

# Licensing Sub-Committee

**Date: Thursday, 5th December, 2019**

**Time: 10.00 am**

**Venue: Kaposvar Room - Guildhall, Bath**

**Councillors:** Manda Rigby, Michael Evans and Steve Hedges

Chief Executive and other appropriate officers  
Press and Public

A briefing session for Members will be held at 9.30am in the room where the meeting is to take place.



**Sean O'Neill**

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## NOTES:

1. **Inspection of Papers:** Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Council's website: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

Paper copies are available for inspection at the **Public Access points:-** Reception: Civic Centre - Keynsham, Guildhall - Bath, The Hollies - Midsomer Norton. Bath Central and Midsomer Norton public libraries.

2. **Details of decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above.

## 3. Recording at Meetings:-

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control. Some of our meetings are webcast. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators. We request that those filming/recording meetings avoid filming public seating areas, children, vulnerable people etc; however, the Council cannot guarantee this will happen.

The Council will broadcast the images and sounds live via the internet [www.bathnes.gov.uk/webcast](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/webcast). The Council may also use the images/sound recordings on its social media site or share with other organisations, such as broadcasters.

## 4. Public Speaking at Meetings

The Council has a scheme to encourage the public to make their views known at meetings. They may make a statement relevant to what the meeting has power to do. They may also present a petition or a deputation on behalf of a group. They may also ask a question to which a written answer will be given. **Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting. This means that for meetings held on Thursdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 5.00pm the previous Monday.** Further details of the scheme:

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=12942>

## 5. Emergency Evacuation Procedure

When the continuous alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building by one of the designated exits and proceed to the named assembly point. The designated exits are signposted. Arrangements are in place for the safe evacuation of disabled people.

## 6. Supplementary information for meetings

Additional information and Protocols and procedures relating to meetings

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13505>

**Licensing Sub-Committee - Thursday, 5th December, 2019**

**at 10.00 am in the Kaposvar Room - Guildhall, Bath**

**A G E N D A**

1. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 5 on the previous page.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to indicate:

(a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.

(b) The nature of their interest.

(c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** *or* an **other interest**,  
(as defined in Part 2, A and B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

4. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 7 NOVEMBER 2019 (Pages 5 - 8)

6. LICENSING PROCEDURE (Pages 9 - 12)

The Chair will, if required, explain the licensing procedure.

7. CONSIDERATION OF VEHICLE SUITABILITY TO BE LICENSED AS A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE - 1904205PHVL (Pages 13 - 30)

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Sean O'Neill who can be contacted on 01225 395090.



**BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL**

**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 7th November, 2019, 10.00 am

**Councillors:** Manda Rigby (Chair), Michael Evans (in place of Sally Davis) and Steve Hedges

**Officers in attendance:** Carrie-Ann Evans (Deputy Team Leader (Barrister)) and John Dowding (Senior Public Protection Officer)

**48 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Democratic Services Officer advised the meeting of the procedure.

**49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sally Davis, for whom Cllr Michael Evans substituted.

**50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**51 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There was none.

**52 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 26 SEPTEMBER 2019**

These were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**53 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

Having been satisfied that the public interest would be better served by not disclosing relevant information, the Sub-Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, **RESOLVED** that the public should be excluded from the meeting for agenda item 8, and that the reporting of that part of the meeting should be prevented under Section 100A(5A), because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended.

**54 TAXI PROCEDURE**

The Chair drew attention to the procedure to be followed for the next item of business.

**55 APPLICATION FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - 19/00165/TAXI**

The licence holder confirmed that he understood the procedure to be followed for the hearing.

The Senior Public Protection Officer presented the report. He reported that as part of the licence renewal process a DBS check had been undertaken and had revealed that the licence holder had received a police caution soon after he had first been granted his licence. The licence holder claimed that he had written to the Licensing office to report the receipt of the caution, but there was no record of this. Members were provided with copies of the DBS certificate and of a statement submitted by the licence holder. The hearing was adjourned to allow Members time to study these documents.

After the adjournment the licence holder stated his case and was questioned by Members. The applicant made a closing statement.

Following a further adjournment the Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** that the licence holder was a fit and proper person to hold a combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver's licence, but gave him a warning as to this future conduct. Authority was delegated to the Public Protection Officer to issue the licence, subject to the satisfactory completion of the remaining stages of the licensing process.

#### Decision and reasons

Members have had to consider a renewal application for a combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's licence in light of the contents of a Disclosure and Barring Service certificate. In doing so Members took account of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Human Rights Act 1998, case law and the Council's Policy.

Members took account of the applicant's oral representations and his written statement and balanced these against the information contained in the Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate.

Members heard that the applicant had received a Police Caution shortly after the grant of his Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's Licence in 2016 in relation to an incident of shoplifting which took place some months prior.

Members noted that the applicant should have notified the Council within 7 days of receipt of the caution. The applicant indicated to members that he had given notice in writing by First Class post but never received a response from the Council. The Council has no record of having received such notification.

The Council's Policy includes an expectation that an applicant will not have been cautioned for an offence during the previous two years. Members noted that this caution was over three years ago and the offending behaviour was nearly four years ago. In the light of this and based on what Members had heard and read, they consider the applicant to be a fit and proper person to hold a combined hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver's licence.

