

Taxi Licensing Policy 2025/26 – Summary of Changes 4.1
Changes made Post-Consultation are in Red

Section	Change	Notes
1.4	Addition of the December 2023 Department for Transport Taxi and Private Hire vehicle licensing best practice guidance	DFT additional Best practice guidance, licensing Authorities must give due regard to the best practice guidance.
4	Inclusive Service Plan (ISP) Accessibility	In line with the DFT Guidance, the ISP outlines the needs and approach to fulfil accessibility within the taxi licensing regime.
6.2	Include subject to complaints, subject of criminal behaviour or patterns of unacceptable behaviour. Include may result in license revocation, suspension or enforcement action of a license	Clarification of enforcement actions and criteria of enforcements scenarios.
6.5	Renewal applications should be made allowing sufficient time for processing prior to a license expiry.	Clarification of the requirement to renew a license in good time.
8.1	All new and license renewal applicants will be required to apply for a new DBS check via Taxi Plus (for now) or the Councils designated DBS check service provider. Once a DBS report is completed the applicant/licensee must ensure that their Taxi Plus / Councils designated DBS check service provider subscription is maintained throughout their license and application period. Where the identification checks of the applicant are required, the applicant must complete an in person identity check at a Post Office.	Sets a deadline for the introduction of the Taxi Plus / the Councils designated DBS check service provider enabling the authority to complete statutory checks throughout the licensed periods. Outlines when identification of applicants cannot be completed through the Councils designated DBS check service provider, the applicant must complete an identification process via the Post Office (Following statutory changes of the DBS identification guidelines effective November 2025)
8.4	Inclusive of the Councils designated DBS check service provider references. Addition of regular checks- replace 6 monthly checks for regular.	As above

	<p>All DBS and identification check costs are the responsibility of the applicant.</p> <p>failure to maintain that subscription would result in the suspension of a license until this requirement is resolved. The Councils designated DBS check service provider</p> <p>subscriptions will be used to monitor the criminal record of the licence holder throughout the term of the licence.</p>	
8.5	<p>In order to sign up to the online service DBS checking service the applicant, must create an account with the Councils designated DBS check service provider .</p> <p>Licensee's or applicants unable to access the internet, or requiring assistance, should make an appointment with licensing to facilitate their application.</p>	Requirement to create a Taxi Plus/ the Councils designated DBS check service provider account.
8.6	<p>DBS checks will only be accepted through the Councils designated DBS check service provider , all pre-existing licensee DBS subscriptions will no longer be valid once their exiting license has expired from implementation of this policy.</p>	Outlining time scales of the transition from DBS subscription to Taxi Plus/. the Councils designated DBS check service provider
8.7	<p>A Licence will not be issued without a current enhanced DBS certificate corresponding with the Councils designated DBS check service provider account subscription, associated to Cherwell District Council.</p>	Requirement for a valid DBS certificate corresponding with the Councils designated DBS check service provider subscription for a CDC license account.
8.8	DBS subscription through Taxi Plus	Addition of Taxi Plus as means of DBS checking.
11	<p>Taxi Knowledge test</p> <p>Removal of Topography and replaced with Taxi Licensing policy and legislation</p>	Removal of Topography in line with DFT best Practice guidance, and consultation feedback referring to satellite navigation availability.
14.4	<p>Only which meet the requirements of Appendix G will receive a new licence.</p>	Removal of the 6 year vehicle age limit on first licensing – in line with DFT

		Best Practice guidance and aiding the economics of the trade.
15.1	<p>15.1 Vehicle licences are for a period of 1 year and will be subject to MOT testing upon grant or renewal applications. Additionally, all licensed vehicles must be inspected, or MOT tested, after an initial 6-month license period, and before the start of the 7 month of a license.</p> <p>The 6-month (mid license) vehicle inspection will remain a standard MOT test until 01/04/2026. Prior to that mid license vehicle assessment changing from an MOT to a Council vehicle inspection all vehicle licensee's will be notified.</p> <p>Following notification all mid license vehicle inspections will be conducted by Authorised Officers at a Council designated vehicle inspection facility. The applicant/Licensee must submit that mid license report to the licensing department within 5 days of that assessment, failure to submit within the specified time may result in the suspension of a license until such requirements are met.</p> <p>All MOT and Council vehicle inspection reports must show that the vehicle has no faults, or advisories, has passed the stated inspection/test, and meets Licensing Policy minimum standards. Where advisories or faults have been reported, the license or application may be suspended or refused until the applicant/Licensee have documented the completion of any remedial works required to correct the advisory fault/s; the vehicle passed a new inspection or MOT.</p> <p>Vehicle MOT and inspection appointments, and all associated additional fees which are solely the applicant or licensee responsibility.</p>	<p>The introduction of a mid-license inspection includes safety features not included in a standard MOT test, and meets the DFT best practice guidance.</p> <p>Addition of implementation date, allowing for testing capacity and functionality assessments prior to implementation.</p>

