



## Brighton & Hove

### BLUE HANDBOOK FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE, DRIVERS, VEHICLES AND OPERATORS

THIS HANDBOOK WAS DESIGNED TO COMBINE MANY BYE LAWS, CONDITIONS, ADVICE AND INFORMATION FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS, VEHICLES AND OPERATORS PREVIOUSLY IN VARIOUS AND SEPARATE FORMS. THE COUNCIL WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE HELP AND ADVICE GIVEN BY NALEO IN THE PRODUCTION OF THIS HANDBOOK.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION GIVES GENERAL GUIDANCE ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS A COMPLETE AND AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF THE LAW.

**ANY AMENDMENTS, CHANGES OR ADDITIONS APPROVED AND ISSUED BY THE COUNCIL TO THIS HANDBOOK MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE INSIDE OF THIS COVER AND TREATED AS IF THEY ARE PART OF THE HANDBOOK.**

DATE OF NEXT COMPLETE REVIEW FEBRUARY 2010.

## **HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE HANDBOOK**

This handbook has been produced to give guidance to drivers, proprietors and operators of the above vehicles, and has been

### **ADOPTED AS THE POLICY DOCUMENT OF THE COUNCIL.**

Any requirements of legislation that has effect on the operations being carried out under the terms of any licence granted should be regarded as if they are requirements of that licence. Wherever there appears in this Handbook a summary of any statutory provisions you are advised that such summary may not be exhaustive.

### **INFORMATION HELD ON DRIVERS VEHICLES AND OPERATORS**

Any information held will be used for the purposes of licensing hackney carriage/private hire drivers and operators but it may be used for other Council purposes where this is permitted by law. The Council is registered under the Data Protection Act 1998 for these purposes. This Authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers. We may check information provided, or information provided by a third party, with other information held, such as Council Tax and Housing Benefit, to check the accuracy of information; to prevent or detect crime; and to protect public funds and in other ways permitted by law. The Council may also share this information with other public bodies administering public funds for these purposes. These may include government departments and other local authorities. We will not disclose information about you to anyone, unless the law permits us to. The Council is the Data Controller for the purposes of the Data protection Act 1998.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Council licenses the following;

Hackney Carriage Vehicles and Drivers.

Private Hire Vehicles and Drivers and Operators.

The authority for doing so is by adoption of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Part II., (Section 45), The Town Police Clauses Act 1847, (Section 68) and the Public Health Act 1875, (Section 171).

The Acts require that the Council must be satisfied that the vehicle is:-

- suitable in type, size and design for use as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle and it is in a suitable mechanical condition, safe and comfortable.

In the case of private hire vehicles it is further required that

- they must not be of such design or appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a hackney carriage.

Any vehicle used as a hackney carriage or for private hire must

- have in force a policy of insurance in relation to the use of that vehicle.

In addition to the statutory requirements a Council may attach to the grant of a licence such conditions as the Council considers reasonably necessary. However, the 1985 Transport Act specifically states that the Council shall not refuse such a licence for the purpose of limiting the number of vehicles in respect of which such licences are granted by the Council. It should be noted that in the case of hackney carriages the numbers may be limited only if the Council can show there to be no significant unmet demand for this type of vehicle licence.

In respect of the issue of driver's licences the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act of 1976 requires the Council to be satisfied that each applicant is a fit and proper person to hold such a licence prior to its grant. There is no authority to attach any condition to a hackney carriage driver's licence as they are controlled by means of byelaws, but conditions may be applied to private hire driver licenses.

The Handbook is divided into seven sections as follows;

<b>Section 1.</b>	<b>Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles;</b>
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5 - 9	(a) Procedure for licensing a Hackney Carriage.
10 - 20	(b) Conditions relating to Hackney Carriages.
21 - 24	(c) Bye laws relating to Hackney Carriages.
25 - 30	(d) Procedures for licensing Private Hire Vehicles.
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<b>Section 2.</b>	<b>Licensing Drivers;</b>
42 - 45	(a) Procedure for licensing hackney carriage & private hire drivers.
46 - 49	(b) Bye laws relating to Hackney Carriage Drivers.
50 - 55	(c) Conditions relating to Private Hire Drivers.
56 - 59	(d) Appendix I ... Criminal offence guidelines.
<b>Section 3.</b>	<b>Operators Licenses;</b>
60 - 61	(a) Procedure for licensing Operators.
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67 - 68	(a) To Operators.
68 - 69	(b) To Drivers.
69 - 70	(c) To Vehicle Owners or Drivers.
70 - 71	(d) General.