Authority was therefore delegated to the Public Protection Officer to issue the licence subject to satisfactory completion of the licensing process.

That said Members gave the applicant a warning in relation to his future conduct and note that it is the responsibility of a BANES licensed driver to comply with the conditions and obligations of their licence.

In this instance, on balance, members determined the applicant to be fit and proper on the information before them which did not include a copy of the letter the applicant claimed he sent to the council regarding his caution. Going forward the applicant was advised to retain records of any and all correspondence with the council in the interests of all parties in order to facilitate the resolution of any issues arising.

The meeting ended at 11.25 am

Chair(person) .....

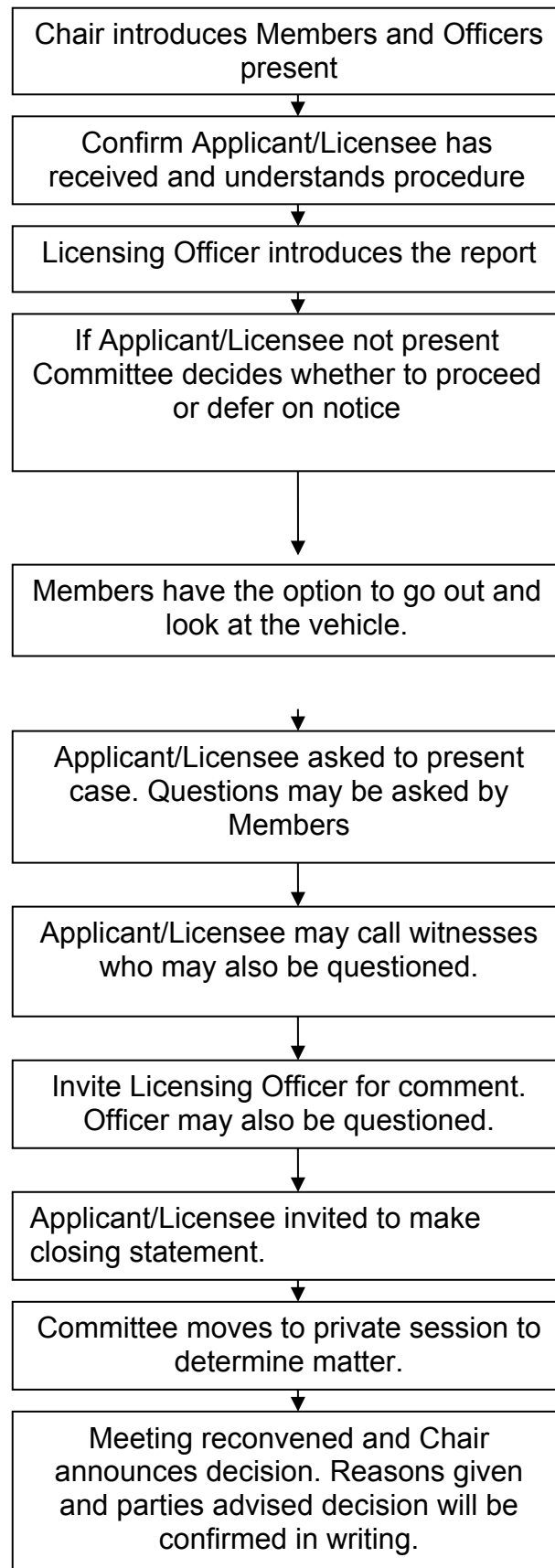
Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**

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**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE  
HACKNEY CARRIAGE (TAXI) AND  
PRIVATE HIRE PROPRIETORS LICENCE PROCEDURE**



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**Licensing Sub-Committee  
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire  
Proprietors' Hearing Procedure**

1. The Chair will introduce Members of the Committee, introduce the Officers present, explain the procedure to be followed and ensure those present have received and understood that procedure.
2. The Licensing Officer will outline the nature of the matter to be considered by the Committee.
3. Members inspect the vehicle.
4. The Applicant (or his/her representative) present their case, may call witnesses and may be questioned by the Committee and other parties.
5. Interested parties present their case, may call witnesses and may be questioned by the Committee and other parties.
6. The Chair will invite the Licensing Officer to comment. If an Officer makes comment they may be questioned.
7. Interested parties will be invited to make a closing statement.
8. The Applicant will be invited to make a closing statement.
9. The Chair will invite the Committee to move into private session to enable the Members to deliberate in private. The Committee will reconvene publicly if clarification of evidence is required and/or legal advice is required. The Committee may retire to a private room, or alternatively require vacation of the meeting room by all other persons.
10. Whilst in deliberation the Committee will be accompanied by Legal and Democratic Services Officers for the purpose of assisting them in drafting their reasoning for the decision.
11. The Committee will reconvene the meeting and the Chair will announce the Committee's decision with reasons and advise that the decision will be released in writing within the statutory time limits.