15.2	<p>Non-Wheelchair accessible vehicles grant applications may only be licensed as a Private Hire vehicle, in accordance with the Private Hire vehicle license requirements. Such vehicles must have working stop/start engine technology if it is propelled by petrol, diesel, or hybrid engines. That stop/start technology must be fully functional throughout the term of the licence. All new grant applications for a Hackney license must be wheelchair accessible. Non-Wheelchair accessible vehicles propelled by petrol or diesel, or are Hybrid vehicles, will be licensed until the vehicle is 12 years old from the date of first registration. Wheelchair accessible vehicles, propelled by petrol or diesel will be licensed until the vehicle is 15 years old from the date of first registration. Wheelchair accessible vehicles propelled by electric hybrid engines will be licensed until the vehicle is 20 years age limit from first registration. Wheelchair, and non-wheelchair accessible vehicles propelled solely by electric, or hydrogen, will be exempt from all vehicle licensing age restrictions.</p>	<p>In line with the DFT best practice guidance and ISP to encourage wheelchair accessible vehicle licensing.</p> <p>Remove 6 year maximum grant age limits, and increase of vehicle age limits from 10 year old vehicles to:</p> <p>Petrol/Diesel, Hybrid non wheelchairs vehicles maximum licensing period to 12 years old vehicles.</p> <p>Petrol/Diesel Wheelchair accessible Vehicles to 15 years old</p> <p>Wheelchair accessible hybrid vehicles 20 years</p> <p>Zero emissions vehicles no licensing age limits.</p> <p>Age limits are to aid the trade economically, and to facilitate and encourage wheelchair accessible and zero emissions vehicle licensing</p>
15.3	<p>There is an expectation that from 2030 all vehicles at the time of first licensing must be propelled by either electric or hydrogen. Please note, this clause will be reviewed again at the time of the next Policy review in 2029 which occurs before the above clause comes into force. That Policy review will consider the availability of sufficient infrastructure to support electric and hydrogen vehicles, the availability of such vehicles and suitability of models available whilst also considering the affordability of those vehicles.</p> <p>Implementation of any policy requiring all licensed vehicle to meet zero emission will be notified to</p>	<p>Addition of clarification of assessing functionality, infrastructure, and suitability of Zero emissions vehicle prior to implementation.</p> <p>Addition of notification time period prior to policy implementation</p>

	existing license holders at least 12 months in advance of any implementation date.	
15.4	15.4 Once a vehicle is licensed, that licence cannot be transferred to another vehicle, whether temporary or otherwise, which has been categorised by the DVLA as emitting levels of pollution higher than the current licensed vehicle. When a vehicle has been replaced following a vehicle accident/damage, the replacement vehicle may be like for like with regards to emissions, wheelchair accessibility, and euro categorisations up to the accident vehicle age limits listed. Any vehicle exceeding the age limit thresholds will not be renewed, and any replacement vehicle must meet the relevant policy requirements	Includes clarification that wheelchair accessible and low or zero emissions vehicles cannot be replaced with vehicles of a different standard.
15.25	15.25 First Aid kits All licensed vehicles are required to carry a British Standards BS 8599-1:2019 and contains HSE approved first aid kit. That kit should be replenished as needed, and out of date supplies replaced. The kit should be regularly inspected to ensure it complies with the stated standards. All kit must be permanently marked with the vehicles license plate number.	Addition to meet legislative guidance
15.11	Licensees, and drivers should complete a daily vehicle check before starting hire and reward work. The driver daily vehicle check list (Appendix I) indicates all areas where the driver/licensee should check prior to any Hire and Reward work. The Driver/Licensee should document that they had completed those checks. Such documentation may be via digital spread sheet, diary or notebook, and that documentation must be made available to both Private Hire	In line with the DFT Guidance – driver/licensee daily vehicle checks. Changed and clarified to make the recording of the checks less onerous for the driver/licensee.

