delegated authority is unable to reach a decision, or for any other reason so agreed by that officer, will be referred to the Licensing and Safety Sub-committee for determination.

Decisions

- 2.9 The Council, by virtue of a duly authorised officer, has the power to refuse to grant or renew licences and also to suspend or revoke existing licences in accordance with relevant legislative provisions. In addition, the Council may choose to issue written warnings.
- 2.10 Any decision to refuse to grant or renew a licence or to suspend or revoke an existing licence, including the decision to suspend or revoke with immediate effect, or to issue a written warning will be made in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation and other relevant procedures.
- 2.11 Where applications are to be determined, the officer, Licensing Panel and Licensing and Safety Sub-committee will take into consideration the facts of the application, any information and/or evidence provided by other interested parties including, but not restricted to, officers from the Council with responsibility for safeguarding and officers from West Mercia Police together with the recommendation made by the licensing officer presenting the report. In order to provide applicants with the opportunity to consider and respond by way of written and/or verbal representations, as appropriate, the Council will provide the relevant details which have given rise to the need for an officer decision and/or hearing.
- 2.12 Following the determination of an application by the Council the applicant will receive a copy of the decision in writing. This written decision will be delivered as soon as is

practicable after the decision has been made. This will include information on the right of appeal where appropriate.

Appeals

- 2.13 Parties aggrieved by a decision of the Council, with respect to a refusal to grant or renew a licence and to suspend or revoke a licence have a right of appeal to the Magistrate' Court. This must be lodged with the Court in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions. The Council strongly advises parties to promptly seek appropriate independent legal advice in such circumstances.

Working in partnership

- 2.14 The Council aims to work in partnership when dealing with hackney carriage and private hire licensing issues. Such partnerships will include (but are not restricted to) relevant hackney carriage and private hire trade associations, Telford & Wrekin Council, West Mercia Police, Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), Revenues and Benefits teams and consumer groups.
- 2.15 However, it must be recognised that the Council, as primary regulator, will ensure that all relevant provisions relating to the effective administration of licensing functions are robustly enforced to protect the public.

PART 3

LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

PART 3 – LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

Introduction

- 3.1 This part of the Policy focusses on the licensable activities and the necessary steps required to obtain and hold such a licence. These steps will include the standards that applicants must attain and the conditions that apply. Where appropriate, any reference to 'applicant' is deemed to include existing licence holders.
- 3.2 The following are applicable to all licence types:
- Where an applicant has failed to declare relevant information or provided false information the application is likely to be refused; where this relates to an existing licence, the licence is likely to be revoked. Applicants are reminded that it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false declaration or omit any material particularly when giving information required by the application for a licence;
 - All licence fees are payable at the time of application. Where a licence is not granted, i.e. the applicant withdraws their application, a proportion of the licence fee will be refunded. The actual amount of the refund will depend upon the progress of the application at the time the applicant withdraws;
 - In the event that an application for a licence is paid by cheque, the application will not be valid until such time as the cheque has cleared. In the event that the cheque does not clear and the licence has been issued, the Council will seek to suspend the licence until such time as full payment has been received;
 - The application process must be completed within 6 months unless prevented from doing so by matters that are outside the applicant's control, e.g. external delays in the DBS process, otherwise the application process will cease to progress further until such time as the applicant provides all the required information;
 - Where a licence has been surrendered or revoked a new application must be submitted in accordance with the relevant new licence procedures before the Council will consider the application;
 - When a licence expires, the Council will not permit any 'periods of grace' for the submission of a renewal application unless there is satisfactory evidence of exceptional circumstances that are accepted by the Council.

Appointments

- 3.3 The Council runs an appointment system. Applicants will not be seen without an appointment. To assist drivers and operators to make appointments in a timely manner, the Council will notify all operators, drivers and the proprietors of vehicles that their licence is due to expire at least four weeks before the actual expiry of a licence.

Criminal record disclosure

- 3.4 The Council follows the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Code of Practice for Registered Persons and Other Recipients of Disclosure Information (April 2009) and abides by the handling of DBS certificate information requirements on the secure storage, handling, use, retention and disposal of disclosure certificates and certificate information. Further information about the DBS can be found on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service/about>.
- 3.5 The Council will accept an Enhanced DBS disclosure report issued as part of an application made through a separate organisation providing:-
- it is to the same standard;
 - is presented to the Council within three months of the date of issue by the DBS;
 - the applicant has subscribed to the DBS Update Service; and
 - the applicant has authorised the Council to access to the relevant online record.
- 3.6 Where practical, the Council encourages the use of the DBS Update Service for all applicants.
- 3.7 Drivers who undertake work for Council transport contracts are advised to contact the Council's Passenger Transport Team in order to ascertain the standard of criminal record disclosure required and any other requirements in this respect. The Passenger Transport Team will share information with the Licensing Team about individuals and businesses that apply and/or tender to deliver passenger transport contracts. Conversely, the Licensing Team will share information with the Passenger Transport Team.

Summary

- 3a.1 Any person who drives a hackney carriage must hold the appropriate vehicle driver's licence. Hackney carriage vehicle driver's licences are issued in accordance with section 46 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847.
- 3a.2 Any person who drives a private hire vehicle licence must hold the appropriate vehicle driver's licence. Private hire vehicle driver's licences are issued in accordance with section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 3a.3 The Council will issue a drivers licence to all applicants and this will permit the driving of both hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, unless an applicant makes a specific request to the Council for either a hackney carriage driver licence or a private hire vehicle driver licence.

Fit and proper person

- 3a.4 Licensed drivers provide a public service. The Council will not licence anyone to drive a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle unless it is satisfied that they meet all the criteria to be deemed a fit and proper person.
- 3a.5 In considering the fit and proper person test, all applicants on initial application and renewal must complete an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and undergo a medical examination. The Council will also make additional enquiries through its Care First system (or equivalent if this is replaced or if it is necessary to seek details from other local authorities), directly with West Mercia Police (and other relevant police forces, where appropriate), other relevant local authorities (particularly Telford & Wrekin Council) and any other appropriate organisation, agency or person in order to ensure the Council is in a position to make as accurate an assessment of the applicant's fitness to hold a licence as is reasonably practicable.
- 3a.6 With specific reference to existing licence holders, where there is any cause for a licence to be reviewed, the Council will request the licence holder to consent to a further enhanced DBS check the cost of which lies with the licence holder. Where a licence holder refuses to consent to a further check the Council will take this into consideration in determining their continuing fitness to hold a licence.
- 3a.7 When assessing the fitness of an applicant to hold a drivers licence, the Council will consider the applicant's criminal history as a whole, together with all other relevant evidence, information and intelligence including their history (e.g. complaints and positive comments from the public, compliance with licence conditions and willingness to co-operate with licensing officers) whilst holding a licence from the Council or any other authority. Particular attention will be given to patterns of behaviour, irrespective of the time-scale over which they have occurred, both in terms of proven criminal offences and other behaviour/conduct that may indicate the safety and welfare of the public may be at risk from the applicant.

- 3a.8 In addition, an important element associated with the fitness to hold a licence is the appearance and behaviour of a licensed driver. Consequently, the Council requires all licensed drivers to maintain a reasonable standard of appearance and behaviour when in contact and dealing with other road users, pedestrians, customers, the general public, other licensed operators and drivers of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, Council officers and elected members at all times. Applicants and licensed drivers must also co-operate with any reasonable request made by an authorised officer of the Council or any police officer.
- 3a.9 It must also be recognised that the Council will consider all criminal history, behaviour and conduct irrespective of whether the specific history, behaviour or conduct occurred whilst drivers were directly engaged in hackney carriage or private hire licensed work at the time or whether they occurred during the drivers' own personal time.

Criminal record disclosure

- 3a.10 As referred to above, hackney carriage and private hire vehicle drivers are required to undertake an enhanced criminal record disclosure (DBS check) and due to the nature of the occupation such drivers are deemed to be an exempt occupation under the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (by virtue of the amended Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975).
- 3a.11 The effect of this, in relation to hackney carriage and private hire drivers, is to render the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 inapplicable and therefore convictions are deemed never to be spent. As a result, all convictions, including cautions, will be taken into account when considering a person's suitability to hold a driver's licence. Consequently, applicants are required to provide details of all convictions and cautions, including driving endorsements and disqualification periods relating to traffic offences.
- 3a.12 Although cautions are generally not as serious as convictions, they do require an admission of guilt before they can be issued and are therefore a valuable indication as to an applicant's character and whether they are a fit and proper person to hold or be granted a licence.
- 3a.13 A criminal record does not automatically bar an applicant from holding a drivers licence; however, it will be a significant factor when determining whether a licence ought to be granted or not. Where an applicant has previous criminal convictions, these will be considered in line with the guidance set out in **Appendix F**. However, the over-riding consideration will always be to ensure the safety and welfare of the public.
- 3a.14 Persons who have not been resident within the United Kingdom for the five years prior to submitting an application, will be required to produce a certificate of good conduct or equivalent document (at their own cost) issued by the relevant Embassy or High Commission. The certificate must be authenticated, translated and sealed by the Embassy or High Commission. In the event that an applicant is not able to obtain a certificate of good conduct, they may submit a statutory declaration with regard to their conduct, which must be completed in the presence of a practising solicitor. The Council may contact the relevant Embassy, High Commission, solicitor or other appropriate body to verify any documents provided. Proof of a right to work in the United Kingdom will also be required. Contact details for Embassies and High Commissions can be found from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) on the GOV.UK website at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/world>. The FCO may be contacted for further assistance by telephone on 020 7008 1500, by email at fcocorrespondence@fco.gov.uk or by post at the FCO, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH.

Non-conviction information

- 3a.15 In addition to conviction/caution information, applicants are expected to provide details, within 7 days of all warnings, driving endorsements/disqualification periods relating to traffic offences, fixed penalties, penalty charge notices and any other similar sanctions, together with any charges or arrests that they are the subject of in connection with criminal offences, whether or not actually charged with the offence, and details of any allegations of involvement in criminal activity or where they have been questioned in connection with any alleged criminal activity or inappropriate/unacceptable behaviour or any other relevant pending matter.
- 3a.16 Where an applicant is the subject of an outstanding charge or summons, their application may continue to be processed; however, depending on the circumstances, it is unlikely that a decision on the application will be made until the conclusion of the criminal proceedings. Where the outstanding charge or summons involves a serious offence and/or the individual's offending history and behaviour/conduct indicates a pattern of unlawful or unacceptable behaviour/character traits, then the application is likely to be refused.
- 3a.17 Where there is evidence/information that an applicant has been arrested or charged but not convicted of offences but the nature of this evidence/information suggests the applicant may not be a fit and proper person, the Council will give serious consideration to refusing an application or revoking an existing licence.

Period of licence

- 3a.18 Driver licences will be issued for an initial probationary period of one year followed by three yearly renewal periods thereafter.

Application process

- 3a.19 The application form must be fully completed and include all relevant information, supporting documentation and appropriate fee. If any part of the application form is incomplete or the relevant information or supporting documentation is not provided, the applicant will be requested to provide the missing information/documentation and informed that the application will not be processed until such time as all the information/documentation is provided. The full fee for the licence (which includes the cost of the DBS check, the initial driver assessment and the initial knowledge test) is payable at the time the application is submitted.

New applications

- 3a.20 All new applicants must have held a full DVLA/EC/EEA category B driving licence for at least 3 years at the time of application. The 3 year period is calculated from the date of issue of the full driving licence. These requirements apply only to applications received on or after the date this Policy comes into force and, in this specific regard, applications received prior to the date of this Policy must satisfy the requirements set out in the

3a.21 In addition, applicants must:

- Submit a completed application form
- Pay the appropriate licence fee
- Provide a passport sized photograph countersigned in accordance with passport rules to prove the applicant's identity
- Provide evidence of their right to work in the UK in accordance with the Home Office requirements
- Have a satisfactory enhanced DBS report
- Have a satisfactory report in respect of the enquiries made through Care First (or equivalent), West Mercia Police (or other relevant force), other local authorities and any other organisation, agency or person that the Council has deemed appropriate to seek information from
- Have two satisfactory references from either professional or business sources who have known the applicant for at least two years (NB The Council will not accept references from family members or, where relevant, the applicant's future employer)
- Pass the Council's knowledge test
- Pass the road safety and driving ability test (driver assessment) or alternatively hold a current advanced motorist qualification
- Pass a Group 2 medical examination
- Complete a DVLA data protection mandate¹

Renewal applications

3a.22 On renewal of an existing licence, applicants must:

- Submit a completed application form
- Pay the appropriate licence fee
- Where the applicant's original photograph is no longer a true likeness, provide a passport sized photograph countersigned in accordance with passport rules to prove the applicant's identity
- Complete a DVLA data protection mandate (as per footnote 1 below)
- Complete a DBS disclosure
- Where required, pass a Group 2 medical examination (refer to paragraphs 3a.38 to 3a.47 below to determine whether a medical examination is/is not required)

3a.23 Providing the above are satisfied, the Council will renew the licence subject to the receipt of a satisfactory enhanced DBS report and satisfactory reports through Care First (or equivalent), West Mercia Police (or other relevant force), other local authorities and any other organisation, agency or person that the Council has deemed appropriate to seek information from. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the Council with the DBS report within 7 days of the date of receipt. Failure to do so will result in the driver's licence being suspended or revoked.

¹ The Council currently uses the mandate to seek information from DVLA by post; this is likely to change to an online system during the lifetime of the Policy.

- 3a.24 To allow continuous driving, a licence application must be received by the Council at least 10 working days prior to the expiry date of the original licence (unless there is satisfactory evidence of exceptional circumstances that are accepted by the Council) to allow the Council sufficient time to process the renewal application. It is the Council's intention to process all valid renewal applications within 10 working days; hence, where applicants fail to submit their renewal application within this timescale, the risk that their licence will expire increases. Once a licence expires, is revoked (subject to a statutory appeal process) or surrendered, it ceases to exist and applicants would not be permitted to drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle in these circumstances
- 3a.25 Once a licence ceases to exist a renewal application will not be accepted by the Council (unless there is satisfactory evidence of exceptional circumstances that are accepted by the Council) and the applicant must submit a new driver's licence application which will be processed in accordance with the Council's new application procedures.

Arranging DBS, knowledge test and driver assessment

- 3a.26 Appointments are made by the Council's licensing team with the applicant to complete a DBS application form, knowledge test and driver assessment. It is the intention of the Council to move towards a self-service online booking system to allow applicants to arrange these appointments; however, this is in development and the timescale for implementation is not yet known.

Knowledge test

- 3a.27 Applicants for a licence to drive a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle will be required to take and pass the Council's knowledge test. This test is aimed at assessing the driver's knowledge of streets, locations, attractions, entertainment venues and general geography of the Council's administrative area in order to satisfy the Council that they will be able to convey passengers who may be unfamiliar with the locality. This test will be conducted in English. Details of what is required in the knowledge test are provided at the time the knowledge test booking is confirmed.
- 3a.28 Normal examination conditions will apply during the knowledge test. Any person found to be using unfair means during the test will be excluded from the test and will be required to take a fresh test and pay the appropriate fee. This may also affect their fitness and propriety to be granted a licence.
- 3a.29 The charge for the initial knowledge test is included in the licence fee. Where an applicant fails the knowledge test there is an additional fee for every subsequent test and every missed test. Once an appointment has been allocated for the test, the applicant must give 2 clear working days' notice to cancel an appointment otherwise they will be required to pay the test fee. In such circumstances the Council will deem that the applicant has failed the test.
- 3a.30 An applicant is permitted to take the knowledge test up to a maximum of 3 times per application, subject to the additional re-test fees being paid. Where an applicant fails the knowledge test three times, the application will be refused, subject to a manager who has responsibility for licensing permitting a further test or tests where the circumstances are considered appropriate.

3a.31 The holder of a driver's licence may be required to satisfactorily undertake a further knowledge test or tests at the discretion/request of an authorised officer of the Council or the Licensing and Safety Sub Committee.

3a.32 Failure to submit to or pass any knowledge test will permit the Council to refuse to grant or renew a driver's licence or to revoke or suspend the licence as required.

Road safety and ability test (driver assessment)

3a.33 Applicants for a licence to drive a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle will be required to take and pass the Council's driver assessment. This assessment aims to ensure drivers demonstrate a high degree of road safety awareness and excellent driving ability. Details of what is required in the assessment are provided at the time the assessment booking is confirmed. Note if a driver assessment is undertaken in a vehicle with automatic transmission the driver will only be permitted to drive an automatic licenced vehicle.