Updated November 2013

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- Where the Committee considers it necessary the procedure may be varied.
- In circumstances where a party fails to attend the Committee will consider whether to proceed in absence or defer to the next meeting. Should a matter be deferred the deferral notice will state that the matter may proceed in a party's absence on the next occasion. In deciding whether to proceed all notices, communications and representations will be considered.
- Only in **exceptional circumstances** will the Committee take account of additional late documentary or other information and will be at the discretion of the Chair and on notice to all the other parties. No new representations will be allowed at the hearing.
- The Committee will disregard all information or representations considered irrelevant.
- The hearing will take the form of a discussion. The Committee will allow parties to the proceedings to ask questions. Formal cross examination will be discouraged and, should it be necessary, supplementary questions limited to clarification purposes.
- Parties will be allowed an equal amount of time to present their cases. Whilst time limits are at the discretion of the Chair, in the interests of cost and efficiency, presentations will not normally exceed **twenty minutes** to include summarising the case. Time limits will not include the time taken for questions.

#### **N.B.**

1. Where there is more than one party making relevant representations the time allocated will be split between those parties.
  2. Where several parties are making the same or similar representations it is suggested that one representative is appointed to avoid duplication and to make the most efficient use of the allocated time.
  3. Where an objection is made by an association or local residents group, a duly authorised person – as notified to the Licensing authority – may speak on behalf of that association or local residents group.
- The Chair may request that any person behaving in a disruptive manner leave the hearing and refuse that person to return, or only to return subject to conditions. An excluded person however is entitled to submit the information they would have been entitled to present had they not been required to leave.
  - Bath & North East Somerset Council is committed to taking decisions in an honest, accountable and transparent fashion. On occasion however, it may be necessary to exclude members of the press and public on the grounds set out in the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 (a). In those circumstances reasons for such decisions will be given.
  - If any person has special needs regarding access, hearing or vision, this should be brought to the Licensing Authority's attention prior to the hearing in order that reasonable adjustments can be made.

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Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Licensing Sub Committee	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	CONSIDERATION OF VEHICLE SUITABILITY TO BE LICENSED AS A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE – 1904205PHVL	
WARD:	All	
OPEN PUBLIC SESSION		
List of attachments to this report:		
Annex A- Application Form		
Annex B – Policy on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Standards.		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 This report invites the Licensing Sub-Committee to consider whether or not a vehicle that is over 4 years old is suitable to be licensed as a private hire vehicle.
- 1.2 The policy adopted by the Council requires each application be dealt with on its own merits and where applications fall outside the general policy they should be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.
- 1.3 The policy adopted by the Council requires that all vehicles will normally be less than four years old when first licensed.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Sub Committee is asked to consider the matter and determine the issue.

## **3 THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The applicant applied for the grant of a Private Hire vehicle licence on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019. (A copy of the application form is produced at Annex A).

- 3.2 The application is for an Audi A6 which was first registered on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015. At the time of application the vehicle was 4 years and 1 months old.
- 3.3 The current policy on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Standards – Drivers, Vehicles and Operators states *“That all vehicles will normally be less than four years old when first licensed*
- 3.4 The standard conditions attached to the grant of a Private Hire Vehicle licence state *“The vehicle shall normally be less than 4 years old when first licensed by the Council. Any vehicle presented for licensing which is older than 4 years at the date of application will be referred to the Council’s Licensing Sub-Committee for determination”*.
- 3.5 The vehicle will be available for inspection by members on the day of the meeting should they so wish.
- 3.6 The vehicle is a diesel fitted with a Euro 6 engine which will be compliant with the proposed Clean Air Zone.
- 3.7 The vehicle passed an MOT inspection on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 with a recorded mileage of 62,680 miles. (Vehicle registration & MOT documents will be available at the meeting should Members require them.)
- 3.8 The vehicle will be available for visual inspection on the day of the meeting.

#### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 Section 80 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 defines a private hire vehicle as ‘a motor vehicle constructed or adapted to seat [fewer than nine passengers], other than a hackney carriage or public service vehicle [or a London cab] [or tramcar], which is provided for hire with the services of a driver for the purpose of carrying passengers.
- 4.2 Section 48 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that a district council may on the receipt of an application from the proprietor of any vehicle for the grant in respect of such vehicle of a licence to use the vehicle as a Private Hire Vehicle, grant in respect thereof a vehicle licence:

Provided that a district council shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied-

(a) that the vehicle is-

- (i) suitable in type, size and design for use as a private hire vehicle,
- (ii) not of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a hackney carriage,
- (iii) in a suitable mechanical condition,
- (iv) safe, and
- (v) comfortable.

- 4.3 Section 48 (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that a district council may attach to the grant of a licence under this section such conditions as they may consider reasonably necessary including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions of this subsection, conditions requiring or prohibiting the display of signs on or from the vehicle to which the licence relates
- 4.4 Section 48 (7) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that any person aggrieved by the refusal of a district council to grant a vehicle licence under this section or by any conditions specified in such a licence, may appeal to a magistrates court.
- 4.5 In December 2018 the Council's Licensing Committee adopted the current policy on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Standards For Drivers, Vehicles and Operators. (The Policy is produced at Annex B).
- 4.6 In December 2018 the Council's Licensing Committee adopted a set of standard licence conditions applicable to all Private Hire vehicle licenses issued in Bath & North East Somerset.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 5.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report. The costs of processing licences are covered by the fees charged.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

## **7 CLIMATE CHANGE**

- 7.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Act is prescriptive and does not take account of the climate change agenda at this time. We look forward to changes in legislation which will allow the Council to take this into consideration in the future. In the meantime, individual applicants are encouraged to consider climate change issues in the operation of their businesses.

