

LICENSING TEAM

Southampton and Eastleigh Licensing Partnership

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Licensing Team,
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Partnership
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Please ask for: Russell Hawkins

24th August 2021

Dear Vehicle Proprietor

Hackney Carriage Licences – New Licence Issue Policy and Change of Conditions

As you may already be aware, Southampton City Council has capped numbers of hackney carriage licences and monitors this cap by way of regular unmet demand surveys. It is possible that at some point a licence shall become available and the council needs to have in place a fair and transparent policy to invite applications and allocate the licence(s). This letter is inviting comments on this proposed process. In addition, in order to assist with long term compliance with the Equalities Act, any new hackney carriage licence issued will only be issued to a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

The following criteria will apply to any new application:

- We will allow one application per person/Limited Company and only one application per household/business address.
- The applicant must have a basic disclosure and barring certificate that is less than 28 days old or be a current hackney or private hire driver licence holder.
- If a Limited Company applies, basic disclosure and barring certificates less than 28 days old must be provided for all directors and officers of that business (unless they hold a current hackney or private hire drivers licence).
- The licence will require a wheelchair accessible vehicle to the satisfaction of the council.
- The vehicle must meet all existing standards, (be white in colour, have a satisfactory camera system installed, be either a euro 6 standard of diesel engine, or petrol engine or electric engine or a hybrid of electric/petrol or electric/euro 6 diesel, less than 12 years old etc).
- The applicant will be expected to have an appropriate vehicle ready to be licensed within 28 days of the application being accepted.

If you require this letter or future correspondence from us in a different format (e.g. tape, Braille or disc) please do not hesitate to let us know.

- One application per available licence will be chosen at random and these applications will be accepted. The rest of the applications will be drawn at random and make up a waiting list should any accepted applications fail to comply with the requirements.
- If the successful applicant does not comply with the requirements of the application, the licence will be awarded to the next applicant on the waiting list.

This waiting list will only be used for the selection of the available licences at the beginning of the application phase only and will not form the basis of any future new application process.

The full draft policy is available to view on the Taxi Noticeboard on the Licensing Website. In order to facilitate this policy, there will need to be a modification to the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Conditions. That change will be to add the following condition:

- 3.7 Any new Hackney Carriage licences issued, shall only be issued to wheelchair accessible vehicles as prescribed in 3.4. Those particular hackney carriage numbers are listed here:

As part of this consultation process the Council is inviting stakeholders and other interested parties to make known their views by emailing:

licensing.consultations@southampton.gov.uk

Or writing to:

Licensing Consultations
Southampton & Eastleigh Licensing Partnership
PO Box 1767
Southampton
SO18 9LA

The consultation will last for four weeks, commencing on Tuesday 24th August, finishing at midnight on Monday 20th September 2021. Those taking part in the consultation will be expected to provide their name address and/or email address. However, they may choose to provide further personal data to illustrate or support their views. The personal data provided might include an address or area they live in, place of work, occupation, medical conditions. The original emails will be retained in line with the Council's retention policy.

Once the consultation process is complete the comments made along with the name of the person making each comment will be made available to Councillors and published via the Council's website. The legal basis for using personal data in this way is because it is necessary for activities that support or promote democratic engagement. This information will remain available on the Council website. If you submit a comment as part of the consultation process and you would not like your name or any part of your comments published please make this clear in your email or letter. Further information about how the Council handles your data can be found in the Council's Privacy Notice at www.southampton.gov.uk/contact-us/privacy-cookies/privacy-policy.aspx

Yours sincerely



Russell Hawkins
Senior Licensing Officer

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