3a.34 The charge for the initial driver assessment is included in the licence fee. Where an applicant fails the assessment there is an additional fee for every subsequent assessment and every missed assessment. Once an appointment has been allocated for the assessment, the applicant must give 2 clear working days' notice to cancel an appointment otherwise they will be required to pay the assessment fee. In such circumstances the Council will deem that the applicant has failed the assessment.

3a.35 An applicant is permitted to take the assessment up to a maximum of 3 times per application, subject to the additional re-assessment fees being paid. Where an applicant fails the driver assessment 3 times, the application will be refused, subject to a manager who has responsibility for licensing permitting a further assessment or assessments where the circumstances are considered appropriate.

3a.36 The holder of a driver's licence will be required to satisfactorily undertake a further driver assessment or assessments at the discretion/request of an authorised officer of the Council or the Licensing and Safety Sub Committee.

3a.37 Failure to pass any driver assessment will permit the Council to refuse to grant or renew a driver's licence or to revoke or suspend the licence as required.

Medical requirements

3a.38 The Council is permitted to satisfy itself that an applicant for a licence is mentally and physically fit and remains so during the currency of any licence. Consequently, all applicants for a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle driver's licence are required to undertake a medical examination on initial application, at defined intervals thereafter and at any other such time as the Council requires to ensure their fitness to drive. The standards required are set out in the DVLA publication 'At a Glance Guide to the Current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive' (May 2014) and can be found on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/at-a-glance>. The standard required is the 'Group 2 Entitlement'. No grandfather rights are given by the Council in relation to medical matters.

- 3a.39 Applicants must undertake the medical examination and provide a satisfactory medical certificate before a licence is issued and then every 5 years from the age of 45, or sooner if stipulated by the examining doctor.
- 3a.40 Applicants over the age of 65 or who attain the age of 65 during a licensed period must undertake a medical examination and provide a satisfactory medical certificate annually.
- 3a.41 In particular, applicants must consider the medical conditions listed in the DVLA publication 'At a Glance Guide to the Current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive' (May 2014) as the Council may refuse to grant an application or revoke an existing licence where an applicant is unable to meet the nationally recommended guidelines in respect of the listed medical conditions.
- 3a.42 If once licensed, the driver's medical circumstances change during the currency of the licence, the driver must inform the Council within 7 days. The Council may require the driver to immediately undertake a further medical examination and provide an approved medical certificate confirming the outcome of this examination and the driver's fitness (or otherwise) to continue as a licenced driver.
- 3a.43 Should an authorised officer of the Council have reason to believe that a licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle driver has a medical condition that renders them unfit to drive, a further medical examination will be requested.
- 3a.44 All medical examinations must be carried out by the applicant's registered General Practitioner (GP) or any registered GP/Medical Practitioner who confirms in writing that they have seen the applicant's medical records. The GP must be qualified and registered with the General Medical Council. The Council reserves the right to refer any medical matters to its own appointed Medical Officer whose decision on the medical fitness (or otherwise) of a driver to continue driving. The decision as to whether the driver can continue as a licensed driver will lie with the authorised officer of the Council or the Licensing and Safety Sub Committee (subject to the statutory right of appeal).
- 3a.45 The Council will not grant or renew, as the case may be, any driver's licence unless the foregoing provisions are complied with and the driver can demonstrate that they are medically fit to hold a drivers licence.
- 3a.46 With respect to current licence holders, if it is deemed necessary to do so, a licence may be revoked or suspended in the interests of protecting the public until further medical examination(s) has/have been carried out or if the licence holder is unable to demonstrate that they are medically fit to hold a drivers licence.
- 3a.47 Medical exemptions involving the carriage of disabled persons and assistance dogs may apply to new applicants or licensed drivers who suffer from certain medical conditions. Where this is the case, the applicant/licensed driver must submit to a rigorous medical examination and provide sufficient proof that they have a history of a specific health problem(s) that means they qualify for such a medical exemption. The Council reserves the right to refuse to grant a licence if sufficient medical proof is not provided and it is deemed appropriate to do so.

DVLA and other relevant driving licences

- 3a.48 A person applying for a drivers licence must have held a full DVLA/EC/EEA category B driving licence for at least 3 years at the time of application. This includes European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) and Northern Irish licences. These requirements apply only to applications received on or after the date this Policy comes into force and, in this specific regard, applications received prior to the date of this Policy must satisfy the requirements set out in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policies and Associated Documents dated 1 October 2011.
- 3a.49 Throughout the currency of the licence, the driver must possess a full driving licence in accordance with the above requirements.
- 3a.50 Applicants are required to produce the original of their driving licence. Copies will not be accepted. Where a driving licence has a photo card and counter-part paper licence, applicants must produce both parts and they must be of the same issue number. For those driving licences where the paper counterpart is not issued by the DVLA, the photo card must be provided and the Council will undertake the necessary additional on-line check.
- 3a.51 All applicants holding driving licences issued by agencies other than the DVLA must produce a certificate to show a driving record from the country of issue.

English speaking

- 3a.52 Applicants must be able to converse orally and in writing in English to a standard that would be reasonably expected of a person undertaking a role as a hackney carriage or private hire driver.

Licence conditions

- 3a.53 The applicable conditions with which a driver holding a hackney carriage, private hire or drivers licence must comply are set out at **Appendix A**. These conditions are in addition to any matters set out within the main body of the Policy.

Main legal requirements

- 3a.54 Production of documents
The driver must, on request, produce for inspection their driver's licence forthwith or within 5 days to either the Council's offices or a police station.
- 3a.55 Driver's badges and licences
The badge must be worn by the driver at all times when driving the licensed vehicle and the badge must be plainly and distinctly visible.
- 3a.56 All drivers of vehicles licensed for hackney purposes of which they are not the proprietor, must before commencing driving that vehicle, deposit their driver's licence with the proprietor for retention by him until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle or any other vehicle of his.

3a.57 On ceasing to be a licensed driver through suspension, revocation, refusal to renew or expiry of the driver's licence, the licence holder must return the badge and licence to the Council within 7 days (or earlier if the Council so demands) of the suspension, revocation, refusal to renew or expiry becoming effective.

3a.58 Journeys

Drivers must not unnecessarily prolong a journey, in distance or in time.

3a.59 Vehicles permitted to be driven for private hire and hackney carriage purposes

Only vehicles licensed by the Council are permitted to be used for hackney carriage and private hire purposes, as specified by the Council's vehicle licence.

3a.60 Driving licensed vehicles

Only drivers who are licensed by the Council that licensed the vehicle are permitted to drive the licensed vehicle. The only exceptions to this are when the vehicle is undergoing an MOT test and needs to be driven by the MOT examiner or it is being driven by a qualified mechanic for the purposes of a vehicle service, recovery or maintenance or otherwise permitted by legislation.

3a.61 Touting

A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage, when standing or plying for hire, must not call out or otherwise importune any person to hire such vehicle and must not make use of the services of any other person for this purpose. This is an offence under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, section 167.

3a.62 Plying for hire

Drivers of private hire vehicles must NOT 'ply for hire'. The Council's interpretation of 'plying for hire' is set out at **Appendix E** and is based on relevant legislation and case law.

3a.63 Transporting children

As a minimum, drivers must comply with the requirements set out in the table below.

	Front seat	Rear seat	Who is responsible?
Child up to 3 years	Correct child restraints must be used	Correct child restraint must be used. If a restraint is not available in a licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, the child may travel unrestrained.	Driver**
Child from 3 rd birthday up to 135 cm in height or 12 th birthday, whichever they reach first	Correct child restraints must be used	Where seat belts are fitted, the correct child restraint must be used. The child must use adult belt if the correct child restraint is not available as follows: in a licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle; or for a short distance in an unexpected necessity; or two occupied child restraints	Driver**

		prevent fitting of a third. A child 3 years and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a vehicle if seat belts are not fitted in the rear.	
Child over 135 cm in height or 12 or 13 years old	Seat belt must be worn if available*	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Driver**
Passengers aged 14 years and over	Seat belt must be worn if available*	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Passenger

*Vehicles built before 1965 are not required to have fitted seatbelts.

**Drivers must inform parents/carers that the decision to permit children to travel in the vehicle, without the correctly sized seat restraints (as permitted by relevant legislation) and with the obvious risks associated with such an action, remains with the parent/carer responsible for the children and not with the driver of the vehicle.

3a.64 Smoking in vehicles

Drivers must not, at any time, smoke or permit passengers to smoke in their vehicle as required by the Health Act 2006 and the Smoke-Free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007.

3a.65 Refusing to convey passengers

A driver of a hackney carriage who is waiting at a rank/stand must not refuse to carry a passenger without a reasonable excuse.

3a.66 Overcharging

Drivers of hackney carriages must not charge more than is permitted under the current table of fares. Drivers undertaking journeys ending outside the Council's area and in respect of which no fare and no rate of fare was agreed before the journey commenced must not charge more than that indicated on the taximeter or more than the current table of fares allows.

3a.67 Persons riding without consent

Drivers of hackney carriages must not permit persons to be carried in the vehicle unless they have the consent from the person who is actually hiring the vehicle.

3a.68 Unlicensed drivers

Licensed drivers of hackney carriages must not allow any persons to drive a hackney carriage unless they are authorised to do so by the proprietor and hold an appropriate license to do so.

3a.69 Unattended vehicles

Hackney carriage drivers must not leave their vehicle unattended in any street or public place or venue.

3a.70 Obstruction

Hackney carriage drivers must not obstruct other hackney carriage drivers/vehicles from undertaking their normal hiring and driving activities.

3b.

HACKNEY CARRIAGES

Summary

- 3b.1 Hackney carriages are licensed in accordance with the provisions contained in the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 3b.2 Commonly known as 'taxis', hackney carriages are licensed to stand for hire at a taxi rank or can be hailed in the street in the administrative area of the Council with which it is licensed and may also undertake pre-booked journeys anywhere in the country.
- 3b.3 The Council does not limit the number of hackney carriage licences that it will issue.
- 3b.4 The Council will not licence a vehicle for hire and reward which is licensed by another local authority or allow or permit a hackney carriage identification plate issued by another authority to be displayed on the vehicle.
- 3b.5 All hackney carriages, whilst plying for hire, are encouraged to be immediately capable of providing for at least one wheelchair.

Relevant licensable area

- 3b.6 Within the administrative area of Shropshire Council, there are five zones that are defined by reference to the five district and borough council areas that existed prior to the creation of the unitary authority, namely:-

- Zone 1 – Bridgnorth District Council
- Zone 2 – South Shropshire District Council
- Zone 3 – Oswestry Borough Council
- Zone 4 – Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council
- Zone 5 – North Shropshire District Council

Intended use of vehicles

- 3b.8 The Council operates an 'Intended Use and Licensing of Hackney Carriages Policy'. Applicants are required to pay particular attention to this; full details are set out at **Appendix G**.

Period of licence

- 3b.9 Vehicle licences will be issued for 12 months.

Applicant

- 3b.10 The applicant for a vehicle licence must be the person who is the legal owner of the vehicle concerned and entitled to have the ownership of the vehicle registered under the provisions of Regulation 10 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002 in their own name. Prior to licensing and thereafter, as required,

satisfactory evidence must be produced to demonstrate compliance with this requirement.

Vehicles

3b.11 The Council requires all hackney carriage vehicles to comply with the following requirements:

Emissions

3b.12 Vehicles must comply with the following European Emission Standards as defined by EU Regulation 692/2008 (which implemented and amended Regulation 715/2007):-

Renewal/New Application	Fuel	Period	European Emission Standard
Renewal	Any	Until 31 March 2016	Euro 3
Renewal	Any	1 April 2016 to 31 March 2018	Euro 4
New	Diesel	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018	Euro 5
New	Petrol	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2024	Euro 5
Renewal	Petrol	1 April 2018 to 31 March 2024	Euro 5
Renewal	Diesel	1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022	Euro 5
New	Diesel	1 April 2018 to 31 March 2024	Euro 6

3b.13 The required European Emission Standards will be updated in line with current legislation when this Policy is reviewed.

Safety

3b.14 Vehicles must meet the following safety standards as defined by the European New Car Assessment Programme (NCAP):-

- All new and renewal vehicle applications submitted between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2017 are required to be NCAP 4 star.
- New vehicle applications submitted on or after 1 April 2017 are required to be NCAP 5 star.

3b.15 The requirements of 3b.16 do not apply to hackney carriages that have been specifically constructed or adapted for disability access and any M1 vehicle that has been adapted

to be a hackney carriage where the adaptations are approved by the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) and have VCA certification to European Whole Vehicle Type Approval (EWVTA) or GB Low Volume Small Type Approval.

Other Requirements

3b.16 Vehicles must not seat more than eight passengers (not including the driver) and:

- (a) Be a Light Passenger Vehicle as defined by section 85 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and have a minimum of 4 wheels
 - (b) Provide sufficient means by which any person in the carriage may communicate with the driver.
 - (c) Proprietors are encouraged to consider only using vehicles where the entire external bodywork of the vehicle is of a uniform black colour. This does not prohibit the display of advertisements as authorised by the Council.
 - (d) All paintwork must be maintained in a uniform colour (but note 'c' above) and free from dents, scratches or rust.
 - (e) Have a watertight roof or covering.
 - (f) Provide at least two windows on each side of the vehicle of which one window on one side must have a means of opening/closing.
 - (g) Tinted windows will only be permitted in accordance with the manufacturers or specialist coachbuilder's specification and must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986.
 - (h) Have seats that are properly cushioned and covered.
 - (i) Have a floor provided with a proper carpet, mat, or other suitable covering.
 - (j) Have fittings and furniture in a clean condition and be well maintained and in every way fit for public service.
 - (k) Provide means for securing luggage if the carriage is so constructed as to carry luggage.
 - (l) Where tilting passenger seats are fitted the seat must :-
 - be forward facing (with the exception of the fold down seats fitted onto the bulkhead/partition of a purpose built hackney carriage)
 - designed for use by an adult
 - have a three point seatbelt
- As specified in the Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (as amended)
- (m) Have a minimum of four passenger doors including an entry/exit point for the driver if a vehicle other than a taxi approved to the specifications of the Public Carriage Office.
 - (n) Be maintained in a sound mechanical and structural condition at all times.
 - (o) Have a full size spare wheel or space saver design wheel and the tools to change a wheel OR an emergency puncture repair kit OR a contract with a mobile tyre replacement specialist (in any event where a spare wheel or puncture repair kit has been used, it is only to permit the current fare to be completed and any

defective wheel must be replaced before taking another fare to ensure passenger safety); all pneumatic tyres, including the spare, must comply with the vehicle manufacturer's specification and any relevant legislation.

- (p) Be maintained in a clean and safe condition at all times from both exterior and interior perspectives.
- (q) Proprietors are encouraged to have provision for the legal transportation of a minimum of one wheelchair at all times. (When a vehicle licence is granted and the plates are issued, the maximum number of passenger seats that the vehicle will be licenced to carry will be the maximum number of seats, as detailed in the vehicle specification, less the number of wheelchairs that can be carried in the vehicle). (NB The specific requirement for Zone 4 hackney carriages to be wheelchair accessible remains in force.)

Application process

3b.18 The application form must be fully completed and include all relevant information, supporting documentation and appropriate fee. If any part of the application form is incomplete or the relevant information or supporting documentation is not provided, the applicant will be requested to provide the missing information/documentation and informed that the application will not be processed until such time as all the information/documentation is provided. The full fee for the licence is payable at the time the application is submitted.

3b.19 The application process to licence a hackney carriage vehicle is the same for a new or renewal application.

3b.20 Any person wishing to licence a hackney carriage vehicle must submit:

- a completed application form;
- the appropriate licence fee;
- a valid MOT (in accordance with the requirements set out at paragraph 3b.22 below);
- a valid certificate of insurance for public hire, including proof of Public Liability insurance for a minimum of £5,000,000;
- the V5 registration certificate (note the alternative interim measure outlined in paragraph 3b.23 below);
- a valid certificate/report to confirm the vehicle is fitted with a taximeter in accordance with the requirements set out at paragraph 3b.21 below;
- evidence of compliance with the relevant European Emission Standards as set out in paragraph 3b.12 either at the point of vehicle construction or by a subsequent adaptation or conversion approved by the Council - the compliance must be relevant to the engine installed in the vehicle and this must be reflected in the V5 registration certificate;
- evidence of compliance with the relevant European New Car Assessment Programme (NCAP) rating as set out in paragraph 3b.14;
- where the vehicle is fitted with a mechanically operated ramp, a valid certificate/report confirming the ramp complies with the requirements of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Regulations 1998 (**NB** The proprietor is responsible for

- ensuring that a competent person carries out the necessary checks in accordance with these Regulations.);
- where non-mechanical ramps are used, confirmation from the proprietor of the vehicle that the ramps comply with the relevant provisions of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. (NB Licensing officers will check that the provision of non-mechanical ramps is being maintained by the vehicle proprietor.); and
- where fittings are used to secure wheelchairs to the floor of a vehicle, a valid certificate/report confirming that all the fittings meet the required specifications.