## **8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 None

## **9 CONSULTATION**

- 9.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Director of Legal & Democratic) and Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) and Information Governance Officer have all had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>John Dowding 01225 477689</i>
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<b>Background papers</b>	<i>Licensing File</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	



ANNEX A

Bath & North East  
Somerset Council

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE

000000

(1) Full name

Address

Post Code

Telephone No.

Email

Hereby make application to the Bath and North East Somerset Council for a Private Hire  
Vehicle Licence in respect of:

Make Audi

Model A6

Colour SILVER

Reg. 01G 7319

Passengers 4

Doors 4

CC 1968 CC

Year of Manufacture 2015

Plate No. (if applicable) PH 424

Of which I am the Part Proprietor with (Leave blank if Sole Proprietor)

Name

Address

Post Code

Telephone No

(2) Is the vehicle fitted with a taximeter?

YES

NO

(3) Is the vehicle wheelchair accessible?

YES

NO

(4) Is the vehicle fitted with image recording equipment?

YES

NO

(5) Licensed Operator (circle or tick as appropriate): ABBEY VCARS UBER

OTHER (please print here) :-

(6) I undertake, if granted a Private Hire Vehicle Licence, to ensure that this vehicle when used for private hire purpose, is adequately insured at all times and complies with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the conditions attached to the licence by Bath and North East Somerset Council.

57774 / 000347 / 5 / 6 / 2081 / 2190

## ANNEX A

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the answers given overleaf are true. If a licence is granted I/We undertake to comply with conditions attached to the grant of the licence.

I understand that any Licence obtained by false declaration may be suspended, Or revoked by the Council.

Usual signature of applicant .....  ..... Date ..... 27.10.2019 .....

Applicants are advised that to make a false statement or omit any information from this application is a criminal offence.

(7) Please produce:-	(1) Current insurance certificate which must cover the vehicle for hire and reward.
	(2) Vehicle Registration document.
	(3) MOT Certificate for all vehicles over one year old when licensed.
	(4) Vehicle Inspection Sheet (Issued By Authorised Garage)
	(5) Certificate Of Meter Compliance (If Taximeter Fitted)
	(6) 2019/2020 Fee £173
	(7) ICO registration certificate (if applicable)

Please present all documents in person to:-

Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Licensing Taxi Licensing Office  
Locksbrook Road  
Bath  
BA1 3EL Tel 01225 477689

**POSTAL APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

### **APPEALS PROCEDURE**

(1) Any person aggrieved by:-

- (a) the refusal of the District Council to grant a licence under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 or
- (b) any conditions attached to the grant of a vehicle licence -  
may appeal to the Magistrate's Court

(2) Appeals must be brought within 21 days.

(3) A further right of appeal lies to the Crown Court from the Magistrate's Court.

This authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided on this form within this authority for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share this information with other bodies administering or in receipt of public funds solely for these purposes.

For further information see;

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/councilanddemocracy/dataprotectionandfreedomofinformation/nfi.htm> or contact the Information and Governance Team, Guildhall, High St, Bath BA1 5AW. Email [information\\_governance@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:information_governance@bathnes.gov.uk)



**POLICY ON HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING  
STANDARDS FOR DRIVERS, VEHICLES AND OPERATORS**

The following policy sets out the context within which Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles operate and outlines the standards required by the Council for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles, driver and operators:

1. Each application for a licence will be treated on its own merits. Where applications fall outside this Policy they will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for consideration.
2. For the purpose of Hackney Carriage licensing, the district of Bath and North East Somerset is zoned into the two areas: Bath (zone 1) and North East Somerset (zone 2).
3. Bath & North East Somerset Council has a limitation policy to regulate the number of Hackney Carriage Proprietors Licenses issued in Bath (zone 1). When the Council determines any application for new Hackney Carriage Proprietors Licence it will do so having regard to the recommendations of an independent Unmet Demand Survey. All such applications shall be determined by the Licensing Sub-Committee.
4. An Unmet Demand Survey (for zone 1) will be carried out at regular intervals and no more than three years will elapse between each survey.
5. Any new Hackney Carriage Proprietors licenses issued in zone 1 will be issued on condition that the vehicle is fully accessible and has side loading capability. To be deemed fully accessible a vehicle shall cater for a range of disabilities for example visual, aural and ambulant disabilities. Any replacement vehicle shall be to the same or higher specification.
6. The Council intends to adopt section 165 of the Equality Act 2010 and will maintain a list of designated vehicles which are appropriate for wheel chair access within the fleet. Private Hire operators are encouraged to offer accessible vehicles within their fleet and information about operators who provide fully accessible vehicles will be published on the Council's web pages.
7. All vehicles, including new ones, shall be visually and mechanically inspected prior to being licensed and thereafter mechanically inspected on an annual basis at garages approved by the Council.
8. In accordance with the definition of "Proprietor" as stated by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council will not issue vehicle licenses to companies who intend to hire or lease the vehicle to a third party. In these cases vehicle licenses will only be granted to the person in possession of the vehicle under a lease or hire agreement.
9. All vehicles will normally be less than four years old when first licensed.

