

APPENDIX B: North Devon Vehicle Standards Amendment Proposal

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Standard First License (Except wheelchair accessible and Ultra-low/ zero emission vehicles):

Vehicles must be less than 3 years old when presented for first licensing.

Additionally, a first licence may be issued to a vehicle that is more than three but less than four years old provided a comprehensive report into the mechanical fitness of the vehicle has been undertaken in accordance with the Council's vehicle inspection requirements (Vehicle Inspection Checklist- Appendix B Taxi Policy), and any essential works identified have been carried out and evidence provided to establish this. An application for the grant of a first licence where the vehicle in question is more than 4 years old, shall not be granted. However, the applicant will be given the right to apply for the application to be considered by a licensing sub-committee if they feel that their particular circumstances justify a deviation from the existing Policies.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Renewal:

Vehicles presented for renewal that are less than 10 years old can be renewed by Licensing Officers under delegated powers.

Vehicles presented for renewal that are between 10 and 11 years old can be renewed by Licensing Officers under delegated powers provided that the vehicle is presented for inspection in a satisfactory condition, and the vehicle has passed its vehicle renewal inspection.

Vehicles presented for renewal that are more than 11 years old will be referred to the licensing sub-committee for determination. Such applications should be submitted at least 4 weeks prior to the expiry date on the licence, as it may take several weeks to convene a licensing sub-committee. Applicants will be advised to provide a comprehensive report into the mechanical fitness of the vehicle as outlined above.

Vehicle Standard: Wheelchair Accessible and Ultra-low/ zero emission vehicles:

North Devon Council recognises its responsibility in contributing to the protection of the environment, and also to ensuring that the Hackney carriage and private hire trade are accessible to all members of the community. It is therefore the intention of this policy to incentivise the licensing of both wheelchair accessible and ultra-low/ zero emission vehicles. This policy recognises that both of these types of vehicle can involve additional costs to the proprietor in either purchasing or running these types of vehicle, and as such the age restriction for these vehicles has been amended from that for other vehicle types as follows:

Wheelchair accessible and ultra-low/ zero emission vehicles must be less than 6 years old at first licensing.

Additionally, whilst there is currently no upper age limit for the renewal of wheelchair accessible and ultra-low/ zero emission vehicles, these vehicles will still be required to pass the Council's vehicle inspection on a twelve-month basis until the vehicle is 8 years old, and thereafter every six months.