	<p>Operators, Licensing and authorised Officers.</p> <p>All such documented checks should be retained for one year from the date of that check.</p>	
15.17	Add 'associated licensing age limit.	Clarification to changes to vehicle age limits
16.1	Addition of 'will be subject to a charge' to plate exemption applications	Addition to fees to facilitate cost recovery.
16.3	Vehicles with discreet plates may not be used for any day to day Private Hire work which is not associated with the companies listed on the discreet plate authorisation, inclusive of fulfilling contracts for school transportation on behalf of an Authority.	Preventative conditioning where vehicles with discreet plate authorities from completing any other hire work and schools transport contracts, to ensure safeguarding of vulnerable passengers
16.4	Addition 'will be subject to an administration fee'	Addition to fees to facilitate cost recovery.
16.4	<p>Addition of:</p> <p>Following the issuing of a Plate Exemption, the authorised vehicle cannot be used for any other hire and reward journeys other than those listed on the plate exemption authorisation.</p> <p>Failure to comply with the stated requirements of the plate exemption will result in the immediate removal of that authorisation.</p> <p>The duration of the discrete plate exemption will not exceed the vehicle licensed expiry date.</p> <p>Variations to an existing plate exemption authorisation will be subject to an administration fee</p>	Plate exemption requirement clarification and conditions and requirements
17.7	<p>Addition:</p> <p>Licensed Operators should ensure that they are aware of their legal responsibilities under employments laws, inclusive of "Reporting Rules for Digital Platforms" legislation. The legislation mandates that all taxi and private hire digital platforms gather and submit earnings data from their drivers to HMRC, and will include</p>	In line with the DFT Guidance

	reporting personal details from their drivers, such as National Insurance numbers. This data should be annually reported directly by the Operator to HMRC.	
17.14.1	Addition of 'Accessibility'	In line with the DFT Guidance
17.15.1	<p>Addition:</p> <p>From 01/01/2028 Licensed Operators with the following number of vehicles registered as working under their license (fleet) will be required to have the following number of wheelchair accessible vehicles as part of that fleet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators with up to 20 vehicle or less are not required to have wheelchair accessible vehicles within that fleet Operators with 21 to 40 vehicles are required to have at least 1 wheelchair accessible vehicle as part of that fleet. Operators with 41 to 60 vehicles are required to have at least 2 wheelchair accessible vehicle as part of that fleet. Operators with 61 to 100 vehicles are required to have at least 3 wheelchair accessible vehicle as part of that fleet. Operators with over 100 vehicles are required to have at least 4 wheelchair accessible vehicle as part of that fleet, and an additional one extra wheelchair accessible vehicle for every additional 50 vehicles thereafter. <p>Wheelchair accessible Hackneys registered as working under an Operator's license will count as part of that operator's fleet, providing the Operator has registered that Hackney as part of their fleet on application or license variation.</p>	<p>In line with the DFT Guidance and ISP, promote wheelchair accessibility in the Private Hire Trade.</p> <p>Clarification of the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles required under an Operator's license.</p> <p>Clarification that Hackneys working as private hire vehicles, registered to the operators would be included in that operators fleet.</p>
17.15.2	<p>Addition :</p> <p>The Licensing Authority may request documentation of the licensed operators' vehicles and wheelchair</p>	In line with the DFT Guidance and ISP, promote wheelchair accessibility in the Private Hire Trade.

	accessibility vehicles at any time during their licensed period.	
17.15.3	<p>Addition:</p> <p>Licensed Operators must ensure that their booking systems are accessible and comply with WCAG2.1 accessibility standard to Level AA and with the principles of the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 as a minimum for digital content: https://www.gov.uk/service-manual/helping-people-to-use-your-service/understanding-wcag</p>	In line with the DFT Guidance and ISP, ensuring on-line accessibility is compliant.
17.15.4	<p>Addition:</p> <p>Licensed Operators must ensure that all bookings allow the hirer to identify and record any disabilities, or additional needs of the customer at the time of booking. The Operator must allocate an appropriate vehicle and driver to fulfil the needs of their customer. Where such additional needs are identified and associated with a disability or registered assistance animal, the Operator cannot add additional fees.</p>	<p>In line with the DFT Guidance and ISP, promote wheelchair accessibility, and disability need are met by the Private Hire Trade.</p> <p>Clarification of requirements at point of booking</p>
17.15.5	<p>Addition:</p> <p>Licensed Operators should ensure that all vehicles working under their license have been inspected by the driver before any jobs are allocated to that vehicle. Daily 'Driver Vehicle Condition Checks should be inspected by the operator. Any vehicle checks held/stored by the operator must be retained for a period no less than 12 months. Vehicle condition checks may be stored digitally but must be accessible for inspection by an authorised officer upon request</p>	<p>In line with the DFT Guidance</p> <p>Clarification of daily vehicle check being completed by drivers, and available to operators prior to hire and reward commencing.</p>
20.3	When a license is renewed existing penalty points will carry over to the renewed license until the points specified period has expired	Addition of clarification of licensing points carrying over to renewed licences