Taximeters

3b.21 Taximeters must be:

- certified by a notified body in accordance with the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) (2004/22/EC), in particular Annex 007;
- fitted with a device, the use/action of which will bring the taximeter into action and cause the word 'HIRED' to appear on the face of the taximeter and such a device must be capable of being locked in a position such that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action and that no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter;
- calibrated against an appropriate standard to ensure the tariff charged does not exceed the maximum fares determined by the Council;
- calendar controlled;
- fixed to the vehicle with appropriate seals/appliances to prevent any person from tampering with the meter except by breaking, damaging, or permanently displacing the seals/appliances;
- have the word 'FARE' printed on the face of the meter in plain letters so as clearly to apply to the fare recorded thereon; and
- supported by a valid certificate/report of compliance (the Council will only accept a certificate that has been issued within the previous 10 working days).

MOT requirements

3b.22 MOTs are required in accordance with the following requirements:

- Vehicles must be submitted for an MOT inspection at 6-monthly intervals (and any other inspection deemed necessary by an authorised officer) and the applicant must produce valid MOT certificates to the Council in this respect.
- Once a vehicle reaches the age of 9 years, it must have three MOT tests per year; tests being spaced evenly throughout the year at four monthly intervals and the applicant must produce valid MOT certificates to the Council in this respect.
- MOT certificates will only be accepted by the Council within 10 working days of the date of issue from the MOT testing centre.
- MOTs must be undertaken by a 'Nominated Tester' or Authorised Vehicle Examiner at a Vehicle Testing Station appointed under Section 45 of The Road Traffic Act 1988; the cost of all tests must be met by the vehicle operator.

- The vehicle must have a valid MOT throughout the licence period.
- With respect to a licensed vehicle, in the event of a proprietor failing to present to the Council an MOT test certificate as required (unless delayed or prevented by sufficient cause accepted and agreed by the Council), the Council may suspend the licence and require the proprietor of that hackney carriage to return the plate to them within 72 hours of receipt of the written request.

V5 registration certificate

3b.23 The Council accepts that a full V5 registration form in the new owner's name is not always available upon first licence; however, the V5/2 green section of the V5 form must be produced. Where the green section has been produced on first licensing the vehicle, a full V5 form in the new owner's name must be produced to the Council within 7 days of the form being received by the owner of the vehicle. A V5 form or proof of purchase must be produced upon transfer of a vehicle licence.

Renewal of a licence

3b.24 To allow the vehicle's licence to be renewed, a renewal application form must be received by the Council at least 10 working days prior to the expiry date of the original licence (unless there is satisfactory evidence of exceptional circumstances that are accepted by the Council) to allow the Council sufficient time to process the renewal application. It is the Council's intention to process all valid renewal applications within 10 working days; hence, where applicants fail to submit their renewal application within this timescale, the risk that their licence will expire increases. Once a licence expires, is revoked (subject to a statutory appeal process) or surrendered, it ceases to exist and applicants would not be permitted to drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle in these circumstances.

3b.25 Once a licence ceases to exist a renewal application will not be accepted by the Council and the applicant must submit a new vehicle licence application which will be processed in accordance with the Council's new application procedures.

Vehicle not fit for the conveyance of passengers

3b.26 Where a proprietor has notified the Council that damage has occurred to a vehicle, otherwise than in accordance with relevant road traffic legislation, or an inspection of the vehicle by an officer of the Council has determined that a vehicle is not fit for the purpose of conveying passengers, an authorised officer of the Council will decide if the condition is such that the vehicle may continue in service or not. If not, an authorised officer of the Council may at that time suspend the licence and require the proprietor of the vehicle to return the vehicle's plate to them within 7 days. The suspension will be lifted and the plate returned at such time when the condition of the vehicle is demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Council, to be fit for conveying passengers. The officer may require the proprietor to arrange for a further MOT test to be undertaken and certificate produced before the vehicle will be permitted to operate; this is at the discretion of the authorised officer.

Advertising

- 3b.27 Proprietors may advertise on hackney carriages in accordance with the conditions set out at **Appendix H**. This is subject to prior written approval from the Council.

Closed circuit television (CCTV)

- 3b.28 Proprietors of hackney carriage vehicles are permitted to install closed circuit television (CCTV) systems providing such systems are installed in accordance with the appropriate legal framework and the Council has been notified, in writing, of their intention to do so.

Trailers

- 3b.29 Hackney carriages are permitted to tow trailers when undertaking the licensable activity, providing the conditions set out at **Appendix I** are complied with.

Ranks

- 3b.30 The Highways section of the Council is primarily responsible for the creation of ranks and will work with the hackney carriage trade, Licensing and West Mercia Police to determine where ranks/stands ought to be situated.
- 3b.31 Where a driver is plying for hire and is illegally parked or creating an obstruction or if, in the opinion of an officer of the Council or police officer, the driver is plying for hire in a dangerous location (this does not include a legitimate period of time where a hackney carriage has stopped to drop off or pick up a fare), the driver's licence may be reviewed and such conduct may be deemed a reasonable cause to revoke or suspend the licence or to take any other appropriate action.

LPG converted vehicles

- 3b.32 The Council must be satisfied that any vehicle that has been converted to LPG has been converted correctly prior to a licence being issued. To this end, the Council will undertake checks with the UK LPG Vehicle Register. In addition, vehicles that are converted to LPG must have a petrol/diesel fuel tank with a capacity not exceeding 10 litres.
- 3b.33 With respect to new applications, where it is established that a conversion has not been undertaken correctly and/or the vehicle is unsafe in any way, the Council will refuse the application.
- 3b.34 In the event that an LPG conversion has been undertaken on a vehicle during a current licenced period and the proprietor of the vehicle fails to notify the Council within 7 days of the conversion, an authorised officer of the Council will suspend the vehicle licence until such time as evidence is available on the UK LPG Vehicle Register. If the necessary evidence is not available on the UK LPG Vehicle Register within 28 days from the date the licence was suspended the Council will revoke the licence.
- 3b.35 In the case of a conversion that has been undertaken on a vehicle during a current licenced period and it is subsequently established that the conversion has not been undertaken correctly and/or the vehicle is unsafe in any way, an authorised officer of

the Council will suspend the licence until such time as the conversion has been undertaken correctly and/or it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that the vehicle is safe. If this does not occur within a period of 28 days from the date the licence was suspended the Council will revoke the licence.

Hackney carriage fares

- 3b.36 The hackney carriage trade will be expected to apply for any change to the hackney carriage fares. Any proposed changes will be notified to all hackney carriage licence holders, considered by the Strategic Licensing Committee and advertised in the local press before they are adopted. This does not preclude the Council from putting forward changes to the fares or taking a decision not to accept the application from the trade.

Licence conditions

- 3b.37 The applicable conditions relevant to a hackney carriage licence are set out at **Appendix B**. These conditions must be complied with.

Main legal requirements

3b.38 Change of proprietor

The proprietor must give notice to the Council of any transfer in his interest in the hackney carriage vehicle to a person other than the proprietor whose name is specified in the licence. Such notice must be given, in writing, within 14 days specifying the name and address of the person to whom the vehicle has been transferred.

3b.39 Change of address

The proprietor of a hackney carriage must notify the Council in writing, within 7 days, of any change of their address.

3b.40 Retention of drivers licences

A proprietor of a hackney carriage must ensure that each driver's licence is lodged with the proprietor before the driver is employed to carry out work and must retain the licence in their possession for the period during which the driver remains in their employ. When a driver leaves the employ of a proprietor, the proprietor must return the driver's licence unless the licence holder has been guilty of misconduct in which case the operator may retain the licence and must issue a summons to have the cause of complaint determined by the Courts. (Note: If the Courts find that the licence has been improperly retained they have the powers to order its return and to award compensation.)

3b.41 Inspection

The proprietor must present their hackney carriage for inspection/testing by the Council as required, up to a maximum of 3 times per year.

- 3b.42 The proprietor must provide, on request, the address where the hackney carriage is kept and allow the Council to inspect/test the vehicle at that address.

3b.43 Accidents

The proprietor, notwithstanding their responsibilities under relevant road traffic legislation, must also report to the Council any accident as soon as reasonably practicable. However, where the vehicle has suffered accident damage that materially affects the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle, or the comfort or convenience of fare paying passengers, the driver must notify the Council within 72 hours.

3b.44 Production of documents

The proprietor must, on request by an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer, produce to the officer for inspection the hackney carriage vehicle licence and insurance certificate within 7 days.

3b.45 Return of identification plate

Where a licence is revoked, suspended or expires, the proprietor, when required by the Council to do so must return the identification plate within 72 hours.

3b.46 Transporting children

As a minimum, vehicles must be capable of complying with the requirements set out in the table below.

	Front seat	Rear seat	Who is responsible?
Child up to 3 years	Correct child restrains must be used	Correct child restraint must be used. If a restraint is not available in a licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, the child may travel unrestrained.	Driver**
Child from 3 rd birthday up to 135 cm in height or 12 th birthday, whichever they reach first	Correct child restrains must be used	Where seat belts are fitted, the correct child restraint must be used. The child must use adult belt if the correct child restraint is not available as follows: in a licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle; or for a short distance in an unexpected necessity; or two occupied child restraints prevent fitting of a third. A child 3 years and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a vehicle if seat belts are not fitted in the rear.	Driver**
Child over 135 cm in height or 12 or 13 years old	Seat belt must be worn if available*	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Driver**
Passengers aged 14 years and over	Seat belt must be worn if available*	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Passenger

*Vehicles built before 1965 are not required to have fitted seatbelts.

****Drivers must inform parents/carers that the decision to permit children to travel in the vehicle, without the correctly sized seat restraints (as permitted by relevant legislation) and with the obvious risks associated with such an action, remains with the parent/carer responsible for the children and not with the driver of the vehicle.**

3b.47 Ranks

Hackney carriage ranks/stands are provided in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. The Council may appoint ranks/stands for hackney carriages. It is not a mandatory statutory requirement for the Council to do so. Before providing ranks/stands the Council will liaise with the police and the highways department of the Council and where the location of a rank is on private land the Council must obtain permission of the landowner.

3b.48 Fares

Drivers of hackney carriages must not charge more than is permitted under the current table of fares. Drivers undertaking journeys ending outside the Council's area and in respect of which no fare and no rate of fare was agreed before the journey commenced must not charge more than that indicated on the taximeter or more than the current table of fares allows.

3b.49 Where a hackney carriage is used for a private hire contract the fare charged must not exceed the fares set down in the current table of fares.

3c.

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

Summary

- 3c.1 Private hire vehicles are licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Private hire vehicles must not have the appearance of a hackney carriage vehicle.
- 3c.2 When considering whether a vehicle is a private hire vehicle by the nature of the work it does, Shropshire Council shall have regard to the document Private Hire Vehicle Licensing - A note for guidance from the Department for Transport (August 2011)
- 3c.3 The Council legally cannot limit the number of private hire vehicle licences that it will issue.
- 3c.4 The Council will not licence a vehicle for hire and reward which is licensed by another local authority or allow or permit a private hire vehicle identification plate issued by another authority to be displayed on the vehicle.

Period of licence

- 3c.5 Vehicle licences will be issued for 12 months.

Applicant

- 3c.6 The applicant for a vehicle licence must be the person who is the legal owner of the vehicle concerned and entitled to have the ownership of the vehicle registered under the provisions of Regulation 10 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002 in their own name. Prior to licensing and thereafter, as required, satisfactory evidence must be produced to demonstrate compliance with this requirement.

Vehicles

- 3c.7 The Council requires private hire vehicles to comply with the following requirements:

Emissions

- 3c.8 Vehicles must comply with the following European Emission Standards as defined by EU Regulation 692/2008 (which implemented and amended Regulation 715/2007):-

Renewal/New Application	Fuel	Period	European Emission Standard
Renewal	Any	Until 31 March 2016	Euro 3
Renewal	Any	1 April 2016 to 31 March 2018	Euro 4
New	Diesel	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018	Euro 5

New	Petrol	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2024	Euro 5
Renewal	Petrol	1 April 2018 to 31 March 2024	Euro 5
Renewal	Diesel	1 April 2018 to 31 March 2022	Euro 5
New	Diesel	1 April 2018 to 31 March 2024	Euro 6

3c.9 The required European Emission Standards will be updated in line with current legislation when this Policy is reviewed.

Safety

3c.10 Vehicles must meet the following safety standards as defined by the European New Car Assessment Programme (NCAP). In this respect, the Overall Rating must be used. Where the Overall Rating is not available, the Adult Rating is the relevant standard:-

- All new and renewal vehicle applications submitted between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2017 are required to be NCAP 4 star.
- New vehicle applications submitted on or after 1 April 2017 are required to be NCAP 5 star.

3c.11 The requirements of 3c.10 do not apply to private hire vehicles that have been specifically constructed or converted for disability access and any M1 vehicle that has been adapted to be a hackney carriage (and has been accepted by an authorised officer of the council to be licenced only as a private hire vehicle) where the adaptations are approved by the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) and have VCA certification to European Whole Vehicle Type Approval (EWVTA) or GB Low Volume Small Type Approval.

Other Requirements

3c.12 Vehicles must not seat more than eight passengers (not including the driver) and:

- (a) Be a Light Passenger Vehicle as defined by section 85 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and have a minimum of 4 wheels;
- (b) Provide sufficient means by which any person in the carriage may communicate with the driver;
- (c) Vehicle owners and operators are encouraged to use vehicles where the entire external bodywork of the vehicle is NOT black in colour. This does not prohibit the display of advertisements authorised by the Council. This requirement does not apply to vehicles licenced as Executive Vehicles;
- (d) All paintwork must be maintained in a uniform colour and free from dents, scratches or rust;
- (e) Have a watertight roof or covering;

- (f) Provide at least two windows on each side of the vehicle of which one window on one side must have a means of opening/closing.
- (g) Tinted windows will only be permitted in accordance with the manufacturers or specialist coachbuilder's specification and must comply with the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986 as amended.
- (h) Have seats that are properly cushioned and covered;
- (i) Have a floor provided with a proper carpet, mat, or other suitable covering.
- (j) Have fittings and furniture in a clean condition and be well maintained and in every way fit for public service.
- (k) Provide means for securing luggage if the carriage is so constructed as to carry luggage;
- (i) Where tilting passenger seats are fitted the seat must :-
 - Be forward facing
 - Designed for use by an adult
 - Have a three point seatbelt
- (j) Have a minimum of four passenger doors including an entry/exit point for the driver.
- (k) Be maintained in a sound mechanical and structural condition at all times.
- (l) Have a full size spare wheel or space saver design wheel and the tools to change a wheel OR an emergency puncture repair kit OR a contract with a mobile tyre replacement specialist (in any event where a spare wheel or puncture repair kit has been used, it is only to permit the current fare to be completed and any defective wheel must be replaced before taking another fare to ensure passenger safety); all pneumatic tyres, including the spare, must comply with the vehicle manufacturer's specification and any relevant legislation.
- (m) a spare pneumatic tyre; all tyres, including the spare must comply with the vehicle manufacturer's specification and any relevant legislation.
- (n) Be maintained in a clean and safe condition at all times from both exterior and interior perspectives.

Application process

3c.14 The application form must be fully completed and include all relevant information, supporting documentation and appropriate fee. If any part of the application form is incomplete or the relevant information or supporting documentation is not provided, the applicant will be requested to provide the missing information/documentation and informed that the application will not be processed until such time as all the information/documentation is provided. The full fee for the licence is payable at the time the application is submitted.

3c.15 The application process to licence a private hire vehicle is the same for a new or renewal application.

3c.16 Any person wishing to licence a private hire vehicle must submit:

- a completed application form;
- the appropriate licence fee;
- a valid MOT (in accordance with the requirements set out at paragraph 3c.17 below);
- a valid certificate of insurance for private hire, including proof of Public Liability insurance for a minimum of £5,000,000;
- the V5 registration certificate (note the alternative interim measure outlined in paragraph 3c.18 below);
- evidence of compliance with the relevant European Emission Standards as set out in paragraph 3C.8 either at the point of vehicle construction or by a subsequent adaptation or conversion approved by the Council - the compliance must be relevant to the engine installed in the vehicle and this must be reflected in the V5 registration certificate; and
- evidence of compliance with the relevant European New Car Assessment Programme (NCAP) rating as set out in paragraph 3c.10.

