

Summary of Proposals

Proposal	Response from Forum
Return to a two-tier system (private hire or hackney carriage)	<p>Opinion of this proposal was mixed however a majority of the licence holders present at the forums did not support this change.</p> <p>There were concerns expressed that those issued “private hire only” licences would not have sufficient local knowledge to perform their role properly if the geographic knowledge test was removed as a requirement for this type of licence.</p> <p>The majority of those present could not see an advantage in making this change.</p>
New applicants to pay separately to undertake each knowledge test they sit.	<p>This proposal had the support of the vast majority of those present at the forums.</p> <p>As this is not a matter of policy, this proposal has been addressed by officers when proposing the fees and charges for 2015/16.</p>
Limit applicants to three attempts at passing the knowledge test and having to wait six months before sitting the test again after a third failure.	<p>This proposal had the support of the vast majority of those present at the forums.</p> <p>Some licence holders suggested that an applicant failing three knowledge tests should be permanently barred from applying for a licence.</p> <p>Officers explained that this was not possible as the Council cannot fetter its discretion in such a way.</p>
All new applicants to sit a Maths and English test.	<p>A proposal to introduce an “essential skills test” for all new applicants had the support of the majority of those present at the forums.</p>
Applicants for licences to drive hackney carriage vehicles to be tested on the hackney carriage tariff.	<p>This proposal had the support of the vast majority of those present at the forums.</p>

<p>All new applicants (and those who receive in excess of six penalty points on their DVLA licence) to take a driving standards test.</p>	<p>In relation to new applicants, this proposal had the support of the vast majority of those present at the forums.</p> <p>In relation to existing drivers, the majority of those present at the forums agreed that it would be useful for a Licensing Sub-Committee considering a drivers fitness to hold a licence as a result of picking up driving licence endorsements, to be able to require them to undertake a similar assessment of their driving capabilities as an alternative to having their licence suspended or revoked.</p>
<p>Introduce a requirement that new hackney carriage vehicles entering the licensed fleet are under five years of age when first licensed.</p>	<p>The vast majority of the licence holders present did not support this change.</p> <p>The financial implication of such a policy change was the main reason for raising concerns.</p> <p>Some attendees suggested that the Council's policy on age limits for hackney carriages should in fact be relaxed rather than tightened.</p> <p>Many attendees made the point that a vehicle's age is not necessarily a reliable indicator of its condition and suitability for use as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.</p>
<p>New licences for hackney carriage vehicles should only be granted in respect of brand new wheelchair accessible vehicles.</p> <p>This requirement to also apply to existing licence holders who are replacing licensed vehicles that have reached the upper age limit or which need to be replaced for any other reason.</p>	<p>Whilst having fewer concerns in relation to applying this policy change to new applicants, the vast majority of the licence holders present did not support making this change in relation to existing licence holders who they felt should be afforded "grandfather rights" to be able to retain "saloon type" vehicles.</p> <p>The financial implication of such a policy change was the main reason for raising concerns and requesting grandfather rights.</p> <p>One attendee questioned whether there was sufficient demand for wheelchair accessible vehicles to justify this approach.</p>