During the life of this policy one or more Clean Air Zones may be introduced. A Clean Air Zone will impose charges for all vehicles driving within it which do not meet specified emission standards. All vehicles licensed by the Council must be (as a minimum) compliant with the terms of the Clean Air Zone and meet with its emission standards.

## ANNEX B

10. However, in recognition of the Council's wider responsibility to improve air quality, the Council will also seek to promote and encourage vehicle proprietors to invest in vehicles and related technologies that offer the best possible environmental standards in terms of emissions, the use of cleaner fuels, fuel and engine efficiency and end-of life recycling.

Hybrid, plug-in hybrid or fully electric powered vehicles will be encouraged, providing the minimum specifications set down in the relevant Private Hire or Hackney Carriage vehicle licence conditions are met.

Vehicle owners are strongly recommended to contact the Council so that officers can help in an individual decision about vehicle type.

11. Alternative fuel vehicle conversions are permissible provided genuine conversion certificates from industry approved installers are provided prior to the vehicle being first licensed.
12. Emission converter technology is permissible subject to approved certification being submitted to the Council. However this does not automatically mean that the conversion renders the vehicle compliant with any emission standards enforced by any Clean Air Zone. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure that the vehicle would be compliant prior to any such technology being fitted to the vehicle. Further, for the sake of absolute clarity, the Council cannot be held responsible if such technology does not result in the vehicle being exempted from any CAZ charge.
13. Only roof signs approved by the Council are permitted on the vehicle. Hackney Carriage signs shall be fitted across the width of the vehicle and Private Hire signs shall be fitted along the length of the vehicle.
14. The vehicle licence plates are issued annually and display the registration number of the vehicle, licence number, number of seats, colour of vehicle, date of expiry of licence and make of vehicle.
15. The vehicle licence plates remain the property of the Council and shall be returned to the Council in the event that the vehicle is no longer used for Hackney Carriage or Private Hire work or the licence expires.
16. Hackney Carriage vehicle licenses are renewed annually and expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> May.
17. Private Hire vehicle licenses are renewed annually and expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> October.
18. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's licenses are issued for a maximum three year period and expire on the 28<sup>th</sup> February. Renewals will normally be issued for the maximum three year period.
19. Driver's licenses may be issued for a shorter period than the maximum three years depending on the individual circumstances of the applicant. Factors that may influence this include (but are not limited to) an applicant's right to work in the UK, applicants individual medical circumstances. or other issues that may arise during the application process.
20. An Operator's licence is issued for a maximum five year period, and shall expire on the 30<sup>th</sup> September.
21. The Council reserves the right to issue licenses for a lessor period should it see fit.



## ANNEX B

22. That all Drivers' licenses are issued as joint Hackney Carriage/Private Hire licences.
23. The following checks will be carried out on all new applications and a licence will not be issued until all the relevant documents are presented and are correct:
- Operators Licences; receipt of a satisfactory application form, 3 references, Disclosure & Barring Services check and the appropriate fee. References and Disclosure & Barring Services checks will be waived for applicants who are already hold a combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence issued by Bath & North East Somerset Council.
  - Vehicle Licences; receipt of satisfactory application form, vehicle registration document, insurance for hire and reward (public for Hackney Carriages and private for Private Hire), MOT certificate for all vehicles over 1 year old, Inspection Certificate, Meter Test Certificate, (where applicable) and the appropriate fee.
  - Driver's Licences; receipt of a satisfactory application form, birth certificate, Group 2 Vocational Driver Medical Certificate, check with the DVLA as to motoring offences, check with the Disclosure & Barring Services, 3 references, and the appropriate fee.
  - All non UK applicants will be required to produce original and certified translations of birth certificate, driving history, and certificate of good conduct or similar check of criminal convictions. All documents must have been obtained in the month prior to the application being submitted. Photocopies or scans of documents will not be accepted.
  - In order to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire driver, an applicant must hold a full driving licence issued in the United Kingdom,(UK) the European Community (EC), one of the other countries listed in the European Economic Area (EEA) or an exchangeable licence as defined in s108 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and provide a certified and translated driving history from the country of issue.
  - The Council will require all current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers who currently hold an EC/EEA or exchangeable driving licence to have a UK DVLA issued Driving Licence.
  - An individual with an EC/EEA or exchangeable driving licence making an application for a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire drivers licence shall obtain a UK DVLA Driving Licence prior to the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence being issued.

All non UK, EC/EEA, exchangeable licence holders will be required to submit their original EC/EEA driving licence on application for a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver's licence.

24. All applicants for combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver's licence must have held a UK full driving licence (or an EU equivalent or exchangeable driver's licence) for a minimum of three years, and must normally have attained the age of 21.
25. All new applicants for a combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence must have completed a Bath & North East Somerset Council approved Drivers Assessment training course prior to submitting an application for a combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence. This course will be completed at the expense of the applicant and a certificate of completion must be produced at the time of application.