MOT requirements

3c.17 MOTs are required in accordance with the following requirements:

- Vehicles must be submitted for an MOT inspection at 6-monthly intervals (and any other inspection deemed necessary by an authorised officer) and the applicant must produce valid MOT certificates to the Council in this respect.
- Once a vehicle reaches the age of 9 years, it must have three MOT tests per year; tests being spaced evenly throughout the year at four monthly intervals and the applicant must produce valid MOT certificates to the Council in this respect.
- MOT certificates will only be accepted by the Council within 10 working days of the date of issue from the MOT testing centre.
- MOTs must be undertaken by a 'Nominated Tester' or Authorised Vehicle Examiner at a Vehicle Testing Station appointed under Section 45 of The Road Traffic Act 1988; the cost of all tests must be met by the vehicle operator.
- The vehicle must have a valid MOT throughout the licence period.
- With respect to a licensed vehicle, in the event of a proprietor failing to present to the Council an MOT test certificate as required (unless delayed or prevented by sufficient cause accepted and agreed by the Council), the Council may suspend the licence and require the proprietor of that hackney carriage to return the plate to them within 72 hours of receipt of the written request.

V5 registration certificate

- 3c.18 The Council accepts that a full V5 registration certificate in the new owner's name is not always available upon first licence; however, the V5/2 green section of the V5 form must be produced. Where the green section has been produced on first licensing the vehicle, a full V5 form in the new owner's name must be produced to the Council within 7 days of the form being received by the owner of the vehicle. A V5 form or proof of purchase must be produced upon transfer of a vehicle licence.

Renewal of a licence

- 3c.19 To allow the vehicle's licence to be renewed, a renewal application form must be received by the Council at least 10 working days prior to the expiry date of the original licence (unless there is satisfactory evidence of exceptional circumstances that are accepted by the Council) to allow the Council sufficient time to process the renewal application. It is the Council's intention to process all valid renewal applications within 10 working days; hence, where applicants fail to submit their renewal application within this timescale, the risk that their licence will expire increases. Once a licence expires, is revoked (subject to a statutory appeal process) or surrendered, it ceases to exist and applicants would not be permitted to drive a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Vehicle in these circumstances.
- 3c.20 Once a licence ceases to exist a renewal application will not be accepted by the Council and the applicant must submit a new vehicle licence application which will be processed in accordance with the Council's new application procedures.

Vehicle not fit for the conveyance of passengers

- 3c.21 Where a proprietor has notified the Council that damage has occurred to a vehicle, otherwise than in accordance with relevant road traffic legislation, or an inspection of the vehicle by an officer of the Council has determined that a vehicle is not fit for the purpose of conveying passengers, an authorised officer of the Council will decide if the condition is such that the vehicle may continue in service or not. If not, an authorised officer of the Council may at that time suspend the licence and require the proprietor of the vehicle to return the vehicle's plate to them within 7 days. The suspension will be lifted and the plate returned at such time when the condition of the vehicle is demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Council, to be fit for conveying passengers. The officer may require the proprietor to arrange for a further MOT test to be undertaken and certificate produced before the vehicle will be permitted to operate; this is at the discretion of the authorised officer.

Advertising

- 3c.22 Proprietors may advertise on private hire vehicles in accordance with the conditions set out at **Appendix H**. This is subject to prior written approval from the Council.

Closed circuit television (CCTV)

- 3c.23 Proprietors of private hire vehicles are permitted to install closed circuit television (CCTV) systems providing such systems are installed in accordance with the appropriate legal framework and the Council has been notified, in writing, of their intention to do so.

Trailers

3c.24 Private hire vehicles licensed by the Council are permitted to tow trailers when undertaking the licensed activity providing that the conditions set out at **Appendix I** are complied with at all times.

Meters

3c.25 Private hire vehicles will not require a meter. However if a meter is fitted, it must be:

- certified by a notified body in accordance with the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) (2004/22/EC), in particular Annex 007;
- fitted with a device, the use/action of which will bring the taximeter into action and cause the word 'HIRED' to appear on the face of the taximeter and such a device must be capable of being locked in a position such that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action and that no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter;
- calibrated against a measured distance and by reference to the private hire operator's tariff;
- fixed to the vehicle with appropriate seals/appliances to prevent any person from tampering with the meter except by breaking, damaging, or permanently displacing the seals/appliances;
- have the word 'FARE' printed on the face of the meter in plain letters so as clearly to apply to the fare recorded thereon; and
- supported by a valid certificate/report of compliance (the Council will only accept a certificate that has been issued within the previous 10 working days).

Parking/waiting

3c.26 Where a driver is dropping off or picking up a fare and is illegally parked or creating an obstruction (this does not include a legitimate period of time where a private hire vehicle has stopped to drop off or pick up a fare), the driver's licence may be reviewed and such conduct may be deemed a reasonable cause to revoke or suspend the licence or to take any other appropriate action.

LPG converted vehicles

3c.27 The Council must be satisfied that any vehicle that has been converted to LPG has been converted correctly prior to a licence being issued. To this end, the Council will undertake checks with the UK LPG Vehicle Register.

3c.28 With respect to new applications, where it is established that a conversion has not been undertaken correctly and/or the vehicle is unsafe in any way, the Council will refuse the application.

3c.29 In the event that an LPG conversion has been undertaken on a vehicle during a current licenced period and the proprietor of the vehicle fails to notify the Council within 7 days of the conversion, an authorised officer of the Council will suspend the vehicle licence until such time evidence is available on the UK LPG Vehicle Register. If the necessary evidence is not available on the UK LPG Vehicle Register within 28 days from the date the licence was suspended the Council will revoke the licence.

3c.30 In the case of a conversion that has been undertaken on a vehicle during a current licenced period and it is subsequently established that the conversion has not been undertaken correctly and/or the vehicle is unsafe in any way, an authorised officer of the Council will suspend the licence until such time as the conversion has been undertaken correctly and/or it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that the vehicle is safe. If this does not occur within a period of 3 months from the date the licence was suspended the Council will revoke the licence.

Limousines, novelty vehicles and vintage vehicles

3c.31 For the purpose of licensing a limousine is described as a luxurious vehicle that has been stretched by the insertion of an additional section not exceeding 3048 millimetres to extend the length of the vehicle. The vehicle shall be capable of carrying up to but not exceeding eight passengers. Applicants are directed towards the VOSA 'Guidance for Operators of Stretch Limousines' (March 2011).

3c.32 Limousines will be licensed by the Council; however, the over-riding consideration will be the safety of the vehicle. Such types of vehicle will only be licensed as private hire vehicles. They will be subject to the production of specific documents, in original form or as copies certified by the vehicle builder (uncertified photocopies will not be accepted), and to conditions as set out below. These are in addition to the documents required and the conditions applicable to standard private hire vehicle licensing.

3c.33 The following documentation must be produced prior to licensing:

- Evidence of compliance through the Individual Vehicle Approval Scheme (IVA) or a Qualified Vehicle Modifier (QVM) certificate; this is issued by the vehicle builder.
- Public Liability Insurance documentation for a minimum of £5,000,000 and, where drivers other than the proprietor are used, Employer Liability Insurance documentation for a minimum of £1,000,000.
- Documentation recording the overall weight of the vehicle (as displayed on the vehicle.)

3c.34 The following additional conditions apply:

- The tyres must be of an appropriate weight loading for the limousine, novelty vehicles and vintage vehicles.
- All front passenger seats must be removed.
- Standard council plates must be displayed.
- The sale of alcohol in the vehicle must be covered by a separate licence in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.
- Advertising in or on an executive vehicle is prohibited.

3c.35 In addition to stretched limousines, novelty vehicles, e.g. fire engines, and vintage vehicles will also be considered for licensing. Such vehicles do not have to comply with the European Emission Standards or the New Car Assessment Programme rating.

Executive vehicles

3c.36 The Council does not specify a list of specific vehicles that it considers appropriate to be licenced as executive vehicles. Instead it focusses on the business model of each operator. Executive vehicles must only be used for executive service which is defined as provision of a vehicle for exclusive business to business contracts and not for general private hire use. In this respect, the owner must produce to the Council written confirmation from their private hire operator that the vehicle will only undertake executive work and after the vehicle has been licenced for 6 months the operator must produce the booking records to demonstrate that the work undertaken has been business to business contracted work, and thereafter at any time upon request. However, any vehicle being plated as an executive vehicle must be classed as a large family vehicle, be of saloon, estate, hatchback or people carrier type and the trim of the vehicle must be mid level or above for the specification of that particular vehicle. Applicants considering applying for an executive plate are strongly advised to contact the licensing team in advance of purchasing any vehicle to ensure it is appropriate to be licenced.

3c.37 Executive vehicles must also:

- comply with the conditions applicable to standard private hire vehicle licensing
- be in immaculate condition
- large enough to carry at least 3 passengers and their luggage
- have air conditioning or climate control
- have alloy wheels
- be maintained to a very high standard

3c.38 In addition:

- the passenger capacity will be restricted to the number of seats for adults;
- Council executive plates must be displayed; and
- the sale of alcohol in the vehicle must be covered by a separate licence in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

Licence conditions

3c.39 The applicable conditions relevant to a private hire vehicle licence are set out at **Appendix C**. These conditions must be complied with.

Main legal requirements

3c.40 Change of proprietor

The proprietor must give notice to the Council of any transfer in his interest in the private hire vehicle to a person other than the proprietor whose name is specified in the licence. Such notice must be given, in writing, within 14 days specifying the name and address of the person to whom the vehicle has been transferred.

3c.41 Inspection

The proprietor must present their private hire vehicle for inspection/testing by the Council as required, up to a maximum of 3 times per year.

3c.42 The proprietor must provide, on request, the address where the private hire vehicle is kept and allow the Council to inspect/test the vehicle at that address.

3c.43 Accidents

The proprietor, notwithstanding their responsibilities under relevant road traffic legislation, must also report to the Council any accident as soon as reasonably practicable. However, where the vehicle has suffered accident damage that materially affects the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle, or the comfort or convenience of fare paying passengers, the driver must notify the Council within 72 hours.

3c.44 Production of documents

The proprietor must, on request by an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer, produce to the officer for inspection the private hire vehicle licence and insurance certificate within 7 days.

3c.45 Return of identification plate

Where a licence is revoked, suspended or expires, the proprietor, when required by the Council to do so must return the identification plate within 7 days.

3c.46 Transporting children

As a minimum, private hire vehicles must be capable of complying with the requirements set out in the table below.

	Front seat	Rear seat	Who is responsible?
Child up to 3 years	Correct child restrains must be used	Correct child restraint must be used. If a restraint is not available in a licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, the child may travel unrestrained.	Driver**
Child from 3 rd birthday up to 135 cm in height or 12 th birthday, whichever they reach first	Correct child restrains must be used	Where seat belts are fitted, the correct child restraint must be used. The child must use adult belt if the correct child restraint is not available as follows: in a licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle; or for a short distance in an unexpected necessity; or two occupied child restraints prevent fitting of a third. A child 3 years and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a vehicle if seat belts are not fitted in the rear.	Driver**
Child over 135 cm in height or 12 or 13 years old	Seat belt must be worn if available*	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Driver**

Passengers aged 14 years and over	Seat belt must be worn if available*	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Passenger
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*Vehicles built before 1965 are not required to have fitted seatbelts.

**Drivers must inform parents/carers that the decision to permit children to travel in the vehicle, without the correctly sized seat restraints (as permitted by relevant legislation) and with the obvious risks associated with such an action, remains with the parent/carer responsible for the children and not with the driver of the vehicle.

3c.47 Ranks/stands

A private hire vehicle must not wait (stop or park) on any rank/stand.

3d.

PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS

Summary

3d.1 Private hire operators are licensed in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Any person who wishes to take bookings, in the course of a business, for a private hire vehicle must hold a private hire operator licence.

Period of licence

3d.2 Operator licences will be issued for an initial probationary period of 1 year and then renewed licences will run for a period of 3 years thereafter.

Application process

3d.3 The application form must be fully completed and include all relevant information, supporting documentation and appropriate fee. If any part of the application form is incomplete or the relevant information or supporting documentation is not provided, the applicant will be requested to provide the missing information/documentation and informed that the application will not be processed until such time as all the information/documentation is provided. The full fee for the licence (including the cost of a DBS check, where appropriate) is payable at the time the application is submitted.

3d.4 The application process to licence a private hire operator is the same for a new or renewal application.

3d.5 Any person (including a sole trader, partnership or company) wishing to become a licensed private hire operator must submit:

- a completed application form (where the application relates to a partnership or a company, the application form must provide the name, address and date of birth of all partners, directors/company secretaries, as appropriate);
- the appropriate licence fee;
- a list of the vehicles and drivers which they operate; and
- any fleet insurance they hold with an accompanying schedule of vehicles and named drivers disclosed to the insurance company.

Criminal record disclosure

3d.6 In addition, all applicants (including sole traders, partnerships and companies) for a private hire operator's licence must prove that they are a fit and proper person to hold an operator's licence.

3d.7 Where the applicant already holds a valid drivers licence (this will only apply to sole traders as individuals) then no further checks will be undertaken by the Council. However, if a valid driver's licence is not held, the applicant must:-

- provide a satisfactory basic criminal record disclosure from Disclosure Scotland (applicants can apply to Disclosure Scotland by telephone on 0870 609 6006, online at www.disclosurescotland.co.uk, by email at info@disclosurescotland.co.uk, by fax 0870 609 6996 or in writing to Disclosure Scotland at PO Box 250, Glasgow, G51 1YU);
- have a satisfactory check in respect of the enquiries made through Care First (or equivalent), West Mercia Police (or other relevant force), other local authorities and any other organisation, agency or person that the Council has deemed appropriate to seek information from; and
- have two satisfactory references from either professional or business sources who have known the applicant for at least two years (NB The Council will not accept references from family members.)

3d.8 **NB** For partnerships or companies, the above requirements apply to all partners and directors/company secretaries.

3d.9 The Council adopts the same principles when determining whether an applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a private hire operator's licence as it does to persons applying for a drivers licence. In this respect, applicants are required to have due regard, as appropriate, to the requirements and information set out at paragraphs 3a.4 to 3a.17 of the Policy.

3d.10 Persons who have not been resident within the United Kingdom for the five years prior to submitting an application, will be required to produce a certificate of good conduct or equivalent document (at their own cost) issued by the relevant Embassy or High Commission. The certificate must be authenticated, translated and sealed by the Embassy or High Commission. In the event that an applicant is not able to obtain a certificate of good conduct, they may submit a statutory declaration with regard to their conduct, which must be completed in the presence of a practising solicitor. The Council may contact the relevant Embassy, High Commission, solicitor or other appropriate body to verify any documents provided. Proof of a right to work in the United Kingdom will also be required. Contact details for Embassies and High Commissions can be found from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/world>. The FCO may be contacted for further assistance by telephone on 020 7008 1500, by email at fcocorrespondence@fco.gov.uk or by post at the FCO, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH.

Operator's premises

3d.11 The Council will grant an operator's licence in the absence of the appropriate planning consent required to operate their business; however, applicants are strongly advised to demonstrate to the Council that they do have/are obtaining the appropriate planning consent.

3d.12 The Council will only grant operator licences applicable to the physical premises from which the operator's business will be run.

3d.13 The Council will not grant an operator's licence to apply to any physical premises that falls outside the administrative area of Shropshire Council.

- 3d.14 There are a number of specific conditions set out in the operator licence conditions that apply to premises. Operators must be particularly mindful of complying with these and should they fail to do so the Council will consider revoking the operator's licence.

Insurance

- 3d.15 Any premises that provide access to members of the public must be covered by Public Liability insurance for a minimum of £5,000,000.
- 3d.16 The operator must also obtain information as to any requirement for them to have Employers Liability indemnity; if there is such a requirement, it must be for a minimum of £1,000,000.

Record keeping

- 3d.17 Operators must keep records in accordance with the conditions attached to their licence. Such records must be available upon request from an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer

Vehicle not fit for the conveyance of passengers

- 3d.18 Where an operator has notified the Council that damage has occurred to a vehicle, otherwise than by an accident that has led to the involvement of the relevant insurance company, or an inspection of the vehicle by an officer of the Council has determined that a vehicle is not fit for the purpose of conveying passengers, an authorised officer of the Council will decide if the condition is such that the vehicle may continue in service or not. If not, an authorised officer of the Council may at that time suspend the licence and require the proprietor of the vehicle to return the vehicle's plate to them within 7 days. The suspension will be lifted and the plate returned at such time when the condition of the vehicle is demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Council, to be fit for conveying passengers. The officer may require the proprietor to arrange for a further MOT test to be undertaken and certificate produced before the vehicle will be permitted to operate; this is at the discretion of the authorised officer.

