

Stroud District Council - 2010

Summary Of Major Proposed Changes To Taxi And Private Hire Policy And Conditions

Issue	Page No.	Proposed changes	Reason
1. Foreign Nationals	10 34	<p>Currently: No policy</p> <p>Proposed: Policy detailing additional documentation to be provided by foreign nationals and persons who have resided outside the UK to ensure the person does not have relevant criminal convictions and is eligible to work and drive in the UK.</p>	To ensure that all applicants are fit and proper persons
2. DVLA mandate checks	11	<p>Currently: New applicants complete a DVLA mandate so that DVLA records of driving convictions can be checked</p> <p>Proposed: New applicants to complete a DVLA mandate and thereafter annually on renewal</p>	Currently after initial application we are reliant that the driving licence seen at renewal is the original and has the correct endorsements on it.
3. Frequency of Requirement for Medicals	11	<p>Currently: At application Every 5 years from the age of 46 until 64 Every year from the age 65</p> <p>Proposed: At application Every three years for everyone up until 65 to coincide with CRB checks Every year from age 65</p>	Drivers need to be medically fit to ensure the safety of passengers is not put at risk
4. Medicals – Diabetes	12	<p>Currently: No reference</p> <p>Proposed: To apply C1 standards to taxi and private hire drivers with insulin treated diabetes</p>	The Department of transport advises that it is best practice
5. Dress Code	13	<p>Currently: No dress code</p> <p>Proposed: To insert the following wording;</p>	Following complaints by the trade that some drivers are not appropriately dressed a dress code will encourage all drivers to dress in an acceptable manner

		<p>The purpose of a driver's dress code is to seek a standard of dress that portrays a positive image of the Stroud and district areas; to enhance a professional image of the drivers licensed by the Council and to ensure that public and driver safety is not compromised.</p> <p>The Council expects all licensed drivers to be dressed in an appropriate manner whilst working as a taxi or private hire driver</p> <p>Unacceptable standards of dress will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing not being kept in a clean condition and free from holes and rips • Words or graphics on any clothing that is of an offensive or suggestive nature and which could offend • Sportswear and beachwear • Drivers not having either the top or bottom half of their bodies suitably clothed. • Outdoor footwear for all drivers must be suitable, flip flops and forms of footwear which are not secured around the heel are deemed unacceptable. 	
6. Condition of Vehicle	17 28	<p>Proposed to add the following additional wording;</p> <p>The vehicle licence holder shall ensure that all fittings and seating are such to be efficient, safe, tidy and clean.</p> <p>The <u>outside of the taxi</u> will be free from dents, rust or un-repaired accident damage and with even paintwork matching to that applied by the manufacturer.</p> <p>The <u>inside of the taxi</u> will be free of all visible stains, splits, and tears unless satisfactorily repaired or covered neatly. All carpets and mats will be fitted so as to not be a trip hazard</p> <p>A vehicle must not be structurally damaged or have been an insurance write-off, except where repaired and certified to the Council's satisfaction.</p>	To provide clarity and ensure the safety of licensed vehicles
7. Vehicle Plates	18 30	<p>Currently: One external plate.</p> <p>Three handwritten internal cardboard discs.</p> <p>Proposed: To maintain the external plate</p> <p>To replace the cardboard internal discs with a single pre printed internal sign to be displayed in front windscreen</p>	To improve the interior signage

8. Advertising on vehicles (own Taxi or Private Hire Company)	19 30	Currently: Can advertise own taxi or private hire firm on outside of vehicle only using letters that should not be any taller than 2”.	This issue has no impact on passenger safety and improves options for the trade
		Proposed: To remove 2” limit	
9. Advertising on vehicles (Third Party products and services)	19 30	Currently: Not allowed.	This issue has no impact on passenger safety and provides opportunity for licensed trade to receive revenue from external advertising.
		Proposed: To insert the following wording; Third party advertising is only permitted with prior approval of a Licensing Officer. The following advertising will not be permitted; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anything of a religious or political nature. • Alcohol or tobacco products • Any matter of a sexual nature or likely to cause offence • Any matter which is insulting or abusive. It is only permitted to advertise one third party product or service at any one time on the exterior of the vehicle	
10. Limousines	31	Currently: No policy in relation to the Licensing of Limousines	Stroud District council does not currently have any licensed limousines. There are safety issues with limousines and DfT recommend having a policy
		Proposed: To insert a policy for limousines detailing acceptable certification of conversion	
11. Wheelchair accessible vehicles	17 29	Currently: Requirement for all wheelchair accessible vehicles to provide an appropriate Vehicle Approval Certificate that has been undertaken following conversion	Safety of the wheelchair passenger
		Proposed: To continue with above policy and add further requirements with regard to wheelchair restraint and access	