## ANNEX B

26. Applicants must successfully complete a driver's assessment course run by the Bath & North East Somerset Council Passenger Transport Team. In exceptional circumstances where a course is not available for a period greater than four weeks an alternative third party provider may be used. This provider must be approved by the Council and details of approved providers are available from the Licensing Office.
27. All drivers must complete a B&NES approved course relating to raising awareness around the issue of child sexual exploitation. Evidence of successful completion of the training must be produced on the driver's first licence renewal. Failure to provide evidence of course completion will result in refusal of the renewal application.
28. All driver's submit a Group 2 Vocational Driver Medical Certificate, on the prescribed form, on first application and when requested by the Council after their 45<sup>th</sup> birthday and every 5 years thereafter until the age of 65 and then every year thereafter. If so required the applicant shall, whether or not medical evidence is presented by the applicant, submit to an examination by a Council appointed Medical/Occupational Health professional to assess the applicant's fitness to drive a licensed vehicle.
29. All new applicants for a combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire drivers licence produce to the Council the original Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Services Certificate obtained as part of the application process. This Certificate must be produced to the Council no later than 30 days from the date of the certificate. Applicants who are unable or unwilling to produce the certificate within 30 day of issue will have their applications referred to the Council Sub-Committee for determination.
30. All holders of a combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire drivers licenses will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service check every three years from the date of the first licence issued. It shall be the responsibility of the Licensee to ensure that they are registered with the Disclosure & Barring Service's online checking service and to keep the registration current as long as they continue to hold a combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire drivers licence issued by the Council.
31. Renewal applications will be delayed for existing Licensees if at the time of a renewal application for a combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire drivers licence the Council is unable to check the status of the last Disclosure & Barring Service Certificate issued in respect of the applicant using the online checking facility, due to the applicant not being registered with the Disclosure and Barring Service. If an online check is not available due to the applicant not being registered a new Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service Certificate will need to be obtained by the applicant prior to a licence being issued. No licence will be issued until the applicant produces the valid Enhanced Certificate to the Licensing Office. The cost of this new Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Services Certificate will have to be paid for by the licensee at the time of application.
32. On application for a combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire drivers licence, renewal thereof or on three yearly review of Disclosure & Barring Services checks, any failure to produce a Disclosure & Barring Services Certificate dated within 30 days of its issue howsoever caused will result in a delay in any licence being issued and may result in referral to the Licensing Sub Committee.
33. All new applicants for combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver's licences undergo a local area knowledge test which will include questions on the law pertaining to licensed vehicles and drivers, local licensing conditions, the Highway Code and will include a practical route test taken in a vehicle supplied by the applicant. Applicants who fail any part

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of the knowledge test may retake the knowledge test. Should an applicant fail a second test a minimum period of three months shall elapse before a third test can be taken. Applicants who fail the knowledge test three times will have their application terminated and any refundable portion of the fee refunded. Any applicant who has failed the test for a third time may not reapply for a driver's licence until a period of not less than 12 months has elapsed whereupon they may submit a new application.

34. The Council expects all licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers to have sufficient expertise of the English language so that they can communicate freely and clearly with passengers and authorised officers. Applicants are expected to have the necessary verbal communication skills which allow them to understand licensing requirements and to deal with day to day interactions with customers and members of the public during the course of everyday business. It is also essential for public safety that a driver can communicate clearly with passengers and Emergency Services in the event of an emergency situation. All new applicants are therefore required to undertake a B&NES approved assessment of their communication skills. Successful completion of this assessment is required before a licence can be granted.
35. Those wishing to enter the executive/chauffeur hire corporate account sector should take advice from the Council's Licensing team on the suitability of the nature of the business model and proposed vehicle. If the proposal does not meet the criteria for exemption in the view of the Licensing team, then the applicant may appeal to the Licensing Sub Committee.
36. All Operators, Private Hire Driver and Vehicle licenses issued by the Council are subject to a penalty point scheme as detailed in the section below.
37. All Hackney Carriage Driver licenses issued by the Council are subject to byelaws made by the Council.
38. That any application which falls outside of this Policy, which includes applications for driver's licences from applicants where criminal convictions or formal cautions are disclosed, are referred to the Licensing Sub Committee for determination.

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### PENALTY POINT SCHEME

#### Introduction

1. Licensed Vehicles, Driver's and Operators are principally governed by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Town Police Clauses Act 1847, and conditions attached to a licence by the Council.
2. The primary objective of the penalty point scheme is to improve levels of compliance and help improve the standards, safety and protection of the travelling public.
3. The penalty point scheme works in conjunction with other enforcement options. It provides a formalised stepped enforcement plan designed to record incidences of bad behaviour so as to ascertain whether the licensee continues to be a fit and proper person to hold a licence. It does not prejudice the Council's ability to take other actions.
4. Penalty points remain on a licence for a period of twelve months from date of imposition. As older points become spent by passage of time they are excluded from the running total recorded on a licence.