Closed circuit television (CCTV)

- 3d.19 Operators are permitted to install closed circuit television (CCTV) systems in premises to which the public have access to make bookings or to wait providing such systems are installed in accordance with the appropriate legal framework and the Council has been notified, in writing, of their intention to do so.

Licence conditions

- 3d.20 Applicable conditions relevant to a private hire operator licence are set out at **Appendix D**. These conditions must be complied with.

Main legal requirements

- 3d.21 Contract

Every contract for the hire of a private hire vehicle is deemed to be made with the operator who accepted the booking for that vehicle whether or not the operator provided the vehicle.

3d.22 Production of records/documents

Any records required to be retained in accordance with the licence must be produced, on request, to any authorised officer of the Council or to any police officer. The operator licence must also be produced if requested.

3d.23 Transporting children

As a minimum, operators must ensure the vehicles they operate are capable of complying with the requirements set out in the table below.

	Front seat	Rear seat	Who is responsible?
Child up to 3 years	Correct child restrains must be used	Correct child restraint must be used. If a restraint is not available in a licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, the child may travel unrestrained.	Driver**
Child from 3rd birthday up to 135 cm in height or 12th birthday, whichever they reach first	Correct child restrains must be used	Where seat belts are fitted, the correct child restraint must be used. The child must use adult belt if the correct child restraint is not available as follows: in a licensed hackney carriage or private hire vehicle; or for a short distance in an unexpected necessity; or two occupied child restraints prevent fitting of a third. A child 3 years and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a vehicle if seat belts are not fitted in the rear.	Driver**
Child over 135 cm in height or 12 or 13 years old	Seat belt must be worn if available*	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Driver**
Passengers aged 14 years and over	Seat belt must be worn if available*	Seat belt must be worn if available.	Passenger

*Vehicles built before 1965 are not required to have fitted seatbelts.

**Drivers must inform parents/carers that the decision to permit children to travel in the vehicle, without the correctly sized seat restraints (as permitted by relevant legislation) and with the obvious risks associated with such an action, remains with the parent/carer responsible for the children and not with the driver of the vehicle.

PART 4

COMPLIANCE, ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLAINTS

PART 4 – COMPLIANCE, ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLAINTS

Summary

- 4.0 This part of the Policy sets out the manner in which the Council approaches compliance and enforcement, including the way in which complaints will be dealt with, as it relates to hackney carriage and private hire licensing.

Compliance and enforcement

- 4.1 The Council's licensing officers will work closely with the hackney carriage and private hire trades to achieve compliance with the relevant legislation and the Council's conditions of licence. The Council will do so in accordance with the Council's Better Regulation and Enforcement Policy, which is available on the Council's website at <http://shropshire.gov.uk/shropshire-council/policies/>. In addition, hackney carriage and private hire vehicle drivers and operators must comply with all reasonable requests made by officers of Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council and the police.
- 4.2 The Council will work closely with other enforcement authorities, particularly Telford & Wrekin Council, when dealing with licensed and unlicensed vehicles and drivers, especially concerning cross boundary related issues.
- 4.3 Licence holders are strongly encouraged to cooperate with officers of all other local authorities. Failure to cooperate may lead to the suspension or revocation of their drivers licence.

Complaints

- 4.4 Where appropriate, complainants will be encouraged to raise complaints with the relevant licence holder or business concerned. However, the Council will also respond to complaints in line with its Better Regulation and Enforcement Policy and will use complaint information to assist in the determination of licensing decisions.

PART 5

CONSULTATION

PART 5 – CONSULTATION

To be completed once the policy is approved.

PART 6 – LICENSING CONTACT DETAILS

Contact details

For information, advice and guidance relating to hackney carriage and private hire licensing please contact:

Licensing
Public Protection
Shropshire Council
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
Tel: 0345 678 9026
Email: taxis@shropshire.gov.uk

Website: <http://shropshire.gov.uk/licensing/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-licences/>

Licence Fee Payments Telephone: 0345 678 9026

On line: https://payments.shropshire.gov.uk/epayments/webpay_public/webpay/

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE,
PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE
AND
JOINT DRIVERS LICENCE
CONDITIONS OF LICENCE**

HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS LICENCE - CONDITIONS OF LICENCE**General**

- 1.0 Additional information regarding all aspects of driver licensing is available in Shropshire Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. The Policy must be read in conjunction with the specific conditions set out below. Any legal requirements that apply to the operation of a driver's licence are regarded as if they are conditions of the licence, whether specifically listed or referred to below or in the policy or not. Where reference is made to legal requirements either in the conditions below or in the Council's policy, drivers are advised that such references are not exhaustive and it is the driver's responsibility to ensure they are fully aware of all relevant legal requirements with which they must comply.
- 1.1 All references to 'driver' in the conditions set out below mean a driver who holds a driver's licence issued by the Council in accordance with the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and relevant legislation.

Fit and proper person

- 1.2 Throughout the currency of the licence, the driver must continue to be a fit and proper person to hold the licence. In this respect, the driver must have due regard to the relevant provisions of the Council's policy, be aware of the checks that will be undertaken by the Council and act in accordance with the responsibilities that being a fit and proper person would reasonably place on a licensed driver.
- 1.3 In particular, during the currency of a licence, the driver must notify the Council, in writing, within 72 hours, if:
- They receive any warnings, cautions, fixed penalties or driving endorsements;
 - Are arrested (whether or not charged with an offence);
 - Are charged with any criminal offence (includes driving/motoring offences);
 - Are convicted of any criminal offence (includes driving/motoring offences); or
 - Allegations are made of their involvement in criminal activity.

Driver's badge and licence

- 1.4 Loss of a driver's badge must be reported immediately to the Council and the local police. An incident number must be obtained from the police and the number given to the Council. The driver must immediately obtain a new driver's badge from the Council for which a fee will be charged. If the original badge is then found, it must be returned to the Council.
- 1.5 Drivers must display the duplicate driver's badge, issued by the Council, in the adhesive holder provided on the inside of the windscreen of the vehicle (where the tax disc used to appear) so as to be plainly visible at all times to fare paying passengers.

Insurance

- 1.6 It is the responsibility of a driver with a drivers licence to ensure they are correctly insured to drive the vehicle.

Conduct

- 1.7 The driver MUST, at all times, when driving a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle:
- Wear their driver's badge around their neck using the council issued lanyard and badge holder ensuring that their photograph and licence details are visible.
 - Be clean and respectable in their dress and person and maintain a high standard of personal hygiene.
 - Behave in a civil and orderly manner towards all persons including, but not limited to, other road users, pedestrians, customers, the general public, other licensed operators and drivers of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, police officers, officers and elected members of the Council.
 - Be courteous to passengers, e.g. greeting passengers and opening vehicle doors on behalf of passengers.
 - Take all reasonable steps to assist passengers when they are entering or alighting from the vehicle and to convey them, subject to any instructions given by them, to their destination by the shortest practicable route and to ensure their safety.
 - When requested to do so by a passenger, convey a reasonable amount of luggage and afford reasonable assistance in the loading and unloading of any luggage.
 - When, having agreed or been hired to attend a specific location at an appointed time with their vehicle, unless delayed/prevented from doing so by some sufficient/reasonable cause, punctually attend at such appointed time and place.
 - Show due consideration when driving through residential areas.
- 1.8 The driver MUST NOT, at any time, when driving a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle:
- Use offensive, racist, abusive, profane or insulting language or behaviour.
 - Smoke or permit passengers to smoke in their vehicle (this includes electronic cigarettes).
 - Without the express permission of the hirer, eat or drink in the vehicle. (Drivers are only permitted to eat or drink in a vehicle when the vehicle is stationary.)
 - Cause or permit sound emitted from any radio/sound reproducing instrument or equipment in the vehicle to be an annoyance/nuisance to any person, whether inside or outside the vehicle.
 - Sound their vehicle's horn to alert passengers of the vehicle's arrival.

- Permit persons to be carried in the vehicle unless they have the consent from the person who is actually hiring the vehicle.
- Allow any persons to drive a vehicle unless they are authorised to do so by the proprietor, hold an appropriate licence and are insured to do so.
- Leave their vehicle unattended in any street or public place or venue.
- Obstruct other drivers/vehicles from undertaking their normal hiring and driving activities.

Animals

- 1.9 When driving a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, a driver must not carry any animal belonging to them, the proprietor or operator of the vehicle or in their custody whilst fare paying passengers are being conveyed in the vehicle.
- 1.10 In general the transportation of animals belonging to or in the custody of any fare paying passengers is permitted at the discretion of the vehicle owner/company and if undertaken must be in the rear of the vehicle in the foot well or floor pan of the vehicle.
- 1.11 However, assistance dogs (unless the driver holds a medical exemption) **MUST** be transported when requested by a passenger. Drivers **MUST NOT** impose a charge for carrying assistance dogs. Assistance dogs may be permitted to travel in the front of the vehicle.

Medical exemption

- 1.12 Where a driver is exempt on medical grounds from carrying wheelchair bound passengers or assistance dogs, they must carry the Council issued letter confirming the exemption in the vehicle at all times.

Change of particulars

- 1.13 The driver must notify the Council, in writing, of any change of particulars which may occur during the currency of their licence, including any change of address or change of employer/operator. Any such change must be notified within 14 days. Where a change of address occurs, the driver must also amend the address on their driving licence and produce their driving licence showing the new address to the Council within 7 days of receipt from the issuing body, e.g. DVLA. Both the paper counterpart and the photo card licence must be produced. For those driving licences where the paper counterpart is not issued by the DVLA, the photo card must be provided and the Council will undertake the necessary additional on-line check.

Passengers

- 1.14 The driver must not convey or permit to be conveyed in a private hire vehicle a greater number of passengers than the number prescribed in the vehicle licence.
- 1.15 The driver of the licensed vehicle must only carry one person in the front of the vehicle beside the driver unless the vehicle has been specifically designed to carry more.

Transporting children

- 1.16 Drivers must inform parents/carers that the decision to permit children to travel in the vehicle, without the correctly sized seat restraints (as permitted by relevant legislation) and with the obvious risks associated with such an action, remains with the parent/carer responsible for the children and not with the driver of the vehicle.

Lost property

- 1.17 After fare paying passengers have alighted from the hackney carriage or private hire vehicle, the driver must, as soon as is practicable, search the vehicle for any property which may have been left. Where such property is found and irrespective of the value, the driver must, if it has not been claimed by or on behalf of the passenger (or their representative) who left it within 24 hours, hand it, in the case of a private hire driver to their operator or in the case of a hackney carriage driver directly to a police station as soon as is practicable.

Parking between bookings

- 1.18 Where drivers, holding a driver's licence, are driving private hire vehicles in the administrative area of Telford & Wrekin Council they must, as soon as they have dropped passengers at their required destination and unless they are returning to a location within the administrative area of Shropshire Council or prevented from doing so by another booking, return to approved parking areas as detailed in the 'approved list' referred to in the current Telford & Wrekin Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.
- 1.19 Where drivers are driving in the Council's area, they must as soon as they have dropped passengers at their required destination and unless prevented from doing so by another booking, return to a suitably safe place to park that is not in the vicinity of public houses, nightclubs, restaurants, cafes and similar establishments

Meters

- 1.20 Where taximeters are fitted to vehicles, the driver must not cause the fare recorded thereon to be cancelled or concealed until the hirer has had an opportunity to examine the meter and has paid the fare (or credit has been given).
- 1.21 The driver must ensure:
- the meter is sufficiently illuminated so that when it is in use it is visible to all passengers;
 - the meter is used for the whole of any journey, regardless of whether or not a fare is agreed prior to the commencement of the journey;
 - the fare or charge is calculated from the point at which the hirer commences the journey and does not exceed that displayed on the meter on the completion of such journey;

- the meter is only brought into action at the commencement of the hirer's journey; and
- the correct tariff for that journey is displayed.

Fares

- 1.22 The driver must not demand from the hirer a fare in excess of any fare previously agreed between the operator and the hirer, or if the vehicle is fitted with a taximeter and no previous agreement as to the fare, the fare shown on the face of the taximeter.
- 1.23 The driver must, if requested by a fare paying passenger, provide a written receipt for any fare paid.

Identification plates

- 1.24 Drivers must not cause or suffer any vehicle plate to be concealed from public view whilst the vehicle is licensed.

Condition of vehicle

- 1.25 A driver must not drive a licensed vehicle if he has reason to believe that the vehicle is in an unsafe, dangerous or illegal condition. He is advised to inform the operator or proprietor of the vehicle immediately of any defect arising in the vehicle whilst under his control.

Accidents

- 1.26 The driver must, notwithstanding their responsibilities under relevant road traffic legislation, report to the operator or proprietor any accident involving a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle under their control as soon as is practicable. However, where the vehicle has suffered accident damage that materially affects the performance or appearance of the vehicle, or the comfort or convenience of fare paying passengers, the driver must notify the operator or proprietor within 72 hours.

Complaints

- 1.27 Where a passenger has cause to complain to a driver about any aspect of the service provided, a driver is encouraged to advise the passenger of their right to make a complaint to the relevant private hire operator and must make it clear to the passenger that they may also refer any complaint direct to the Council.

APPENDIX B

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS OF LICENCE

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE - CONDITIONS OF LICENCE**General**

- 1.1 Additional information regarding all aspects of hackney carriage licensing is available in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy. The Policy must be read in conjunction with the specific conditions set out below. Any legal requirements that apply to the operation of a hackney carriage licence are regarded as if they are conditions of the licence, whether specifically listed or referred to below or in the policy or not. Where reference is made to legal requirements either in the conditions below or in the Council's policy, proprietors are advised that such references are not exhaustive and it is the proprietor's responsibility to ensure they are fully aware of all relevant legal requirements with which they must comply.

Drivers who may lawfully drive a hackney carriage

- 1.2 The proprietor of a licenced hackney carriage must ensure that only drivers licenced by the Council are permitted to drive the vehicle.

Test requirements

- 1.3 All vehicles must meet the Council's safety and fitness test requirements. Where a vehicle is the subject of any test during the application process or during the currency of any licence and it is determined that the vehicle is not fit for the purpose of conveying passengers the proprietor must notify the Council as soon as is reasonably practicable, and in any case within 72 hours of the occurrence.

LPG converted vehicles

- 1.4 The proprietor must notify the Council, within 7 days, of any LPG conversion.

External vehicle licence plates

- 1.5 The external plates (front and rear) identifying the vehicle as a hackney carriage as issued by the Council and required to be exhibited on the vehicle pursuant to Section 47 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 must be:
- securely fixed to the outside front and rear of the vehicle in a conspicuous position;
 - maintained, kept clean and in such a condition that the information on the plates is clearly visible to the public at all times;
 - displayed at all times and in such a manner as to be easily removable by an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer;
 - returned to the Council within 7 days of revocation or expiry (if not renewed) of the vehicle's licence; where the licence is suspended, be returned if required.
- 1.6 At no time, during the currency of the vehicle licence, is it permitted for the licence plates to be removed from the licensed vehicle.

- 1.7 Any existing licence plates must be returned to the Council before new licence plates for a vehicle will be issued; this includes transfers.
- 1.8 In addition, a proprietor must not sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of the vehicle plates separately from the vehicle in respect of which they have been issued, nor permit such plates to be sold transferred or otherwise disposed of by anyone else.

Internal plates

- 1.9 Internal plates must be securely fixed in the front windscreen on the passenger side of the vehicle where the tax disc used to appear in saloon type vehicles or on the partition for purpose built vehicles where a partition is fitted.

Interior markings

- 1.10 The proprietor must clearly mark and maintain inside the vehicle, in such a position as to be clearly visible to passengers inside the vehicle at all times;
- the maximum number of persons licensed to be conveyed therein;
 - the hackney carriage licence number;
 - contact details (telephone number, email address and appropriate means to access the Council's social media facilities) for reporting complaints/compliments to the Council;
 - a 'No Smoking' sign; and
 - a sign (the relevant nationally recognised symbol) confirming that the taxi is wheelchair accessible and caters for the needs of the disabled (this particular sign must also be in such a position as to be clearly visible to people from outside the vehicle).

Advertising

- 1.11 Proprietors must obtain approval from the Council prior to carrying advertisements on their hackney carriage.
- 1.12 Materials that are used for advertisements must be of a quality not easily defaced, soiled or detached.
- 1.13 Reflective material must not be used.
- 1.14 Advertising signs must not be illuminated.
- 1.15 Advertisements may be affixed directly onto the exterior and/or internal body of the vehicle in such a position as not to obscure Council issued plates and all other required signs.
- 1.16 Advertisements must comply with the relevant conditions set out in the Council's Policy.

