



To All
DDC District & Town Councillors

APPENDIX C

Licensing Section
Environmental Enforcement & Protection
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Direct Line: 01304 872295
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Our ref: Draft Taxi Policy Consultation
Your ref:
Date: 5.10.12

Second Consultation

Dover District Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

Dover District Council is committed to consulting with the community on a wide range of issues. This consultation is about our policy regarding hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.

Consultation Overview

Dover District Council has responsibility for licensing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators within the Dover District area under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, The Town Police Clauses Act 1847 as amended by the Public Health Act 1875.

The current Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Policy was adopted in December 2008 and, in line with other Licensing Policies, is due for review. The revised draft brings together a number of different policies and procedures, which have been developed on a piecemeal basis over the years into one single document which covers the whole Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing regime.

Following the initial consultation on the revised Taxi Licensing Policy, which ran from 1st May 2012 to 25th July 2012 a number of revisions have been made to the draft policy and it is now proposed to run a further 6 week consultation on the revised draft policy from **8th October 2012 to 19th November 2012**.

Your views are sought on the following revisions that have been made to the original draft policy following the initial consultation:

❑ **2.3.3 (page 8) Removal of requirement for all Hackney Carriages to be wheelchair accessible by 2020.**

Following feedback from the first consultation, the requirement for all vehicles to be wheelchair accessible by 2020 has been removed from the draft policy. Instead, it is proposed to conduct a full accessibility assessment during the 3 year term of the policy and to continue offering financial incentives for licence holders to plate wheelchair accessible vehicles.

❑ **Appendix A (page 26) Revised Vehicle Specifications for Hackney Carriages**

As a result of the removal of the requirement for all Hackney Carriages to be wheelchair accessible by 2020, the Vehicle Specifications relating to Hackney Carriage Vehicles have been revised.

❑ **Appendix D 2.9 (page 55) Application Procedures – Drivers**

Following feedback from the first consultation, it is now proposed to conduct checks on driver licences issued by the DVLA. All costs incurred by the Council from conducting the checks will be recharged (at cost) to the applicant. The current rate for the checks is approximately £5-£6 per applicant.

Why are we consulting?

To give the hackney carriage and private hire trade and other interested parties the opportunity to be involved in the review of the conditions and policies.

The revised policy can be downloaded from www.dover.gov.uk/licensing

Alternatively, you can request a printed copy by calling us on **01304 872295**, by email or by writing to us at the address below.

Who are we consulting with?

- Dover Federation of Licensed Taxi Operators
- Taxi and Private Hire Drivers & Proprietors
- Private Hire Vehicle Operators
- Kent Police
- Kent County Council
- East Kent Coastal PCT
- Department for Transport
- Network Rail
- Disability Groups
- Transport User Groups
- Town Centre Management
- General Public
- Area Forums
- Local transport providers
- Dover, Deal & Sandwich Town Councils
- Parish Councils
- Dover Harbour Board
- Age Concern & Centres for the Retired

How do I respond?

You can respond to the consultation in the following ways:-

Email to licensing@dover.gov.uk

By Post to

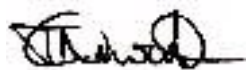
John Newcombe
Licensing Team Leader
Environmental Enforcement & Protection
Dover District Council
White Cliffs Business Park,
Whitfield,
Dover CT16 3PJ

The **Closing Date** for responses is **19th November 2012**

What happens after the consultation?

After the consultation we will publish a summary of the responses on the Council's website (www.dover.gov.uk) together with any comments which will be considered by the Council before determining and adopting the revised policy for 2012-2015. It is expected that the revised policy will take effect from **January 2013**.

Yours sincerely



John Newcombe
Licensing Team Leader