#### Issue of Penalty Points

1. Where concerns about a licensee's conduct or the condition of the vehicle are brought to the Council's attention or the Council becomes aware that a Licensee has committed an offence, been given a formal caution, received a Fixed Penalty Notice, breached the conditions of the licence or is the subject of a complaint the Licensee will be asked to attend the Council offices for an interview, with the vehicle if appropriate. Once investigations are completed, letters will be sent out detailing the outcome of the investigation and a permanent record kept on the licensing file. The outcome of the investigation may result in one or more of the following: the Officer may take no further action, issue a formal warning, attach penalty points, issue a s68 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 stop notice, issue prosecution proceedings and or refer the matter to the
2. Licensing Committee for the consideration of a warning as to future conduct, suspension, revocation or refusal to renew a licence.
3. Where a licensee accumulates more than 12 penalty points in any twelve month period, the matter will be referred to the Licensing Sub Committee for determination as to a licensee's fitness to continue to be licensed. The Committee may issue a warning, suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a licence in accordance with this Policy depending on the individual circumstances. The determination will take into account all the circumstance including previous conduct of the licensee. The Licensing Sub Committee may depart from this Policy on reasonable grounds for doing so.
4. Penalty points issued to a licensee will be confirmed in writing within 14 days of the decision to issue points.
5. The system will operate without prejudice to the Council's ability to take other action that it is entitled to take under legislation, byelaws or regulations.

Any disputes regarding the issuing of penalty points will be referred to the Service Manager who will have the discretion to award a greater or lesser number of points than is displayed on the tariff, if the complaint or breach is upheld. Licensees' shall have twenty one days



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from the date of issue of penalty points to appeal against the decision. An appeal must be made in writing.

### **POLICY RELATING TO PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS AND CAUTIONS IN RELATION TO FITNESS TO HOLD LICENCES**

#### Introduction

Each application will be determined on its own merits bearing in mind all the circumstances of the application.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers are listed occupations under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974. This means that a conviction is never spent and can therefore be taken into consideration in the determination of an application.

In terms of this policy any reference to conviction includes formal police cautions, whether for driving or any other offence.

This policy shall apply to all new applicants and any application by a current holder for a renewal of a licence. Any reference to an applicant shall also mean any person currently holding a combined Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire driver's licence, or Private Hire Operator's licence.

A precondition of being a licence holder is that the Council must be satisfied that applicants or holders of licences are fit and proper persons. A criminal record check is therefore an important tool in the fit and proper person assessment process. This policy gives guidance on the extent to which an applicant's criminal and driving records can be used when assessing an applicant's/licensee's fitness to hold a licence issued by the Council. The policy also sets out the minimum period of time the Council expects an applicant to remain free from conviction, caution or fixed penalty notice before he/she may be considered fit and proper.

This policy will apply in the following situations: when a criminal record check discloses an applicant has received any conviction or caution. When the Council is informed that a licensee has received any conviction caution and when a subsequent criminal record check discloses a conviction or caution has been obtained during the period of an existing licence.

Applications disclosing an history of offending behavior resulting in conviction and or formal police caution falling both within and outside of this policy may be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination. The type of offending behavior that may be referred to the Licensing Sub Committee will depend, for example, on relevance to the application, seriousness of the offence, the age and number of convictions or cautions received and the nature of disposal on conviction i.e. conditional discharge, fine, community order or custody sentence.

#### General Policy

1. Each case will be decided on its own merits. Although an applicant may have convictions falling within the guidance set out in this policy, the Council may depart from this policy on reasonable grounds having had regard to the full facts of the case and any mitigating or other circumstances put forward by the applicant. Should the Licensing Sub Committee depart from this policy it will give reasons for so doing.
2. An applicant with convictions is not permanently barred from obtaining a licence but would be expected to have remained free of conviction for the period of time set out in this policy.

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- Nevertheless, the overriding consideration in determining whether or not to grant a licence will be the protection of the public.
3. Where any conviction has resulted in a term of imprisonment, the time periods set out in this policy run from the date of conviction.
  4. Notwithstanding the periods set out below, during which an applicant is expected to remain free from conviction, the nature, seriousness, frequency of offending and any mitigating circumstances put forward will always be taken into consideration when determining whether an applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.
  5. Bath & North East Somerset Council will expect that an applicant will not -
    - (a) have been convicted of three or more minor motoring offences during the previous three years;
    - (b) have been convicted of a serious motoring offence during the previous five years;
    - (c) have been refused or had revoked by the Traffic Commissioners an HGV or PSV Licence within the previous three years.
    - (d) have been cautioned by the police for an offence during the previous two years;
    - (e) have been convicted of an offence during the previous three years;
    - (f) have been convicted of a serious offence for five years
    - (g) have been convicted of a sexual offence within the previous five years;
  6. A serious view will be taken of any conviction occurring whilst the person holds a current licence.