	APPENDICIES A to I	
	Appendix H Vehicle Inspection	Addition -Council Vehicle inspection document
	Appendix I Drivers vehicle condition checklist	Addition of document In line with the DFT Guidance
4.3.5	4.3.5 All drivers will have an enhanced Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) check undertaken at the time of application, and a minimum of every six months during their licensed period. All new and renewal applicants must complete a DBS application via the Taxi Plus portal from the implementation of this policy. During the DBS application, or once the certificate has been received by the applicant, the applicant/licensee must sign up to the DBS Online Update Service via Taxi Plus. Costs associated with the DBS checks are the responsibility of the applicant. The DBS update service is a less expensive service than a single Enhanced DBS check every six months and should prevent license renewal delays.	Addition of Taxi Plus requirements for DBS checks, and clarification of existing statutory licensing requirements.
4.3.6	4.3.6 Applicants and licensees must sign up to, and maintain, subscription to the Council chosen designated DBS update service. This is required before licencing, and throughout the licensed period. Failure to subscribe and maintain subscription to the nominated DBS update service will result in the suspension, revocation, or refusal of a license.	Clarification of requirements for DBS checks, and clarification of existing statutory licensing requirements.
4.3.7	Addition of: 4.3.7 Any changes to the councils designated DBS service provider will be notified to the applicant/licensee.	Allowing a change of DBS check provider is required by the authority.
10.1	However, if an applicant has more than 6 DVLA penalty points or 6 DVLA penalty points for a singular offence the application will be refused	Insert -DVLA to clarify which points system is being referenced.
10.2	Using a hand-held/digital device whilst driving. Where an applicant/licensee has a conviction	Clarification of offence as outlined in law

	for using a held-hand mobile telephone or a device capable of transmitting and receiving data whilst driving, a licence will be refused/revoked and will not be granted until at least five years have elapsed since the conviction or completion of any sentence or driving ban imposed, whichever is the later.	
11.1	11.1 If an applicant or license holder is the subject of a Authority investigation, or an outstanding charge or summons his/ her application may be suspended, refused, or revoked until the matter is resolved. Such a decision will be made on a case-by-case basis.	Insert- Authority investigation
12.1	12.1 The Council will also take into account situations and circumstances that have not resulted in a prosecution or conviction. This may include acquittals, circumstances in which convictions were quashed due to misdirection by the court, circumstances where the decision was taken not to prosecute, situations where the applicant or licence holder has been arrested and bailed but not yet charged, repetitive behaviours (alleged or otherwise), and complaints from the public.	Insert – repetitive behaviours (alleged or otherwise)
12.2	An existing licence holder in the same situation is subject to the same. His/ her licence may be revoked dependant on the information available. Such offences may include violent and/ or sexual offences, offences of dishonesty and drug related offences, or other.	Removed – suspended – inline with DFT best practice advising that serious offences should not be dealt with through a license suspension.
Appendix B	Change wording to- applying to renew your license. From -booking your appointment,	Change or wording removing – booking an appointment Change from holding a UK DVLA full license for 3 consecutive years to 12 consecutive months.
HCD application	All applicants must have held a UK issued DVLA full driving licence for at least 12 consecutive months at point of application. If a driving	Remove reference to an appointment to review documents. Add reference to DVLA check codes, and Taxi plus/ Councils

<p>processes</p>	<p>licence was issued outside the UK it must be converted to a UK DVLA license 12 months prior to applying for a Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Drivers licence.</p> <p>During your application supporting documentation will be reviewed. Your DVLA record will be checked online and you must create a DVLA sharing code to allow this check. Your Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) application must be completed by creating your own Taxi Plus account (for now) /Councils designated DBS check service provider</p> <p>For licence renewals a check of the DBS Online Update Service will be undertaken through your subscribed via the Councils designated DBS check service provider account. If renewal or grant applicants do not undertake a DBS check through the Councils designated DBS check service provider and maintain their DBS update subscriptions throughout their licensed period, their application delayed, refused, or existing licences suspended.</p> <p>It is the applicant/license holder's responsibility to pay any costs associated with their DBS check and update subscriptions</p> <p>Application for new Grants must be completed within eight months from the application date. Applications not completed within eight months will be deemed as withdrawn.</p>	<p>designated DBS check service provider for DBS checks.</p> <p>Addition of an 8 month time limit on new grant applications.</p>
<p>Appendix B</p>	<p>Addition and clarification of existing requirements:</p> <p>All grant and license renewal applications must complete a new DBS application by creating you their own Councils designated DBS check account.</p>	<p>Clarification of existing requirements for DBS checks, and clarification of existing statutory licensing requirements</p>