**SECTION I.**  
**PART A**  
**PROCEDURE FOR LICENSING A HACKNEY CARRIAGE.**  
**INITIAL INSPECTION**

**Brighton & Hove City Council operates a restricted number policy in connection with the number of hackney carriage vehicle licenses it issues in accordance with the 1985 Transport Act. A waiting list is maintained by the Council enabling it to issue any extra hackney carriage vehicle licenses when they become available, to those persons at the head of that list. Strict conditions apply and to be included on this list existing drivers who meet the conditions need to make application each year during the month of March to obtain credits.**

The vehicle should normally be presented to the Licensing Officer prior to licensing for inspection to ensure compliance with the following conditions and bye laws;

**I. SUITABILITY.**

- 1.1 In the case of a first application for a hackney carriage vehicle licence the vehicle must not normally exceed 4 years of age from date of initial DVLA registration and not more than 7 years of age in the case of any subsequent application for renewal of licence and not to be left-hand drive.
- 1.2 In the case of a vehicle which conforms to the Conditions of Fitness as prescribed by the Metropolitan Police, (i.e. London type hackney carriage purpose built), the vehicle must not normally exceed 5 years of age from date of first registration, and not more than 10 years of age in the case of any subsequent renewal application and not be left-hand drive.
- 1.3 The age of the vehicle in section 1.1 and 1.2 to be taken from the vehicle registration document.
- 1.4 The maximum age limits described in section 1.1 and 1.2 may only be exceeded if the vehicle presented is in exceptional condition. (as confirmed by the inspecting garage).
- 1.5 In the case of a vehicle which conforms to the Conditions of Fitness as prescribed by the Metropolitan Police, it must provide at least two doors for the use of passengers conveyed in the vehicle neither being the door used by the driver, with at least one opening to the near-side. They must also have serviceable ramps to load and unload persons wishing to travel in the vehicle whilst remaining seated in their wheelchair.
- 1.6 In the case of normal saloon type vehicles, they must be fitted with four road wheels and at least four doors and the vehicle to be of a type approved by the Director of Environment Brighton & Hove City Council.
- 1.7 In the case of an estate type vehicle or a hatchback type saloon the hatch door will not be considered or counted as a door for means of entry or egress.

- 1.8 That in no circumstances will any vehicle be licensed which would require any passenger to move or tip any seat to enter or egress from any seat they may occupy or that would require them to climb over any seat or luggage in the vehicle. All passenger seats must face forward or rearward to the direction of travel, (no passenger may sit sideways to direction of travel).
- 1.9 An audio warning for vehicles with sliding doors is operational when the ignition is turned on when the rear side passenger doors are open.
- 1.10 Extra handles be fitted in a position above the steps at the rear side entrances to the vehicle to assist passengers when getting into and out of the vehicle.
- 1.11 A suitable additional step as decided by the Director shall be provided at the rear side entrances to the vehicle.
- 1.12 Luggage space must reasonable and sufficient for the maximum number of passengers permitted on the licence and be physically separated from the passenger seating.
- 1.13 Any spare wheel must normally be of the same type as the road wheels. Space saver types are only acceptable if provided with the vehicle at time of manufacture. Due to limits on speed and distance imposed by the manufacturers on space saver tyres, passengers must not be carried when in use.
- 1.14 LPG conversions other than new vehicles must be carried out by Government Approved Garages for such conversions and the necessary certificate produced. Sufficient space should still be available for luggage.

## **2. MECHANICAL INSPECTION.**

If the vehicle meets the standards required by the initial inspection it should be presented to one of the Council nominated test centers, currently;

Lucas Service UK Ltd, Unit 8, Victoria Road Trading Estate, Victoria Road, Portslade,  
Westbourne Motors, 270 Portland Road, Hove,  
R & B Automobiles Ltd, Unit 2A, Centenary Industrial Estate, Hughes Road, Brighton,  
Lee Motors, Church Place, Kemp Town, Brighton,  
Autofit, Unit 1, Chalex Industrial Estate, Manor Hall Road, Southwick,  
Smith & Humphries, Ninfield.  
TLS, Unit E1, Meridian Industrial Estate, Hoyle Road, Peacehaven,  
Caffyns PLC. 233-257 Preston Road, Brighton.

