

Consultation on Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy amendments

Peterborough City Council are consulting on amendments to Peterborough City Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing policy, and invite your comments.

The initial overarching policy was adopted and took effect on 26 July 2017 and is therefore due for revision and consultation prior to 25 July 2022.

As part of the consultation process, we are writing to those likely to be affected by the policy and recognise that in some areas it may be difficult to identify the correct persons or bodies to consult. With this in mind, it would be appreciated if you could pass this information on to the most appropriate person or body to respond, if necessary.

The consultation will run for 8 weeks, starting Friday 28 January 2022 and finishing on Friday 25 March 2022. Should you wish to respond and make comment, please ensure that you do so prior to the end of the consultation period, to ensure your comments can be properly considered, prior to the adoption of the final policy.

The amended policy, when adopted, will provide guidance and information regarding the general approach taken by the council, when administering its functions within the legislative framework. Amendments to the policy are in line with statutory guidance, best practice and other relevant legislation.

A copy of the amended policy for consultation can be found on the council's website. (See link below)
www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/consultations

Any person who wishes to respond to the consultation may do so in the following manner:

In writing to: Consultation Officer, Peterborough City Council, Licensing Department, Sand Martin House, Bittern Way, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8TY

Or by email to: lpc@peterborough.gov.uk

Please note: We are unable to accept verbal responses, however, should any person require any further information or clarification on the draft policy or the consultation process, please call 01733 747474.

Paper copies are also available to view at the council's main office, Sand Martin House in Fletton Quays and in Central Library on Broadway, during opening hours.

Although we are not able to give an individual response to each comment received, please be assured that every relevant response will be given due consideration.

Summary of amendments:

A number of the proposed changes are required following the introduction of DfT Statutory guidance, in order to better protect children and vulnerable adults, summary below:

- Mandatory Safeguarding and County Lines Awareness Training for licensed drivers and operators
- Changes in DBS requirements for Drivers, operators and proprietors
- Requirement for a licence holder to notify within 48 hours of an arrest and release, charge or conviction of any sexual offence, any offence involving dishonesty or violence
- Adoption and use of NAFN NR3
- Amendments to Guidelines on Convictions and Cautions
- Requirement for any applicant to provide a Certificate of Good Conduct or criminal record(s) information, if since the age of 18, they have lived or worked outside the UK for a period of six or more continuous months

- Operators to maintain a register of staff, have sight of a basic DBS for staff on the register and provide a copy of their policy on employing ex-offenders

One amendment is due to a change in legislation brought about by the Finance Act 2021

- Tax Conditionality. From 4 April 2022 applicants are required to ensure that they are correctly registered with HMRC for tax purposes. Applicants renewing an operator and/or drivers licence will be required to provide a tax code check number.

The following proposed amendments are to address: concerns from the trade, consideration of local circumstances, the council's zero carbon ambition, public safety and best practice.

- Amendments to Hackney carriage and private hire vehicle age restrictions, testing, critical failure, dependant on fuel type and CO2 emissions. Removal of PHV mileage restrictions.
- Requirement to display licence plate number in windscreen of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles
- A renewal application must be submitted prior to the expiry of any existing licence.
- No dual plating of licensed vehicles
- Any non-M1 type approved vehicles must provide a VIVA with their application
- Designated Vehicles under the Equality Act
- Amendments to the designated car park waiting areas for private hire vehicles.
- Operators which are companies, must notify of a change of director/partner etc.

The above is a summary only, a more detailed breakdown of the amendments including details of the paragraphs and types of licenses affected can be found on the website

www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/consultations or

www.peterborough.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/taxis-and-private-hire/taxi-enforcement