Closed circuit television (CCTV)

- 1.17 Proprietors wishing to install closed circuit television (CCTV) in their hackney carriage must notify the Council, in writing, of their intention to do so.

1.18 The CCTV system must be installed in accordance with the appropriate legal framework.

Trailers

1.19 Proprietors must ensure any trailer:

- is inspected annually with the vehicle to which it relates;
- has a plate that relates to the towing vehicle(s); and
- complies with the relevant conditions set out in the Council's Policy.

Ranks and order of working

1.20 Hackney carriage proprietors must take steps to actively encourage drivers on arriving at a rank/stand not already fully occupied by other hackney carriages, :

- to park the vehicle immediately behind the vehicle(s) on the stand so as to face in the same direction; and
- when the vehicle(s) immediately in front are driven off or move forward must cause the vehicle to be moved forward so as to fill the place previously occupied by the vehicle that has driven off or moved forward; and
- where the rank/stand is fully occupied at the time the driver arrives, the driver must proceed to an alternative rank/stand.

Taximeters

1.21 When the machinery of the taximeter is in action there must be recorded on the face of the taximeter in figures clearly legible and free from ambiguity, a fare not exceeding the rate of fare which the proprietor or driver is entitled to demand and take for the hire of the vehicle by distance.

1.22 The taximeter must be so placed that all the letters and figures on the face thereof shall be at all times plainly visible to any person being conveyed in the vehicle and for that purpose the letters and figures must be capable of being illuminated during any period of hiring.

1.23 The taximeter must be set to reflect the current table of fares approved by the Council, or to an alternative table of fares that is in all cases lower than the Council approved table. Where the meter is set to an alternative table that table must be prominently displayed in addition to the approved table. A lesser fare than that shown on the taximeter at the end of a journey may be charged.

1.24 Proprietors must take steps to ensure that when hired, a taximeter is used for the whole of any journey.

Roof signs

1.25 All vehicles are required to display a white roof sign bearing the words TAXI (no other words, letters or numbering are permitted) on the front and rear in uppercase black lettering of a minimum height of 79mm, width 50mm, stroke width 14mm and spacing between lettering of 11mm. The light in the sign must be connected to the meter

switch such that the light is switched on when the hackney carriage is available for hire and switched off when the hackney carriage is not available for hire. The sign must be permanently mounted on the roof of the vehicle except in respect of purpose built taxis.

Change of address

- 1.26 The proprietor of a licensed hackney carriage must notify the Council, in writing, of any change of their address during the period of the hackney carriage licence within 7 days of such a change taking place.

MOT

- 1.27 The vehicle must have a valid MOT throughout the licence period.

Insurance

- 1.28 Satisfactory evidence must be produced that there is in force, for the use of the vehicle, a policy of insurance covering the carriage of passengers for hire or reward or such security as complies with the requirements of Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988.
- 1.29 The proprietor must ensure that at all times a list is maintained of all licensed drivers authorised under the policy to drive the vehicle and must make such a list available to an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer at all reasonable times, when so required.

Vehicle Excise Duty (Road Tax)

- 1.30 The vehicle must have valid Road Tax throughout the licence period.

Fare card

- 1.31 A copy of the Council's current table of fares must be kept, maintained and clearly displayed in the vehicle at all times in the location provided by the manufacturers of the vehicle or in accordance with any instructions given by an authorised officer.

Alterations to vehicles

- 1.32 No material alteration or change in the mechanical or structural specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle shall be made at any time without the prior approval of the Council.

Inspection/examination

- 1.33 The proprietor must permit any authorised officer of the Council or any police officer, at all reasonable times, to inspect and examine the vehicle and to request driver identification and insurance details. A drivers badge, certificate of insurance and MOT must be produced either during the inspection/examination or to an officer of the Council or police officer within 5 days.

Convictions

1.34 The proprietor or where the proprietor is a partnership or a company, all partners or directors/company secretaries, as appropriate, during the period of the licence must, within 72 hours, disclose to the Council, in writing, if:

- They receive any warnings, cautions, fixed penalties or driving endorsements;
- Are arrested (whether or not charged with an offence);
- Are charged with any criminal offence (includes driving/motoring offences);
- Are convicted of any criminal offence (includes driving/motoring offences); or
- Allegations are made of their involvement in criminal activity.

APPENDIX C

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS OF LICENCE

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE - CONDITIONS OF LICENCE**General**

- 1.0 Additional information regarding all aspects of private hire licensing is available in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and this must be read in conjunction with the specific conditions set out below. Any legal requirements that apply to the operation of a private hire licence are regarded as if they are conditions of the licence, whether specifically listed below or in the policy or not. Where reference is made to legal requirements either in the conditions below or in the Council's policy, proprietors are advised that such references are not exhaustive and it is the proprietor's responsibility to ensure they are fully aware of all relevant legal requirements with which they must comply.

Drivers who may lawfully drive a hackney carriage

- 1.2 The proprietor of a licenced private hire vehicle must ensure that only drivers licenced by the Council are permitted to drive the vehicle.

Test requirements

- 1.2 All vehicles must meet the Council's safety and fitness test requirements. Where a vehicle is the subject of any test during the application process or during the currency of any licence and it is determined that the vehicle is not fit for the purpose of conveying passengers the proprietor must notify the Council as soon as is reasonably practicable, and in any case within 72 hours of the occurrence.

LPG converted vehicles

- 1.3 The proprietor must notify the Council, within 7 days, of any LPG conversion.

External vehicle licence plates

- 1.4 The external plates (front and rear) identifying the vehicle as a private hire vehicle as issued by the Council and required to be exhibited on the vehicle pursuant to Section 47 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 shall be:
- securely fixed to the outside front and rear of the vehicle in a conspicuous position (the requirement for a front plate does not apply to Executive Vehicles);
 - maintained, kept clean and in such a condition that the information on the plates is clearly visible to the public at all times;
 - displayed at all times (except during any period that a vehicle is used for carrying passengers for hire or reward under a contract for the hire of the vehicle for a period of not less than 24 hours) and in such a manner as to be easily removable by an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer;
 - returned to the Council within 7 days of revocation or expiry (if not renewed) of the vehicle's licence; where the licence is suspended, be returned if required.

- 1.5 **AND** at no time, during the currency of the vehicle licence, is it permitted for the licence plates to be removed from the licensed vehicle.
- 1.6 Any existing licence plates must be returned to the Council before new licence plates for a vehicle will be issued; this includes transfers.

Internal signage

1.7 Plate

The internal plate must be securely fixed in the front windscreen on the passenger side of the vehicle where the tax disc used to appear in saloon type vehicles or on the partition for purpose built vehicles where a partition is fitted.

1.8 Interior markings

The proprietor must clearly mark and maintain inside the vehicle, in such a position as to be clearly visible at all times;

- the maximum number of persons licensed to be conveyed therein;
- the private hire vehicle licence number;
- contact details (telephone number, email address and appropriate means to access the Council's social media facilities) for reporting complaints to the Council; and
- a 'No Smoking' sign.

- 1.9 In addition, if a proprietor wishes to operate a pre-payment system, signs indicating the period and under what circumstances this is applicable are permitted, e.g. pre-payment required between the hours of 1900 to 0700. This does not mean such signs or pre-payment between these hours is compulsory; the condition simply permits a sign to be displayed should a proprietor wish to operate a pre-payment system.

Advertising

- 1.10 Proprietors must obtain approval from the Council prior to carrying advertisements on their private hire vehicle.
- 1.11 Materials that are used for advertisements must be of a quality not easily defaced, soiled or detached.
- 1.12 Reflective material must not be used.
- 1.13 Advertising signs must not be illuminated.
- 1.14 Advertisements may be affixed directly onto the exterior and/or internal body of the vehicle in such a position as not to obscure Council issued plates and all other required signs.
- 1.15 Advertisements must comply with the relevant conditions set out in the Council's Policy.
- 1.16 Private hire vehicles are prohibited from displaying the words 'taxi' or 'cab' in the singular or plural or the word 'hire' unless the word 'hire' forms part of the relevant company name or any word or similar meaning (e.g. 'kab') or appearance to any of these words, whether alone or as part of another word.

Closed circuit television (CCTV)

- 1.17 Proprietors wishing to install closed circuit television (CCTV) in their private hire vehicle, must notify the Council, in writing, of their intention to do so.
- 1.18 The CCTV system must be installed in accordance with the appropriate legal framework.

Trailers

- 1.19 Proprietors must ensure any trailer:
- is inspected annually with the vehicle to which it relates;
 - has a plate that relates to the towing vehicle(s); and
 - complies with the relevant conditions set out in the Council's Policy.

Meters

- 1.20 Whilst the fitting of meters is not mandatory in private hire vehicles, if meters are fitted, then the following conditions apply:
- When the machinery of the meter is in action there must be recorded on the face of the meter in figures clearly legible and free from ambiguity, a fare not exceeding the rate of fare which the proprietor or driver is entitled to demand and take for the hire of the vehicle by distance.
 - The meter must be so placed that all the letters and figures on the face thereof shall be at all times plainly visible to any person being conveyed in the vehicle and for that purpose the letters and figures must be capable of being illuminated during any period of hiring.
 - The meter must be set to reflect the current table of fares approved by the Council, or to an alternative table of fares that is in all cases lower than the Council approved table. Where the meter is set to an alternative table that table must be prominently displayed in addition to the approved table. A lesser fare than that shown on the taximeter at the end of a journey may be charged.
 - When hired, a meter must be used for the whole of any journey, regardless of whether or not a fare is agreed prior to the commencement of the journey.

Signs

- 1.21 Private hire vehicles must not display a roof sign.
- 1.22 All vehicles (with the exception of executive vehicles as referred to in paragraph 3c.36 to 3c.38) must display Council issued signs (side plates) on the upper portion of the front driver door and the front passenger door of the vehicle using the adhesive backed signs provided. These signs will carry the Council logo, PHV licence number and the words 'Prebooked Only'. The signs must be kept intact, clean and firmly attached to the vehicle doors as described above. The use of magnetic panels is prohibited. The removal of the signs is prohibited whilst the vehicle is licensed by Shropshire Council. In the event that a side plate is lost it is the responsibility of the proprietor of the vehicle to

notify the Council within 72 hours and to obtain a replacement sign (at the proprietors cost).

Change of proprietor/address

- 1.23 Any change in the proprietor of a private hire vehicle or the proprietor's address must be notified to the Council, in writing, during the period of the licence within 7 days of such change taking place by the proprietor.

MOT

- 1.24 The vehicle must have a valid MOT throughout the licence period.

Insurance

- 1.25 Satisfactory evidence must be produced that there is in force, for the use of the vehicle, a policy of insurance covering the carriage of passengers for hire or reward by pre-booking only or such security as complies with the requirements of Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988.
- 1.26 The proprietor must ensure that at all times a list is maintained of all licensed drivers authorised under the policy to drive the vehicle and must make such a list available to an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer at all reasonable times, when so required.

Vehicle Excise Duty (Road Tax)

- 1.27 The vehicle must have valid Road Tax throughout the licence period.

Alterations to vehicles

- 1.28 No material alteration or change in the mechanical or structural specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle is permitted without the written approval of the Council.

Damage to vehicles

- 1.29 Notification must be given by the proprietor to the Council as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case within 72 hours of the occurrence of any accident/damage to the vehicle that materially affects the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle, or the comfort or convenience of persons carried therein.

Inspection/examination

- 1.30 The proprietor must permit any authorised officer of the Council or any police officer, at all reasonable times, to inspect and examine the vehicle and to request driver identification and insurance details. A drivers badge, certificate of insurance and MOT must be produced either during the inspection/examination or to an officer of the Council or police officer within 5 days.

Convictions

1.31 The proprietor or where the proprietor is a partnership or a company, all partners or directors/company secretaries, as appropriate, during the period of the licence must, within 72 hours, disclose to the Council, in writing, if:

- They receive any warnings, cautions, fixed penalties or driving endorsements;
- Are arrested (whether or not charged with an offence);
- Are charged with any criminal offence (includes driving/motoring offences);
- Are convicted of any criminal offence (includes driving/motoring offences); or
- Allegations are made of their involvement in criminal activity.

APPENDIX D

PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR LICENCE CONDITIONS OF LICENCE

PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR LICENCE - CONDITIONS OF LICENCE**General**

- 1.0 Additional information regarding all aspects of private hire operator licensing is available in the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and this must be read in conjunction with the specific conditions set out below. Any legal requirements that apply to the operation of a private hire operator licence are regarded as if they are conditions of the licence, whether specifically listed below or in the policy or not. Where reference is made to legal requirements either in the conditions below or in the Council's policy, operators are advised that such references are not exhaustive and it is the operator's responsibility to ensure they are fully aware of all relevant legal requirements with which they must comply.

Fit and proper person

- 1.1 Throughout the currency of the licence, the operator must be a fit and proper person to hold the licence. In this respect, the operator must have due regard to the relevant provisions of the Council's policy, be aware of the checks that will be undertaken by the Council and act in accordance with the responsibilities that being a fit and proper person would reasonably place on an operator.

Employment of private hire drivers and other staff

- 1.2 An operator must take reasonable, appropriate and robust steps to reduce to a minimum the risk of employing or being employed by, engaging in partnership with, or allowing any involvement in the management of the licensed operation any person who is unlikely to satisfy the Council's 'fit and proper person' test and therefore an operator must have regard to the information in paragraphs 3a.4 to 3a.17 of this Policy. An operator must make and retain records to demonstrate the steps taken.
- 1.3 An operator is deemed to be responsible for the actions of any manager, supervisor or any other person appointed to run or play any part in the management of the private hire operator's business.
- 1.4 For each private hire driver that an operator intends to use, the operator must examine the private hire driver's licence, issued by the Council, and ensure it is valid prior to agreeing to their employ. In addition, an operator must ensure that a copy of each driver's licence is lodged with the private hire operator's business before the driver is employed to carry out private hire work and must retain the copy licence in their possession for the period during which the driver remains in their employ and for a period of at least 12 months thereafter.
- 1.5 Where an operator dismisses a driver they must report the dismissal and reasons for it to the Council within 7 days of the dismissal taking effect. In addition, an operator must inform the Council of any driver misconduct within 7 days of being made aware of the misconduct.

- 1.6 An operator must ensure all private hire drivers and employees are made aware of and fully understand the meaning of 'plying for hire' and, in particular, that private hire drivers are NOT permitted to 'ply for hire' under any circumstances. The Council's interpretation of 'plying for hire' is set out at **Appendix E** and is based on relevant legislation and case law.
- 1.7 An operator must ensure that all private hire drivers and employees are made aware of the provisions of section 167 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 with respect to touting; in particular, that subject to certain provisions, it is an offence, in a public place, to tout people to hire their vehicles in order to carry them as passengers.

Display of licence

- 1.8 Operators must display their private hire operator licence in a prominent position at any premises from where they operate and make available for inspection by members of the public if requested:
- a copy of their private hire operator conditions; and
 - the conditions applicable to private hire vehicles, hackney carriages and drivers licences, whichever are applicable

Insurance

- 1.9 Operators must ensure that at all times there is in force, for all private hire vehicles operated, a policy of insurance covering the carriage of passengers for hire or reward by pre-booking only or such security as complies with the requirements of Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1988.
- 1.10 Any premises that provide access to members of the public must be covered by Public Liability insurance for a minimum of £5,000,000. The operator must also obtain information as to any requirement for them to have Employers Liability indemnity; if there is such a requirement it must be for a minimum of £1,000,000.

Transporting children

- 1.11 Operators must take steps to ensure their drivers understand and inform parents/carers that the decision to permit children to travel in the vehicle, without the correctly sized seat restraints (as permitted by relevant legislation) and with the obvious risks associated with such an action, remains with the parent/carer responsible for the children and not with the driver of the vehicle.

Operator's premises

- 1.12 All private hire bookings taken by the operator must be received at and drivers of private hire vehicles instructed to fulfil bookings from within the physical premises (which must be located within the Shropshire Council administrative area) to which the licence is applicable. Under no circumstances is an operator permitted to receive bookings or instruct drivers to fulfil bookings from any premises other than the premises referred to in their licence and which is physically located within the Shropshire Council administrative area.

- 1.13 All records that may be required to be retained by the operator must be held within these same physical business premises for inspection by an officer of the Council or a police officer. This is required even where the home or registered office address of the operator is also recorded within the licence as a separate address.