	<p>Once a DBS certificate/report is issued by the DBS via the Councils designated DBS check service provider that full certificate/report must be made available to the Licensing authority.</p> <p>Once the DBS application is completed through the Councils designated DBS check service provider the licensee must maintain their DBS subscription throughout their licensed period. If renewal or grant applicants do not undertake a DBS check through Taxi Plus/ the Councils designated DBS check service provider and maintain their DBS update subscriptions throughout their licensed period, their application delayed, refused, or existing licences suspended.</p> <p>It is the applicant/license holder's responsibility to pay any costs associated with their DBS check and update subscriptions.</p>	
Appendix B	<p>Application requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Disclosure Barring Service application has been completed via the Councils designated DBS check service provider * • When assessed as required - A Council approved Spoken English assessment has been completed • A Council approve Taxi Knowledge Test has been passed <p>The council will not issue licences to cover unlicensed periods while an applicant is waiting for documentation, or has been unable to incomplete the application requirements</p>	<p>Addition of 'the Councils designated DBS check service provider</p> <p>Change spoken English assessment to 'when assessed as required'</p> <p>Removal of 'Topographical test to 'Taxi Knowledge test'</p> <p>Clarification of wording.</p>
12.1	<p>Wording clarification: Licensed Drivers must continually subscribe to the Councils designated</p>	<p>Clarification of existing requirements for DBS checks, and clarification of</p>

	Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Online Update Service. Any costs associated with maintaining this subscription must be met by the licensed driver.	existing statutory licensing requirements
12.2	Add – Taxi Plus	Added Taxi Plus as the DBS nominated DBS update service.
Appendix B License d driver conditions	<p>2.9 Licensees, and drivers should complete a daily vehicle check before starting hire and reward work. The driver daily vehicle check list (Appendix I) indicates all areas where the driver/licensee should check prior to any Hire and Reward work.</p> <p>The Driver/Licensee should document that they had completed those checks. Such documentation may be via digital spread sheet, diary or notebook, and that documentation must be made available to both Private Hire Operators, Licensing and authorised Officers.</p> <p>All such documented checks should be retained for one year from the date of that check.</p> <p>3.1 add - Notification must be through a license variation application on the councils website</p> <p>5.1 – add ‘incident’</p> <p>10.1 add on their medical status or condition</p> <p>12.1 - Licensed Drivers must continually subscribe to the Councils designated Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Online Update Service. Any costs associated with maintaining this subscription must be met by the licensed driver.</p> <p>15 - Daily Drivers Vehicle Condition Checks</p> <p>15.1 Licensed Drivers must inspect their licensed vehicle daily before commencing hire and reward work. They must complete a ‘Driver Vehicle Condition Check as outlined in the Vehicle check documentation</p>	<p>Daily vehicle check inserted - In line with the DFT Guidance</p> <p>Add application guidance for change of address.</p> <p>Addition to ensure classification of an occurrence involving a licensed vehicle is reported.</p> <p>Wording clarification.</p> <p>Addition of DBS update service requirement</p>

	<p>(appendix I) and must document that completed check. All such vehicle check documentation must be retained for period no less than 12 months</p> <p>15.2 When a driver is working for a Private Hire Operator, they must provide that operator with the Daily Vehicle Check documentation before commencing work for that operator. This is required daily before accepting any hire and reward jobs. The vehicle check documentation may be stored digitally, or via a notebook, and must be accessible for inspection by an authorised officer.</p>	<p>Insert guidance for daily vehicle checks in line with DFT guidance.</p>
Appendix C	<p>Private Hire Vehicle condition of license</p> <p>Please note that new license applications age limits and wheelchair accessibility requirements will apply.</p> <p>Please note that new license applications age limits and wheelchair accessibility requirements will apply. New MOT testing certificate are required upon license application. Once licensed, vehicles must complete a MOT or Council vehicle Inspection at a designated vehicle inspection facility on the sixth month after that license is issued. The relevant date and type of inspection will be printed on the vehicle license, you will not receive a separate reminder</p>	<p>Change wording to cover changes in maximum age limits of a vehicle on grant application.</p> <p>Change from MOT after 6 months licensed to MOT or council vehicle inspection.</p> <p>Change from booking an appointment to applying to renew a license.</p>
1.1	<p>Addition of vehicle age restrictions:</p> <p>A. The council will only continue to licence non wheelchair accessible vehicles propelled by petrol, diesel or Hybrid up to the vehicle being 12 years old from first date of registration.</p> <p>B. Wheelchair accessible vehicles propelled by petrol, diesel</p>	<p>In line with the DFT best practice guidance and ISP to encourage wheelchair accessible vehicle licensing, and encourage low or zero emission vehicle licensing.</p> <p>Removal of maximum vehicle age on first licensing, and increases to vehicle licensing age limits.</p>