The inspection is to determine that the vehicle is in road worthy condition to enable a certificate of compliance to be issued. The requirement for Mechanical Inspection applies to all vehicles except those new vehicles with delivery mileage only on the odometer.

## **3. FINAL INSPECTION PRIOR TO LICENSING.**

The following will be checked prior to licensing;

- 3.1 A satisfactory mechanical inspection form. (Fitness Certificate)

- 3.2 Sight of current vehicle insurance certificate or cover note, (to include towing and the carriage of the number of wheelchairs for which the vehicle is adapted if necessary).
- 3.3 The registration document. – Registered keeper’s details document.
- 3.4 Certificate of Compliance for all vehicles other than new vehicles with only delivery mileage on the milometer.
- 3.5 A current road fund licence, (tax disc).
- 3.6 A Council approved calendar controlled meter fitted in a position as to be readily seen by all passengers and sealed with the current tariff installed.
- 3.7 A Council approved and valid fire extinguisher
- 3.8 A current tariff card as agreed by the Council fixed in a prominent position where it may be seen by any passenger carried.
- 3.9 In the case of a change of vehicle, the Expiring or Surrendered vehicle licence.
- 3.10 Vehicle presented in full Council livery:- white bodywork, bonnet and boot lid or hatchback or estate rear door painted aquamarine to colour code BSI 6E53.Council issued door signs and door number showing the vehicle plate number with the pavilion logo foremost on the front doors and plate number to the rear doors. A single telephone number of the operator may be shown on the front doors below the Council logo and shall not exceed the logo in length. Both signs to be provided by the Council.
- 3.11 Council approved roof sign.(See Section 23 Roof Signs)

#### **4. ISSUE OF LICENCE.**

Subject to all conditions being met the licence will be granted after payment of the appropriate fee and a plate deposit for new plates issued.

#### **5. RENEWAL OF LICENCE, (ANNUAL RE-LICENSING).**

- 5.1 Vehicles must comply with the requirements of section 3.1 to 3.11 and section 4 above
- 5.2 The licensing period runs for 1 year from date of commencement.
- 5.3 Application for renewal may be made for relicensing up to one month prior to expiry by personal application and an appointment must be pre-booked with the Hackney Carriage Office.
- 5.4 Late applications or failure to make a prior booking may result in vehicles not being licensed immediately.
- 5.5 No licence will be issued unless the application is complete with all documents, information and the payment required. Any incomplete application will be returned to the applicant.

#### **6. MECHANICAL TESTING.**

- 6.1 The Council nominated testing garages will endeavour to test all vehicles within 10 working days of application to them for testing.
- 6.2 If a vehicle fails the test and in the opinion of the examiner would fail to meet

- the standards required by the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, then the plate may be removed by the testing centre, or any authorised officer, until such time as the vehicle passes the test, and until the plate is returned the vehicle may not be used for hire and reward or plying for hire.
- 6.3 Any vehicle called for inspection which fails to attend may have its licence suspended immediately and subsequently the licence may be revoked.
  - 6.4 Any vehicle failing to keep an appointment for testing will incur a fee payable to the nominated garage.

## **7. VEHICLE DAMAGE.**

- 7.1 The proprietor of any hackney carriage must report to an authorised officer as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case within seventy two hours, the occurrence of any accident involving the hackney carriage.
- 7.2 The vehicle will be inspected by an authorised officer and a decision made as to whether or not the vehicle is in such condition to continue in service.
- 7.3 If any damage to the vehicle is such that an authorised officer considers it still to be in a fit condition to continue in service until such time as a permanent repair is undertaken these must be undertaken within a maximum of 28 days of the damage occurring.
- 7.4 If any damage is considered by an authorised officer to be extensive enough to affect the safety or general appearance of the vehicle it must be immediately withdrawn from service and the plate removed. The vehicle must be repaired before the plate is re-affixed and the vehicle returned to service.
- 7.5 In the case of any dispute as to section 7.4 above the vehicle will be taken to the Council nominated testing station where a qualified mechanic will give a binding decision which shall be final, the appropriate fee for such examination will be paid by the proprietor.

## **8. REPLACEMENT VEHICLES.**

Any replacement vehicle must comply with sections 1 to 7 above.  
A completed application transfer form must be submitted with other necessary documents and the fee, prior to any such vehicle being used as a hackney carriage.  
The existing vehicle is required to be returned to its original colour. Failure to do so may result in the new hackney carriage vehicle licence being suspended or revoked until such time as this action has been taken. Confirmation that the vehicle has been returned to its original colour will be accepted from any of the Councils approved garages for testing purposes. Otherwise the original vehicle must be produced to the hackney carriage office for confirmation this action has been carried out.



