

Epping Forest District Council Taxi Licensing Consultation

The Council, as Licensing Authority for the area, recognises the very important role that Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles make to strategies such as Crime and Disorder, transport and the environment and requires a fleet that provides a high standard of safety and comfort for all members of the community

Hackney Carriage 'Knowledge' Test

It is proposed that a 'Knowledge' test will be given to applicants wishing to become licensed within Epping Forest District Council. This change is to correspond with neighbouring districts that already have this implemented as part of their licensing criteria. The test would be carried out at the Council offices on first application, on a paper test format. The questions would cover issues of how to get around the district using different routes, knowledge of the area and places of interest. There would also be questions relating to the Highway Code and other areas of good practice eg assistance required by disabled people. The Licensing Authority considers that this would improve services that are offered by the trade and encourage good practice.

Q1 Should a 'Knowledge' test be undertaken by all persons making their first application?

48 Yes

6 No

Please give your reasons or suggestions as to other questions that should be included in the test?

35

Q2 Do you think that the test should be repeated on renewal?

8 Yes

46 No

Please give your reasons

35

Q3 Do you feel that there should be a competency test or an NVQ qualification for licensed drivers?

20 Yes

33 No

Please give your reasons

35

Private Hire

This would be a similar test to the Hackney Carriage 'Knowledge' test. However, as the Private Hire drivers are pre-booked the 'Knowledge' test of routes for the area would be more general.

Q4 Should a 'Knowledge' test be undertaken by all persons making their first application?

38 Yes

9 No

Please give your reasons

30

Q5 Do you think that the test should be repeated on renewal?

5 Yes

40 No

Please give your reasons or suggestions as to other areas that should be included in the test?

26

Q6 Do you feel that there should be a competency test or an NVQ qualification for licensed drivers?

19 Yes

25 No

Please give your reasons

28

Access for the Disabled

The Licensing Authority recognises the need for disabled people to have the right to travel in comfort, therefore we are proposing the Taxi trade improve access to disabled passengers. The Licensing Authority is considering requiring that a proportion of fleet vehicles should have direct access for passengers to travel in the vehicle without the requirement for passengers to leave their wheelchair. This service would improve travel services for members of the public that have this requirement. We propose that each operator should provide wheelchair access vehicles.

Q7 Do you consider that there is a need to provide more access for the disabled passengers?

26 Yes

24 No

Please give your reasons

37

Q8 Do you think that all vehicles should be wheelchair accessible?

6 Yes

48 No

Please give your reasons

39

Q9 Should operators with less than 3 vehicles be exempt?

27 Yes

23 No

Please give your reasons

36

Q10 Should chauffeurs be exempt from the requirement to provide wheelchair access?

28 Yes

20 No

Please give your reasons

34

Q11 If you consider that there should be a condition that an operator provide wheelchair accessible cabs, what percentage of the operator's fleet do you consider should be wheelchair accessible?

44

Incentives Green Vehicles

The Licensing Authority is considering the introduction of conditions that the vehicles being used as Hackney Carriages or Private Hire Vehicles are greener.

Q12 What improvements could be made that would help the Licensing Authority achieve this aim?

41

Q13 Are there any incentives that would encourage fleet operators to provide such vehicles?

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Your Details?

Q14 Name:

52

Q15 Address:

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Q16 Telephone:

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Q17 Email:

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Thank you for taking part in this consultation, I look forward to your reply

The closing date for this survey is 6 March 2009

For more information regarding this questionnaire you can contact Epping Forest District Council,
Licensing or Corporate Support Services, Assistant Director Alison Mitchell.