	<p>will be licensed until they reach 15 years old from first registration.</p> <p>C. Wheelchair accessible vehicles propelled by electric hybrid engines will be licensed until they reach 20 years old from first registration.</p> <p>D. Vehicles solely propelled by electric, or hydrogen, will be exempt from all vehicle licensing age restrictions.</p> <p>F. Wheelchair accessible licensed vehicles cannot have a license transferred to non-wheelchair accessible vehicles.</p>	<p>Addition explaining non transferable licences</p>
Q	<p>Addition:</p> <p>P. Drivers must complete a daily vehicle check before starting hire and reward work, and document that check in writing or digitally. All such documented checks should be retained and supplied to their Operator, or any Authorised Officer.</p>	<p>In line with the DFT Guidance</p> <p>Clarification of daily vehicle check and documentation requirements</p>
4	Mechanical Testing	
4.2	<p>Addition/change:</p> <p>a) Vehicle licences are for a period of 1 year and will be subject to MOT testing upon grant or renewal applications. Following the grant of a license all licensed vehicle must be inspected after the initial 6 months, and before the 7th month of license.</p> <p>The 6-month (mid license) vehicle inspection will be via an MOT test, or a vehicle inspection conducted by Authorised Officers at a Council designated vehicle inspection facility (The type of mid license testing/inspections will be notified by the licensing authority)</p> <p>b) All mid license MOT/vehicle inspection documentation must be submitted to the licensing Authority within 7 days of the vehicle test/inspection.</p> <p>c) All MOT and Council vehicle inspection reports must show that the vehicle has no faults, or</p>	<p>The introduction of a mid-license inspection includes safety features not included in a standard MOT test, and meets the DFT best practice guidance.</p> <p>Change of wording allowing for future implementation of the vehicle inspection process.</p>

	<p>advisories, has passed the stated inspection/test, and meets Licensing Policy minimum standards. Where advisories or faults have been reported, the license or application may be suspended/revoked or refused a license until the applicant/Licensee have documented the completion of any remedial works required to correct the advisory fault/s.</p> <p>Where any additional vehicle checks are required by Cherwell District Council, vehicles must be taken to an appointed vehicle testing station within 7 days of such a request. The appointed MOT or vehicle inspecting station used for additional checks will be detailed by Cherwell District Council at the time of such request. Vehicle MOT and inspection appointments, together with all associated fees, are solely the applicant or licensee responsibility.</p>	
4.3	<p>Advertising approvals-</p> <p>a) The vehicle may be any single colour except white, and MUST NOT resemble a Hackney Carriage. Signs showing the words TAXI or CAB must not be displayed on a Private Hire licensed vehicle. Paintwork must be factory standard – no 'crackle' or 'custom' paint.</p> <p>b) The name of the company / owner and telephone number may appear on the vehicle subject to the prior approval of the Council. Third party advertising is not permitted. Such approval applications may be subject to a fee.</p>	<p>Addition of possible administration charge, clarification private hire vehicles cannot be white in colour</p>
4.4	<p>Equipment</p> <p>Addition:</p> <p>g) Vehicles with driver/passengers' partitions must have a hearing loop or similar audio assistance installed.</p>	<p>In line with the DFT Guidance</p>