Standards of service

- 1.14 The operator must provide prompt, efficient and reliable service to members of the public at all reasonable times and for this purpose must in particular:
- Provide adequate information and communications technology, facilities and staff, as appropriate.
 - Ensure that when a private hire vehicle has been hired to be in attendance at an appointed time and place, the vehicle shall, unless delayed or prevented by sufficient cause, punctually attend at that appointed time and place.
 - Where a waiting area or room is provided to which the public has access for the purposes of booking or waiting, must ensure that the area/room is:
 - kept in a good state of repair (interior and exterior);
 - kept clean, adequately heated, ventilated and lit;
 - has adequate seating facilities;
 - kept physically separated from any driver rest areas and radio operations rooms;
 - arranged in such a manner that staff, drivers and vehicle proprietors do not congregate within such areas; and
 - a no smoking (including electronic cigarettes) policy that complies with the Health Act 2006 and the Smoke-Free (Exemptions and Vehicles) Regulations 2007 operates.
 - Ensure that any telephone facilities and radio equipment (for which an OFCOM Radio Licence may be required) are maintained in a sound condition and that any defects are repaired promptly.

Taking bookings and retaining records

- 1.15 An operator accepting a booking remains liable for that booking, even if they sub-contract it to another operator. If a booking is sub-contracted to a second operator, this operator must also be licensed by the Council.
- 1.16 An operator must make all reasonable provision that the booking system they have in place works effectively and that it enables any bookings that they accept to be honoured.
- 1.17 An operator must monitor the booking system to ensure that drivers and vehicles are available to fulfil the arrangements that are agreed with customers.
- 1.18 Immediately prior to the commencement of each journey, an operator licensed with the Council must keep records of any booking they accept. Such records must be kept either in a ledger with consecutively numbered pages, on individual consecutively numbered record slips, or in electronic format such as a computer database/spreadsheet. Where the records are kept electronically, they must be in an identifiable and secure format and must be capable of being reproduced in printed

format at the request of an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer. Irrespective of the format of the records, all such records must be available at all reasonable times to an authorised officer of the council or to any police officer for inspection.

1.19 The following particulars must be recorded:

- a) time and date of each booking
- b) name of the hirer
- c) how the booking was made (telephone, in person, etc)
- d) time, date and place of pickup
- e) destination of the hirer
- f) call sign or registration number of the vehicle used for each booking
- g) proper name of the driver allocated to the booking
- h) any other comments relevant to the booking, including details of specific instructions from the hirer or sub-contracting arrangements with another operator

Records of vehicles and drivers

1.20 The operator must keep and maintain at their licensed premises up to date records of the particulars of all their drivers and vehicles whether or not the vehicle is owned by the operator. The records to be kept must include:

- a) private hire vehicle or hackney carriage vehicle licence plate numbers;
- b) vehicle descriptions (make/model) and vehicle registration numbers;
- c) where relevant, any radio or computer call sign used to identify vehicles or drivers;
- d) names and addresses of the proprietors of each vehicle;
- e) names and addresses of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers used;
- f) copies of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers licences, issued by the Council, relating to the drivers in their employ;
- g) drivers licence numbers (badge number) of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers relating to the drivers in their employ;
- h) copies of current/valid insurance documents for all vehicles.

1.21 An operator must notify the Council within 72 hours when any vehicle or driver ceases or commences in their employ. Any other changes relating to licensed vehicles and drivers must be notified to the Council within 7 days.

1.22 An operator must notify the Council, within 7 days, of any change of address relating to any driver or vehicle proprietor they employ or allow to operate within the business.

1.23 An operator must provide to the Council a complete and up to date list of all drivers and vehicles employed by the business when requested to do so by an officer of the Council.

Retention of records

1.24 All records kept by the operator under sections 1.15 to 1.23 above must be retained for a period of not less than 6 months for licensing purposes. Other legislation may require records to be kept for a longer period.

Change of operator address

- 1.25 The operator must, within 7 days, disclose to the Council, in writing, any change in their home address.
- 1.26 An operator must not commence operating from a new address without first consulting the Council as to the legal requirements of such a change of address.
- 1.27 An operator must notify the Council, in writing, of the sale of their business within 7 days of such an event taking place.

Vehicles which may lawfully be used

- 1.28 An operator, licensed by the Council under the provisions of section 55 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, must only use private hire vehicles that are licenced by the Council.

Drivers who may lawfully be used

- 1.29 An operator, licensed by the Council under the provisions of section 55 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, must only use drivers who hold a valid private hire vehicle drivers licence issued by the Council to drive a private hire vehicle that is licensed by the Council.

Complaints

- 1.30 Operators must set up an effective internal complaints procedure to deal with complaints made by the public against the business, vehicle proprietors and/or drivers. Wherever possible, the procedure must be set up in such a way that complaints are dealt with by the operator or a member of staff not directly connected with the taking of private hire bookings or the despatching of drivers and vehicles. An operator must monitor and review the complaints procedure to ensure it is operating effectively and make changes where necessary to ensure continued effectiveness.
- 1.31 Operators must ensure that all complaints received are properly recorded. This must include details of the booking (who accepted it on behalf of the business), vehicle details and driver details together with all information relating to any action taken. Records must be made in a book/diary with consecutively numbered pages or in an appropriate electronic format. Where the records are kept electronically, they must be in an identifiable and secure format and must be capable of being reproduced in printed format at the request of an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer. Complaint records must be made available, upon request, to any authorised officer of the Council or police officer and may be used to assist officers in the investigation of complaints.
- 1.32 The operator must on receipt of a complaint concerning a private hire contract, or purported contract, relating to, or arising from their business, immediately notify the complainant of their right to forward their complaint to the Council.
- 1.33 The operator or an appointed representative from within the business must immediately investigate any complaint. The complainant must be kept informed and

the outcome of the complaint must be notified, within a reasonable time, to both the complainant and the Council.

- 1.34 Where a complaint is received by the Council, the operator must comply with any reasonable request for information and/or follow any reasonable directions/instructions made by an authorised officer or police officer in respect of the complaint.

Use of the words 'taxi', 'cab and 'hire' in advertisements

- 1.35 No operator shall cause or permit any advertisement in respect of their business on their private hire vehicles used for that purpose or any other advertising medium (e.g. newspapers and billboards) the words 'taxi' or 'cab' in the singular or plural or 'hire' unless the word 'hire' forms part of the company name or any word or similar meaning (e.g. 'kab') or appearance to any of these words, whether alone or as part of another word.

Closed circuit television (CCTV)

- 1.36 Operators wishing to install closed circuit television (CCTV) in premises where passengers have access to make bookings or wait must notify the Council, in writing, of their intention to do so.
- 1.37 The CCTV system must be installed in accordance with the appropriate legal framework.

Lost Property

- 1.38 Where licensed drivers of private hire vehicles have handed property belonging to passengers to their operator or an operator finds such property themselves, they must hand it into the police, irrespective of value.
- 1.39 Operators must keep and maintain at their licenced premises a record of lost property detailing the date and time, the item found, the vehicle details and action taken to return the item to the rightful owner or to the police.

Damage to vehicles

- 1.40 Operators must, irrespective of their responsibilities under road traffic legislation, notify the Council as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any case within 72 hours of the occurrence of any accident/damage to a private hire vehicle under their control that materially affects the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle, or the comfort or convenience of persons carried therein.

Convictions

- 1.41 The operator or where the operator is a partnership or a company, all partners or directors/company secretaries, as appropriate, during the period of the licence must, within 72 hours, disclose to the Council, in writing, if:
- They receive any warnings, cautions, fixed penalties or driving endorsements;
 - Are arrested (whether or not charged with an offence);

- Are charged with any criminal offence (includes driving/motoring offences) ;
- Are convicted of any criminal offence (includes driving/motoring offences); or
- Allegations are made of their involvement in criminal activity.

APPENDIX E

PLYING FOR HIRE

PLYING FOR HIRE

- 1.0 Only licensed hackney carriages are permitted to ply for hire. It is ILLEGAL for a private hire vehicle to ply for hire. This means:
- a) Private hire vehicles MUST NOT carry passengers if the journey has not been pre-booked with a private hire operator by the passenger.
 - b) All private hire vehicle journeys MUST be pre-booked through a licensed private hire operator.
 - c) All bookings MUST be made by prospective passengers themselves directly with a private hire operator who will despatch the vehicle. Prospective passengers may instruct a third party, e.g. a restaurant manager, to make a booking on their behalf but this third party MUST NOT be the private hire vehicle driver.
 - d) A driver of a private hire vehicle is NOT permitted to make the booking on behalf of a prospective passenger, e.g. via their radio or mobile telephone.
 - e) Private hire operators MUST NOT accept any booking made by a driver on behalf of a passenger.
 - f) Private hire vehicle drivers are NOT permitted to make their vehicles available for immediate hire. This means that private hire vehicle drivers MUST NOT physically position their vehicles in such a way as to be waiting in any area that is on view to the public to invite custom, e.g. allowing prospective customers to approach the vehicle and ask, 'Are you free?'
 - g) In most cases, the vehicle will not be insured during a journey that has not been correctly pre-booked.
 - h) Private hire vehicles MUST NOT wait at any taxi rank/stand.
 - i) Private hire vehicle MUST NOT be hailed in the street.
- 1.1 Other circumstances may constitute unlawful 'plying for hire'; accordingly, each case of allegedly unlawful 'plying for hire' will be judged on its own facts. Nevertheless, attention is drawn to the Council's position as set out above.
- 1.2 Further information about the relevant legislation is available in the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, in particular Section 45, and in Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, in particular Section 64.

APPENDIX F

RELEVANCE OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND CAUTIONS

RELEVANCE OF CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND CAUTIONS

Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this appendix is to provide additional guidance to determine whether or not an applicant or an existing licence holder is a fit and proper person to hold a hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicle drivers and/or an operator licence as it relates specifically to convictions and cautions.
- 1.2 The guidance has been produced to assist the Council in its decision-making and to maintain the consistency of the decisions made. It has also been formulated to provide clearer information to current and potential applicants, with a view to minimising the cost and time spent on the licensing process by both the Council and the applicant.
- 1.3 The aim of the guidance is not to punish the applicant twice for a conviction or caution but to ensure that public safety is not compromised. The Council cannot review the merits of any conviction.
- 1.4 Each case is to be decided on its own individual merits and, where the circumstances demand, the decision making body may depart from the guidance in which case the reasons for this will be made clear.

Legislation

- 1.5 Sections 51, 55 and 59 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 sets out that the Council must not grant a driver's licence or an operator's licence unless they are satisfied that the person is a **fit and proper person** to hold such a licence.
- 1.6 Sections 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the Council to suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a driver's licence if they have, since the grant of the licence, been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, indecency or violence; or been convicted of an offence under or failed to comply with the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 or Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; or any other reasonable cause.
- 1.7 Sections 62 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the Council to suspend, revoke or refuse to renew an operator's licence if they have committed any offence under, or failed to comply with, the provisions of Part II of the Act; where any conduct appears to render the operator unfit to hold a licence; any material change since the licence was granted in any of the circumstances of the operator on the basis of which the licence was granted; or any other reasonable cause.
- 1.8 Therefore, the wording of the legislation makes it clear that the Council may grant a licence **ONLY** if it is satisfied that the person is fit and proper; the onus is on the applicant to prove this, **NOT** the Council to demonstrate that they are not.

Defining a 'fit and proper person'

1.9 There is no legal definition as to what definitively constitutes a 'fit and proper person'. However, because of the potentially vulnerability of the passengers that drivers and operators may come into contact with, e.g. elderly people, unaccompanied children, the disabled, those who may have consumed excessive quantities of alcohol, lone females and foreign visitors, it is incumbent on the Council to take a very robust stance when deciding whether or not a person is fit and proper to hold a licence granted by the Council.

1.10 In essence, a fit and proper person will be:

- Honesty and trustworthy - drivers and operators have, for example, access to a large amount of personal information that could be misused and significant opportunities to defraud drunken, vulnerable or foreign people or to steal property left in cars.
- Not abusive, violent or threatening – abusive, violent or threatening behaviour is not acceptable conduct on the part of a driver/operator even when they are subjected to unpleasant or dishonest passenger behaviour.
- A competent and safe driver - they are expected to be professional drivers and must be fully aware of all road traffic legislation, conditions attached to their driving licence, the safety of their passengers and the safety of their vehicles at all times; passengers rely on their driver to get them to their destination safely and using the most direct route, therefore, a good knowledge of the area that they are working in is also appropriate.
- Able to communicate effectively with passengers – in the main this means able to read, speak, write and understand English.
- In good physical and mental health – to ensure they do not put passengers at risk through, for example, suffering a heart attack whilst conveying passengers.

The Council's approach when considering convictions

1.11 The disclosure of any convictions or cautions will not necessarily mean an applicant is not a fit and proper person and, therefore, automatically prevented from being issued a licence. However, the Council will have regard to all convictions, spent or live, and they will be assessed accordingly. Consideration will be given, but not restricted to, the following:

- How relevant the offence(s) are to the licence being applied for.
- How serious the offence (s) were.
- When the offence(s) were committed.
- The date of conviction.
- Circumstances of the individual concerned.
- The extent of any mitigating factors.
- Sentence imposed by the court.
- Whether the offence(s) form part of a pattern of offending or indicate a pattern of unacceptable behaviour.
- Any other character check considered reasonable, e.g. personal references.
- Any other factor that may be relevant.

1.12 **AND** to guide the Council's consideration, the implications of the answer to the following question will also be applied:

- Would I allow my daughter or son, granddaughter or grandson, spouse, mother or father, or any other person I care for or any vulnerable person I know, to get into a vehicle with this person alone?

1.13 If the Council has any doubts as to the fitness of an applicant/existing licenced driver, then an application must be refused or licence suspended/revoked until those doubts can be effectively allayed through the provision of further adequate evidence.

1.14 If the applicant or holder of a licence has notified the Council of a conviction but is appealing against it to a higher court the matter will be referred to the Licensing Panel or the Licensing & Safety Sub-committee for a decision as to whether the licence ought to be suspended or revoked.

Patterns of behaviour

1.15 A series of offences or a pattern of behaviour/conduct over a period of time is more likely to give cause for concern than an isolated conviction/incident. However, that is not to say that an isolated conviction/incident cannot give cause for concern in its own right, particularly where it relates to a serious matter. In such circumstances, the Council will give significant consideration to refusing to grant a licence or to suspending and/or revoking an existing licence.

1.16 A serious view will always be taken where an applicant shows any tendency towards criminal and/or unacceptable/inappropriate behaviour patterns. In such instances, the Council is unlikely to consider such an applicant/existing licence holder to be a fit and proper person to hold a licence and will give significant consideration to refusing to grant a licence or to suspending/revoking an existing licence.

Rehabilitation periods

1.17 Detailed guidance (effective March 2014) on the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 is available on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/new-guidance-on-the-rehabilitation-of-offenders-act-1974>

1.18 A person with a conviction for an offence need not be automatically barred from obtaining a licence. However, they would be expected to remain free of conviction for an appropriate period of time (as set out in Tables A and B below) and demonstrate adequate evidence that they are a fit and proper person to hold a licence. The onus is on the person to produce such evidence.

NB Simply remaining free of conviction will not generally be regarded as adequate evidence that a person is a fit and proper person.

Table A

Sentence	Rehabilitation period (applies from the end date of the sentence, including any licence period)
Custodial sentence* of over 48 months, or a public protection sentence**	Never spent
Custodial sentence* of over 30 months and up to and including 48 months	7 years
Custodial sentence* of over 6 months and up to and including 30 months	4 years
Custodial sentence of 6 months or less	2 years
Community order	1 year

*Custodial sentence includes both an immediate custodial sentence and a suspended sentence.

**Public protection sentence means a sentence of imprisonment imposed for specified sexual and violent offences as set out in Schedule 15 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. (Equivalent provisions of the Armed Forces Act 2006 are also applicable.)

Table B

Sentence	Rehabilitation period (applies from the date of conviction)
Endorsement for a road traffic offence imposed by the court or a FPN; or if a driving licence is revoked or refused on medical grounds by the DVLA (or other body responsible for issuing the driving licence)	5 years*
Penalty points for a road traffic offence	3 years
Driving disqualification**	when the disqualification ceases to have effect
Community order with no specified end date	2 years
Fine	1 year
Conditional discharge	Period of the order
Absolute discharge	None
Conditional caution	3 months or when the caution ceases to have effect if earlier
Simple caution	Spent immediately
Compensation order	On the discharge of the order (i.e. when it is paid in full); individuals must obtain and retain proof of payment from the court
Binding over order; Attendance centre order; Hospital order (with or without a restriction order)	Period of the order

* Where a driving licence is revoked/refused on medical grounds by the DVLA (or other body), the Council will not grant a licence until medical proof of acceptable physical and mental fitness is provided.

**'Disqualified' – refers to the period of disqualification actually served in order to take account of the fact that a court may reduce the period of disqualification; an applicant must provide evidence to prove that the court agreed a reduction in the period of disqualification.