A serious view will be taken of any conviction obtained by a licensee whilst he or she is acting in the course of their employment as a licensed Driver or Operator.
  7. Where there is evidence suggesting that the safety of the travelling public is at risk and it is in the interests of public safety a driver's licence may be suspended or revoked immediately by an authorised officer. Immediate suspension should be expected in any case involving assault or involving indecency of any description.
  8. The above examples are not exhaustive and the Council may depart from this policy where it is just, fair and reasonable to do so. Where the Council departs from this policy it will give reasons for so doing.
  9. The following examples may afford a general guide on the action to be taken where convictions or police cautions are revealed:-

### Sexual Offences

Drivers of licensed vehicles frequently carry lone children, women and vulnerable persons. Applicants with convictions for sexual offences or convictions of a sexual nature must show a period of at least 5 years free of conviction before their application can be considered.

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A conviction for a sexual offence or of a sexual nature will be viewed seriously. Any application disclosing such offences will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

An application from an applicant who is the subject of a notification requirement or notification order under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 shall be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

Where there is more than one conviction for this type of offence a period of 10 years should elapse before an application is considered. Any such application shall be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee.

An application from a current licensee with one such conviction or where the offence occurred whilst acting in the course of their employment as a Council licensee shall be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

### Drug Offences

Any conviction involving the misuse of drugs will be viewed seriously. An applicant with such a conviction will be expected to show at least 3 years free of conviction before being considered for the grant of a licence. Where a course of rehabilitation has been ordered or undertaken an applicant will be expected to show a period of at least 5 years free of conviction before being considered for the grant of a licence.

Any application disclosing such offences will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

An application from a current licensee with one such conviction or where the offence occurred whilst acting in the course of their employment as a licensee shall be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

### Violence Against the Person

Drivers are often placed in confrontational situations with their passengers. It is important that they have the ability to deal with such situations in a calm and polite manner.

Where an applicant has a conviction for an offence of violence against the person such as wounding with intent, grievous bodily harm or assault occasioning actual bodily harm they should have remained free from conviction for a period of 5 years. Any application disclosing such offences will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

Where an applicant has a conviction for an offence such as assault or common assault they should have remained free from conviction for a period of 3 years. Any application disclosing such offences will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

An application from a current licensee with one such conviction or where the offence occurred whilst acting in the course of their employment as a Council licensee shall be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

### Dishonesty

Licensed drivers are in a position of trust. They often carry unaccompanied goods and are aware of empty properties, for example after taking its occupant to the airport or railway

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station. Moreover, it is comparatively easy for an unscrupulous driver to exaggerate a fare by taking an unusual route or demand more than the legal fare as overseas/out of town visitors are often unfamiliar with a city's layout and or confused by the change in currency becoming "fair game." For these reasons the honesty of an individual is of paramount importance when determining the grant of a licence.

Where an applicant has a conviction for offences involving an element of dishonesty they should have remained free from conviction for a period of 3 -5 years. Any application disclosing such offences will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

An application from a current licensee with one such conviction, or where the offence occurred whilst acting in the course of their employment under a Council licence, shall be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

### Intoxication Through Drink or Drugs

An isolated conviction for an offence aggravated by drink or drugs should not necessarily preclude the grant of a licence although the Council must be satisfied that it was an isolated occurrence.

Should, however, an applicant have more than one conviction for an offence aggravated by drink or drugs, particularly if close together and within the preceding three years, the Council will take a more serious view of the matter.

If there is any history of alcoholism or drug addiction, or a suggestion that the applicant has been or is in recovery from such an addiction, then a period of 5 years should have elapsed since the last conviction for an offence aggravated by drink or drugs.

An application from a current licensee with such convictions, or where the offence occurred whilst acting in the course of their employment under a Council licence, shall be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

If so required the applicant shall, whether or not medical evidence is presented by the applicant, submit to an examination by a Council appointed Medical/Occupational Health professional to assess the applicant's fitness to drive a licensed vehicle.

### Traffic Offences

A serious view will be taken of convictions of driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle while under the influence of drink or drugs

Where an applicant has been convicted of a serious motoring offence, for example driving or being in charge of a motor vehicle while under the influence of drink or drugs, dangerous driving, failing to stop or report an accident then a period of 5 years should have elapsed since the last conviction. Any application disclosing such offences will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

Where an applicant has been convicted of more than one serious motoring offence in the preceding 5 years grave concerns will arise about the applicant's fitness to be licensed and the Council would expect a period of 5 years should have elapsed since the last conviction. Any application disclosing such offences will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

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Where the applicant was ordered to re-sit a driving test or an extended driving test after disqualification, the period of 5 years should have elapsed since the last conviction and any application disclosing such offences will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

An application from a current licensee with one serious motoring conviction or where the offence occurred whilst acting in the course of their employment as a licensee shall be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

Applications will not normally be entertained from applicants who have more than one previous conviction for driving with excess alcohol, especially where they have been ordered by the court to undertake any form of rehabilitation. Any application in these circumstances will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

Where an applicant has been convicted of minor traffic offences, for example obstruction, parking or speeding offences, which are dealt with by way of fine and or endorsement this will not normally be a bar to the grant of a licence provided there have not been more than 3 offences within the three years immediately preceding the application. Any application disclosing such offences will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.

Where sufficient penalty points have been endorsed on an applicant's driving licence requiring a period of disqualification from holding or obtaining a driving licence the Council would expect a period of at least six months should have elapsed before the restoration of the combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driving licence.

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