	h) All licensed vehicles are required to carry a British Standards BS 8599-1:2019 and contains HSE approved first aid kit. That kit should be replenished as needed, and out of date supplies replaced. The kit should be regularly inspected to ensure it complies with the stated standards.	
4.6	Door sign - Applications for door sign approvals may be subject to a fee.	Addition of a possible administration charge.
1.1	Hackney Carriage Vehicle conditions iii. Once a license is issued to a wheelchair accessible vehicle, that license cannot be transferred to a non-wheelchair accessible vehicle.	Addition clarifying wheelchair accessible licences are nontransferable to non-wheelchair accessible
j	Addition: Drivers must complete a daily vehicle check before starting hire and reward work, and document that check in writing or digitally. All such documented checks should be retained and supplied to their Operator, or any Authorised Officer.	In line with the DFT Guidance Change in wording/clarification of requirements
3.2	Vehicle age and mechanical testing d) Vehicle licences are for a period of 1 year and will be subject to MOT testing upon grant or renewal applications. Following the grant of a license all licensed vehicle must be inspected after the initial 6 months, and before the 7th month. The 6-month (mid license) vehicle inspection will be via an MOT test, or a vehicle inspection conducted by Authorised Officers at a Council designated vehicle inspection facility (The type of mid license testing/inspections will be notified by the licensing authority) e) All mid license MOT/vehicle inspection documentation must be submitted to the licensing Authority within 7 days of the vehicle test/inspection. f) All MOT and Council vehicle inspection reports must show that	In line with the DFT best practice guidance and ISP to encourage wheelchair accessible vehicle licensing, and encourage low or zero emission vehicle licensing. The introduction of a mid-license inspection includes safety features not included in a standard MOT test, and meets the DFT best practice guidance. Increase in vehicle licensing age limits, clarification of future introduction of mid license vehicle testing

	<p>the vehicle has no faults, or advisories, has passed the stated inspection/test, and meets Licensing Policy minimum standards. Where advisories or faults have been reported, the license or application may be suspended/revoked or refused a license until the applicant/Licensee have documented the completion of any remedial works required to correct the advisory fault/s.</p> <p>g) Where any additional vehicle checks are required by Cherwell District Council, vehicles must be taken to an appointed vehicle testing station within 7 days of such a request. The appointed MOT or vehicle inspecting station used for additional checks will be detailed by Cherwell District Council at the time of such request. Vehicle MOT and inspection appointments, together with all associated fees, are solely the applicant or licensee responsibility.</p> <p>h) The council will only continue to licence non wheelchair accessible vehicles propelled by petrol, diesel or Hybrid up to the vehicle being 12 years old from first date of registration.</p> <p>Wheelchair accessible vehicles propelled by petrol, diesel will be licensed until they reach 15 years old from first registration.</p> <p>Wheelchair accessible vehicles propelled by electric hybrid engines will be licensed until they reach 20 years old from first registration.</p> <p>Vehicles solely propelled by electric, or hydrogen, will be exempt from all vehicle licensing age restrictions.</p> <p>Wheelchair accessible licensed vehicles cannot have a licensed transferred to non-wheelchair accessible vehicles.</p> <p>i) On initial grant of a new license non wheelchair accessible vehicles will be refused.</p>	
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3.5	Equipment Addition: g) Vehicles with driver/passengers' partitions must have a hearing loop or similar audio assistance installed. h) All licensed vehicles are required to carry a British Standards BS 8599-1:2019 and contains HSE approved first aid kit. That kit should be replenished as needed, and out of date supplies replaced. The kit should be regularly inspected to ensure it complies with the stated standards. All first aid kits must be permanently marked with the vehicles license number. Display of Information e) The current Cherwell District Council Hackney Carriage Tariff charge card.	In line with the DFT Guidance
3.7		Addition
	Appendix D – Private Hire Operators	
2	Bookings Addition: At the time of booking and accepting a hire and reward booking the Operator must ensure that the customers have been asked or have an option to request and out outline additional needs or assistance. This may include a Wheelchair accessible vehicle, assistance for a disability, having a registered assistance dog, or similar. The operator must then accommodate the customers' requirements at no extra charge. Operators will be required keep records of the said customer requirements as evidence of their compliance with their license. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any additional customer requirements 	In line with the DFT Guidance
	Addition: Licensed Operators must ensure that their booking systems are	In line with the DFT Guidance

	<p>accessible and comply with WCAG2.1 accessibility standard to Level AA and with the principles of the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 as a minimum for digital content: https://www.gov.uk/service-manual/helping-people-to-use-your-service/understanding-wcag</p>	
3	<p>Insurance Addition: (e) Licensed operators must have public liability Insurance and maintain that insurance throughout their license period.</p>	<p>Clarification of exiting licensing requirements under policy and legislation.</p>
	<p>All vehicles operated by the operator shall be maintained in a satisfactory and road worthy condition Addition: a) Licensed Operators should ensure that all vehicles working under their license have been inspected by the driver before any jobs are allocated to that vehicle/driver. All drivers are required to confirm to the Operator that they have completed their Daily Driver Vehicle Check, and the driver should outline any faults to their operator prior to hire and reward journeys. b) When Operators have their own licensed vehicles, the operator is responsible for completing the daily vehicles checks outlined in appendix I. All operators check must be documented/noted and made available to Authorised Officer in request.</p>	<p>In line with the DFT Guidance</p> <p>Changed to ensure drivers daily vehicle checks are available to operators, and the responsibility of the driver unless the vehicle is licensed by the operator</p>
6.	<p>Driver / vehicle licenses It is the operator's responsibility to ensure licenses for all drivers and vehicles working for and being used by the operator are valid, legally permitted to work in the district and current.</p>	<p>New guidance for Operators to encourage availability of accessible vehicles in the Private Hire sector. In line with the DFT Guidance</p>
9.	<p>Accessibility Addition:</p>	<p>Addition of wording to aid legal compliance</p>