1.19 Where a person does not satisfy the rehabilitation periods referred to in the tables above, then the Council will refuse to grant a new licence or revoke or suspend an existing licence until the applicant is in a position to satisfy them.

1.20 The specific periods of rehabilitation are not intended to be taken as definitive time

periods by which an applicant/licence holder is automatically granted a licence simply on the basis that the rehabilitation period has elapsed. Rather they are intended to give parameters for consideration when taken with the overall history of an applicant/licence holder in order to assist the Council to determine whether an applicant/existing licence holder is a fit and proper person or not. The rehabilitation periods will not be considered in isolation.

- 1.21 The Council will not grant a licence to an applicant who has been convicted of a specified sexual or violent offence unless significant and exceptional circumstances apply.

Licensing offences

- 1.22 In addition to the consideration of rehabilitation periods, where an existing licence holder is found guilty of hackney carriage or private hire related offences such as, but not restricted to, plying for hire, over-charging, refusing to carry disabled persons or multiple breaches of licence conditions, licence holders will be referred to the Licensing Panel and/or the Licensing and Safety Sub-committee with a view to determining whether the licence ought to be suspended and/or revoked.

Right of appeal

- 1.23 Any applicant refused a driver's or operator's licence on the grounds that they are not a fit and proper person to hold such a licence, or who has had their licence suspended or revoked or had a condition attached with which they disagree has a right of appeal by way of written complaint, to the magistrates' court within 21 days of the notice of decision.

Conclusion

- 1.24 Any applicant having a previous or current conviction should not, in principle, debar them from obtaining a hackney carriage or private hire driver's licence. However, previous convictions are a significant factor in the decision making process and it will inevitably be more difficult for such applicants to obtain a licence. It is this Council's policy to consider the protection of the public above all else by ensuring all licensed drivers are honest, will not be a threat to the public, are in good health, are safe and competent drivers and are able to maintain their vehicles to a safe standard. In doing so, the Council will focus on the background of an applicant as a whole and will not consider individual offences and their rehabilitation periods identified above in isolation from other factors, in particular patterns of unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour and conduct that may not necessarily be linked to proven convictions.

APPENDIX G

INTENDED USE

AND

LICENSING OF HACKNEY

CARRIAGES

INTENDED USE AND LICENSING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES**Reasons for Policy**

- 1.0 The Council wishes to ensure that applications for the grant of hackney carriage licences are determined in accordance with the guidance given by the High Court in its judgment, and the declaration made in the case of Newcastle City Council v Berwick upon Tweed Council [2008].

Applications for the grant of a new hackney carriage licence

- 1.2 Applicants for new licences will be expected to demonstrate a bona fide intention to ply for hire within the administrative area of Shropshire Council under the terms of the licence for which application is being made.
- 1.3 There will be a presumption that applicants who do not intend to a material extent to ply for hire within the administrative area of Shropshire Council will not be granted a hackney carriage licence authorising them to do so. Each application will be decided on its individual merits.
- 1.4 Even where the applicant intends to ply for hire to a material extent in the administrative area of Shropshire Council, if the intention is to trade in another authority's area also for a substantial amount of time (and it appears that the purpose of the legislation and public safety will be frustrated) then, subject to the merits of the particular application, there will be a presumption that the application will be refused.

Applications for the renewal of a hackney carriage licence

- 1.5 Applicants for renewals of licences will be required to inform the Council whether they have a bona fide intention to ply for hire within the administrative area of Shropshire Council under the terms of the licence for which application is being made.
- 1.6 There will be a presumption that applicants who do not intend to a material extent to ply for hire within the administrative area of Shropshire Council will not be granted a hackney carriage licence authorising them to do so. Section 60 of Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 gives the Council a broad discretion to refuse to renew a licence for any reasonable cause. Each application will be decided on its merits.
- 1.7 Even where the applicant intends to ply for hire to a material extent in the administrative area of Shropshire Council, if the intention is to trade in another authority's area also for a substantial amount of time (and it appears that the purpose of the legislation and public safety will be frustrated) then, subject to the merits of the particular application, there will be a presumption that the application will be refused.

Transfer of ownership – when a licensed vehicle is transferred from one person to another

- 1.8 Section 49 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 requires that the proprietor of the licensed vehicle who transfers his interest to another must, within 14 days of the transfer, give written notice to the Council of the name and address of the transferee of the hackney carriage. The Council has no power to refuse to register the new proprietor: see *R v Weymouth Borough Council, ex p Teletax (Weymouth) Ltd* [1947] KB 583.
- 1.9 Provided requisite notice has been given in accordance with section 49 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Council will register the transferee of a licensed hackney carriage as the new proprietor. This is a legal requirement.
- 1.10 The transferee of a licensed hackney carriage will be asked to inform the Council whether he has a bona fide intention to use the vehicle to ply for hire within the administrative area of Shropshire Council. In addition, where the transferee resides outside the administrative area of Shropshire Council, the transferee will be required to keep records of all pickups on the Shropshire Council approved record sheets and these records shall be made available for inspection upon request. Transferees should note the obligation under section 73 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to give to an authorised officer information which may reasonably be required by him for the purpose of carrying out his functions under the legislation. Where there is a failure to provide the requested information or to keep the records, the Council will give serious consideration to exercising its powers of suspension of the licence under section 60 of the 1976 Act until such information is forthcoming, in addition to its powers under section 73.
- 1.11 Transferees of existing licences will be expected to have a bona fide intention to ply for hire within the administrative area of Shropshire Council under the terms of the licence in respect of the vehicle being transferred.
- 1.12 Where the transferee of a licensed hackney carriage is found to have no intention to ply for hire to a material extent within the administrative area of Shropshire Council and/or intends to trade in another authority's area also for a substantial amount of time (and it appears that the purpose of the legislation and public safety will be frustrated) then, subject to the merits of the particular case, consideration will be given (either at renewal or earlier) to the suspension or revocation of the licence under section 60 of the 1976 Act. Where the transferee proposes to operate remotely from the administrative area of Shropshire Council there will be a presumption that his licence will be revoked. Each case will be decided on its merits.
- 1.13 The Council is required to register the name of the new proprietor of a vehicle. It seems to the Council also to open up an obvious route to circumvent the decision of the High Court referred to in paragraph 1.0 above, unless precautionary steps are taken. The paragraphs in this section are intended to put the Council in a position to respond responsibly to the transfer of a Shropshire hackney carriage into the name of someone who operates outside the administrative area of Shropshire Council or remotely from it.
- 1.14 Unless there has been a change in the proprietor's intentions with regard to plying for hire within the administrative area of Shropshire Council, there should be no reason

why he should not be granted a licence for a replacement vehicle. On the other hand, an applicant who obtained his first licence on the expressed intention of plying for hire to a material extent within the administrative area of Shropshire Council, and who on application to replace that vehicle with another discloses that he no longer so intends, effectively engages the presumption against grant that is mentioned earlier.

Change of vehicle – when a proprietor replaces a licensed vehicle

- 1.15 Applicants seeking the grant of hackney carriage licence for a vehicle intended to replace another licensed vehicle will be asked to inform the Council of their intended use of the vehicle. There will be a presumption that applicants who no longer intend to ply for hire to a material extent within the administrative area of Shropshire Council will not have the new hackney carriage licence granted. Even where the applicant intends to ply for hire to a material extent in the administrative area of Shropshire, if the intention is to trade in another authority's area also for a substantial amount of time (and it appears that the purpose of the legislation and public safety will be frustrated) then, subject to the merits of the particular case, there will be a presumption that the application will be refused.

Revocation of licence

- 1.16 Where a licence has been granted under the terms that the applicant intends to ply for hire to a material extent within the administrative area of Shropshire Council but is subsequently found not to be plying for hire to a material extent in the administrative area of Shropshire Council and/or to be trading in another authority's area for a substantial amount of time (and it appears that the purpose of the legislation and public safety will be frustrated) there will be a presumption that the licence will be revoked.

Exceptional circumstances

- 1.17 Each application will be decided on its merits. However the presumptions that intended use is to ply for hire to a material extent within the administrative area of Shropshire Council will be rebuttable in exceptional circumstances. Whilst it is neither possible nor prudent to draw up a list of what might amount to exceptional circumstances, an applicant who claims that exceptional circumstances exist will be expected to be able to satisfy the Council that it would not frustrate the purposes of the legislation or compromise public safety if the licence were granted, renewed or if were not suspended or revoked as the case may be.

APPENDIX H

**ADVERTISING
ON
HACKNEY CARRIAGE
AND
PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

ADVERTISING ON HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

- 1.0 Advertisements will not be permitted by Shropshire Council if, in Shropshire Council's reasonable opinion, the advertisement falls within any of the following categories:
- a. does not comply with the law or incites someone to break the law;
 - b. does not comply with the UK Code of Non-broadcast Advertising, Sales Promotion and Direct Marketing;
 - c. is likely to cause widespread or serious offence to members of the public on account of the nature of the product or service being advertised the wording or design of the advertisement or by way of inference;
 - d. depicts men, women or children in a sexual manner or displays nude or semi-nude figures in an overtly sexual context (**NB** whilst the use of underdressed people in most underwear advertising may be seen as an appropriate context, gratuitous use of an overtly sexual nature will be unacceptable);
 - e. depicts or refers to indecency or obscenity or uses obscene or distasteful language including that set out in a foreign language;
 - f. relates to lap-dancing, 'gentlemen's clubs', escort agencies or massage parlours;
 - g. depicts direct or immediate violence to anyone shown in the advertisement;
 - h. condones or provokes anti-social behaviour;
 - i. contains images or messages, which relate to matters of public controversy and sensitivity;
 - j. refers to or portrays (or gives the impression of portraying) a living person unless the written consent of that person is obtained and is produced to Shropshire Council;
 - k. contains negative references to Shropshire Council's services or those services provided or regulated by other local authorities;
 - l. relates to a political party or parties or a political cause;
 - m. relates to or advertises alcohol or tobacco (this includes electronic cigarettes);
 - n. in the case of digital media, poses a health and safety risk as a result of flickering or other visual imagery

APPENDIX I

CONDITIONS APPLICABLE

TO THE

USE OF TRAILERS

CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE USE OF TRAILERS

- Any driver using a trailer must ensure they hold the appropriate DVLA (or equivalent) driving licence.
- The use of trailers is only permitted for vehicles of the multi-passenger type (more than 4 passenger seats) and on pre-arranged journeys where passenger's luggage cannot be safely accommodated within the vehicle.
- The licensed towing vehicle's insurance must cover the towing of a trailer.
- Trailers must not be left unattended anywhere on the highway.
- The speed restrictions applicable to trailers must be observed at all times.
- A spare wheel for the trailer and adequate tools to change a wheel must be carried at all times by a licensed vehicle whilst towing a trailer.
- The towing of a trailer by a licensed vehicle shall only permit the conveyance of luggage and belongings owned by a passenger whilst the vehicle is hired by a passenger within the vehicle.
- The tow bar must comply with the type approval regulations in respect of all tow bars fitted to cars after August 1998.
- Drivers of vehicles towing trailers must ensure that they have the correct driving licence group to permit them to tow the relevant trailer, as per the DVLA guidance (info 30) Driving Licensing Requirements for Towing Trailers in Great Britain.
- Trailers must be inspected at initial licensing and annually thereafter by a garage approved by the Council for that purpose.
- An additional plate will be issued by the Council for each vehicle licensed to tow trailers and the relevant plate must be affixed to the rear of the trailer near the vehicle number plate.
- Un-braked trailers shall be less than 750 KGs gross weight.
- Trailers over 750 KGs gross weight shall be braked acting on at least two road wheels.
- The towing vehicle must have a kerb weight of at least twice the gross weight of the trailer.
- A suitable lid or other approved means of enclosure shall be fitted to secure the contents within the trailer when in use and to keep it watertight.
- The maximum permissible length of the trailer shall be 7 metres including the drawbar and coupling.

- The width of the trailer shall not be greater than the towing vehicle subject to no trailer being wider than 2.3 metres.
- The maximum length for braked twin axle trailers is 5.54 metres.
- The trailer must at all times comply with all Road Traffic legislation requirements, in particular those as laid down in the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.
- The trailer shall not display any form of sign or advertisement not required or approved by the Council or Road Traffic legislation.

Proposed improvements and substantive changes

1.0 Safeguarding

- a) Purpose clearly set out and strengthened with respect to child sexual exploitation.
- b) Emphasis on safeguarding significantly increased with a more robust position being taken in respect of who will be accepted as a 'fit and proper person'; additional checks beyond the DBS check will be undertaken and greater use made of intelligence and behaviour/misconduct information.
- c) Additional information/evidence for drivers required at time of application, including proof of identity and the right to work in the UK.
- d) Appendix dealing with the relevance of criminal convictions and cautions fully revised to reflect the current position in relation to the rehabilitation of offenders and the more robust position that the Council intends to take with respect to dealing with applicants who have previous convictions and cautions, in particular where patterns of behaviour feature.
- e) Clarification of the convictions and other penalties that must be notified to the Council during the period of any licence.
- f) Requirement for applicants to be able to converse orally and in writing in English has been clearly set out rather than implied.
- g) Encouragement, on a voluntary basis, for all hackney carriages to be black in colour and all private hire vehicles to be NOT black to increase distinction between the vehicle types to improve public safety by increasing public awareness of the different types of vehicles available.
- h) Additional conditions incorporated into the private hire operators' licence to raise standards, to induce operators to take a greater responsibility for the role they have to ensure public safety and to provide the Council with increased control and a more robust basis for enforcement action where this is necessary.
- i) The Council's interpretation of the meaning of 'plying for hire' is clearly set out to ensure drivers and operators are fully aware of the Council's position and expectations; operators are required to ensure drivers fully understand this.
- j) Increased restriction on the use of the words taxi, cab and hire on vehicles and advertising medium.
- k) Clarification provided confirming that magnetic attachment of side plates on private hire vehicles are not permitted.
- l) New front plate requirement for both hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.
- m) Additional signs required to be displayed inside vehicles.
- n) Hackney carriage roof signs not to include any other words other than 'TAXI' and the light must be connected to the meter switch.

2.0 Public health/safety

- a) Purpose clearly set out and further strengthened with respect to reducing detrimental environmental impact.

- b) Introduction of European Emission Standards for vehicles to control emissions that impact on air quality and public health.
- c) Introduction of NCAP safety ratings for vehicles.
- d) Additional requirements and alternative options with respect to the carrying of a spare wheel in vehicles.
- e) Additional requirements for vehicle ramps.
- f) Advertising of alcohol and tobacco is prohibited on vehicles and the manner by which advertising materials are permitted to be displayed is clarified.
- g) Introduction of specific controls in respect of LPG converted vehicles.
- h) Specific levels for public liability and employer's liability indemnity insurance required and type of insurance required for each licence type is clarified.
- i) Specific requirements for the licensing of limousines, novelty vehicles and vintage vehicles included.
- j) Appendix dealing with medical conditions removed; instead there is reference in the main body of the Policy directing applicants/licence holders to the relevant current guidance issued by the DVLA.
- k) Condition requiring vehicles to carry a first-aid kit and fire extinguisher removed. (The need, or otherwise, for these is controlled by health and safety at work legislation, which is specifically excluded from this Policy.)

3.0 Preventing fraud

- a) Additional requirements apply to the use of taximeters to reduce risk of overcharging and fraudulent use.

4.0 Equality and economy

- a) Encouragement, on a voluntary basis, for all hackney carriages in zones 1, 2, 3 and 5 to be wheelchair accessible.

5.0 Conduct

- a) Increased clarity around the conduct expected from drivers, including the unacceptability of racist behaviour.
- b) Introduction of a requirement for private hire vehicles to 'pull back' to specified parking areas when working in the Telford & Wrekin Council area and to a 'safe place' when in the Shropshire Council area; committed to reviewing the Shropshire position on this in 2018.
- c) Hackney carriage proprietors to encourage appropriate order of working ranks.

6.0 Administration

- a) Scope clearly set out.
- b) Sets out the licensing process, including how decisions are made and by whom, giving all stakeholders clear guidance on the likely outcome of applications in particular circumstances.

- c) Tighter controls on the application process to prevent applications remaining in the system unnecessarily.
- d) In addition to licence conditions, the main legal requirements applicable to each licence type are set out for clarity.
- e) Previously agreed policies relating to executive vehicles and intended use of hackney carriages brought into the Policy; all now available for stakeholders in a single policy.
- f) Methods of consultation and communication with stakeholders to be determined as required rather than specifically set in the Policy.
- g) Clarity on the timescale for reviewing the Policy.
- h) Clarity on the legislative framework.
- i) Appendix dealing with the executive vehicles removed.