

Taxi Availability (including wheelchair accessible vehicles)

APPENDIX 1

Current Policy

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Age Restrictions

183. The Council has age restriction policies in place requiring the vehicle to be under four years of age when first presented for licensing. Vehicle licences will only be renewed up to eight years old (except for purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicles such as London Cabs which may be licensed up to ten years of age).

184. From 1 April 2023, all licensed vehicles must be aged eight years or under.

186. The initial age of the vehicle will be extended from under four years to less than six years in respect of purpose-built vehicles only i.e. London cabs and similar vehicles to encourage more purpose-built wheelchair accessible vehicles in the fleet.

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Driver Knowledge/Locality Test

85. In order to determine the fitness of a person to hold a licence, all applicants are required to sit and pass a test on their knowledge of the local geography, driver conduct/conditions, Highway Code, licensing legislation and awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation/Safeguarding. Tests for hackney carriage drivers include a more detailed assessment of local geography, location of hackney carriage stands and knowledge of tariffs and charges. A driver licence will not be issued without the applicant first passing the knowledge test.

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Tinted Windows

232. The Council's specification relating to the use of tinted windows in licensed vehicles is as follows:

- (a) The windscreen shall have a minimum light transmission of 75%.
- (b) All other front windows of any vehicle shall have a minimum of 70% light transmission.
- (c) All rear windows shall have a minimum of 30% light transmission, unless the below criterion can be met where there will be no minimum light transmission.