	<p>a) From 01/01/2028 Licensed Operators with the following number of vehicles registered as working under their license (fleet) will be required to have the following number of wheelchair accessible vehicles as part of that fleet:</p> <p>(I) Operators with 20 vehicle or less are not required to have wheelchair accessible vehicles within that fleet</p> <p>(II) Operators with 21 to 40 vehicles are required to have at least 1 wheelchair accessible vehicle as part of that fleet.</p> <p>(III) Operators with 41 to 60 vehicles are required to have at least 2 wheelchair accessible vehicle as part of that fleet.</p> <p>(IV) Operators with 61 to 100 vehicles are required to have at least 3 wheelchair accessible vehicle as part of that fleet.</p> <p>(V) Operators with over 100 vehicles are required to have at least 4 wheelchair accessible vehicle as part of that fleet, and an additional one extra wheelchair accessible vehicle for every additional 50 vehicles thereafter.</p> <p>Wheelchair accessible Hackneys registered as working under an Operator's license will count as part of that operator's fleet, providing the Operator has registered that Hackney as part of their fleet on application or license variation.</p> <p>(b) The Licensing Authority may request documentation of the licensed operators' vehicles and wheelchair accessibility vehicles at any time.</p>	<p>Clarification of wheelchair accessible fleet numbers required under an operators license</p>
13	<p>Contracts</p> <p>All journeys facilitated or booked by the licensed operator are considered as a contractual obligation between the customer and that operator. All licensed Operators must comply with</p>	

	all legislative, HMRC, Employment law, and all other associated Government requirements associated with each such contract	
	Appendix E Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Penalty Points Scheme	
3	Change: 3. Points will remain on a license for 3 years for licensed drivers and vehicle licensee's and for 5 years for Private Hire Operators. All licensing points will remain on a license from the date of issue, and will transfer to any license renewed during the points allocation time period	Increase of time period where points may stay on a license – In line with the DFT Guidance, and clarification of points carrying over to renewed licences, and time period points will remain relevant and on file.
4	4. Where a license holder accumulates the trigger level of penalty points (namely 12 points) more than once in any Five year period the Council will decide whether a license should be suspended or revoked if it is considered that the accumulation of points indicates that the license holder is no longer a 'fit and proper person' to hold a license. Each case will be considered on its own merits Note: General- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points generally remain on the license file for a period of up to 5 years from the date of issue. Driver/Licensee- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> License holders reaching the 12 point threshold twice or more in a 5 year period may be re- assessed under the Fit and Proper requirements of that license. Such an assessment may result in the revocation or refusal of a license. Each case would be assessed on its own merits. Operators- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operators reaching the 24 point threshold twice or more in a 5 year period may be re- assessed under the 'Fit and Proper' requirements of that license. Such 	

	an assessment may result in the revocation or refusal of a license. Each case would be assessed on its own merits	
	Appendix G Vehicle Emission Standards	
	<p>Addition:</p> <p>The above vehicle emissions standards have been carefully considered and have been phased in taking into account we issue licenses for vehicles based on their emissions and accessibility. The Policy on vehicle emissions is designed to prevent any unfair financial impact on the taxi trade.</p> <p>From 2030 all vehicles at the time of first licensing should be propelled by either electric or hydrogen. Please note, this clause will be reviewed again at the time of the next Policy review in 2029 which occurs before the above clause comes into force. That Policy review will consider the availability of sufficient infrastructure to support electric and hydrogen vehicles, the availability of such vehicles and suitability of models available whilst also considering the affordability of those vehicles.</p> <p>* Vehicle age limits outlined in the Taxi Licensing Policy apply.</p>	Clarification of implementation of compulsory zero emission vehicle licensing deadline, subject to assessment in 2029.
Addition	Appendix H Cherwell District Council Licensing Vehicle Assessment.	Vehicle assessment document, outlines all aspects of the 6 month mid license vehicle assessment.
Addition	Appendix I Daily 'Driver Vehicle Condition Checklist	In line with the DFT Guidance, all aspects of the driver's vehicle check outlined by the DFT guidance.