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Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Age Policy

Version 2.0 (2023)

Licensing Department

Allerdale Borough Council

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to ensure all hackney carriages and private hire vehicles operating in the borough are in exceptional condition and remain safe for the use of the general public.
- 1.2 No vehicle will be licensed as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle if it is four years of age or older at date of application.
- 1.3 However, once licensed a vehicle can continue to be licensed beyond the age of four years providing it complies with the conditions set out below.

2. Conditions

- 2.1 The following conditions have been designed to assist an applicant to decide whether their vehicle is in exceptional condition and safe for the use of the general public:
- 2.2 The vehicle must have:
 - 2.2.1 a full service history from the applicant's date of purchase of the vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer's service schedule and/or supporting documentation evidencing a regular, preventative maintenance schedule. This can be in the form of a stamped service history book or invoices but the vehicle registration number, date of the works and contact information of the party which carried out the works must be stated on any invoice. Producing invoices to show repair work will not be sufficient, they must show regular servicing.
 - 2.2.2 no rust, significant dents or significant scratches. This is obviously open to individual interpretation and each case will be considered on its own merits.
 - 2.2.3 an excellent interior which is safe, clean and free of holes, tears and wear and tear.

3. Once Licenced

- 3.1 Once licensed if a vehicle is over four years of age from the first date of registration or reaches four years of age from the first date of registration within the duration of its licence, a vehicle test is required no later than four months following the commencement date of the vehicle licence and at equal intervals thereafter. Tests should be carried out no earlier than 28 days before that date.
- 3.2 For example, a vehicle turns four on 1 May and the commencement date of the licence was 1 April of that year. The four monthly test due dates will be 1 August, 1 December and the renewal test will be due by 1 April. Tests are valid up to 28 days in advance of the date. Regardless of the date the test is carried out, the following test will still be due at the original scheduled date. The purpose of the policy is to ensure the vehicle is tested at equal points during the licence period.
- 3.3 Tests to be undertaken by the Council's contractor. Failure to comply with this requirement will lead to the suspension of the vehicle or refusal to renew the vehicle licence.
- 3.4 Upon every renewal, the above conditions must be satisfied and evidenced prior to the expiry of the licence; should the expiry date pass without the completion of a successful renewal then a new application would be required. This means the vehicle could not be used as a hackney carriage or for private hire until a new licence has been granted by the Licensing Authority.

It is recommended that before proceeding with an application you contact either the Licensing Team or the Council's appointed testing station for clarification on any of the above points.