## **9. CHANGE OF VEHICLE OWNER.**

If a proprietor transfers his interest in a vehicle to somebody else he must within 14 days give notice of the transfer in writing to the authorised officer, giving the name and address of the transferee. In no circumstances may the vehicle be used as a licensed vehicle by the new owner until a new licence has been issued to that person and all documentation completed and any necessary fees paid.

## **10. CONDITIONS.**

The Council has the power to attach conditions to hackney carriage licenses. The standard conditions are as set out in this handbook. Proprietors/Owners should ensure that vehicles comply with these conditions before submitting it for test. If any doubts about the application of any of these conditions to a vehicle exist the authorised officer should be contacted.

## **11. SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION.**

The Council has the power to suspend or revoke a licence if the vehicle is unfit, for offences or non-compliance with the 1976 Act by operator or driver, or any other reasonable cause. In the case of revocation the plate must be returned to the Council.

**SECTION I.**  
**PART B.**  
**CONDITIONS RELATING TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES.**

**12. INTERPRETATION.**

In these conditions;

- 12.1 “The Council” means Brighton and Hove City Council.
- 12.2 “the Director” means the Director of Environment, (for the time being) of the Council.
- 12.3 “Authorised Officer” means the Hackney Carriage Officer, Licensing Enforcement Officer, Divisional Environmental Officer, for the time being of the Council.
- 12.4 “the vehicle” means the vehicle subject to the hackney carriage vehicle licence to which the conditions are attached.
- 12.5 “the proprietor” means the person currently shown on the hackney carriage vehicle licence as the proprietor of the vehicle.
- 12.6 “the driver” means the driver currently of the vehicle.
- 12.7 “mechanical inspection” means the certificate of compliance issued by the Councils nominated garage certifying that the vehicle is mechanically sound.
- 12.8 “any nominated garage” means for the time being the garage approved by the Council for the purpose of undertaking mechanical inspections.
- 12.9 Any obligation not to do any act or thing shall be deemed to include an obligation not to cause or permit that act or thing to be done.
- 12.10 Any reference to any statute or subordinate legislation shall be deemed to include a reference to any amendment or re-enactment.

**13. AGE OF VEHICLE.**

- 13.1 In the case of a first application for a hackney carriage vehicle licence the vehicle must not normally exceed 4 years of age from date of initial DVLA registration and not more than 7 years of age in the case of any subsequent application for renewal of licence and not to be left-hand drive
- 13.2 In the case of a vehicle which conforms to the Conditions of Fitness as prescribed by the Metropolitan Police, (i.e. London type hackney carriage purpose built), the vehicle must not normally exceed 5 years of age from date of first registration, and not more than 10 years of age in the case of any subsequent application and not be left-hand drive.
- 13.3 The age of the vehicle in section 13.1 and 13.2 above to be taken from the vehicle registration document.
- 13.4 The maximum age limited described in section 13.1 and 13.2 above, may only be exceeded if the vehicle presented is in exceptional condition, See Section 14.3 below.
- 13.5 A vehicle shall be taken as being re-licensed only if there was in force in respect of that vehicle a current hackney carriage vehicle licence previously issued by the

- Council immediately prior to it being re-licensed; there may be no lapse between licenses.
- 13.6 Any vehicle with a 'Q' plate registration will not be licensed if in excess of 5 years old from date of manufacture. Where the age of a 'Q' registered vehicle is not identifiable the age will be calculated as three years old at the date of 'Q' registration in line with the policy of the D.V.L.A

#### **14. MAINTENANCE AND APPEARANCE OF VEHICLE.**

- 14.1 The vehicle and its fittings must at all times when it is available for hire or being used as a hackney carriage;
- 14.1.1 be safe.
  - 14.1.2 be tidy.
  - 14.1.3 be clean.
  - 14.1.4 comply with all relevant statutory requirements applicable to the class of vehicle to which it belongs including but without prejudice to the generality of, the foregoing, the Motor Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1978.
- 14.2 The vehicle must be, and must be maintained throughout the term of the hackney carriage vehicle licence, to a high standard of appearance to the complete satisfaction of the Council.
- 14.3 The following shall apply as a minimum:
- 14.3.1 RUST- Any vehicle presented should be free from any significant areas of visible rusting. Although minor blemishes should not constitute a failure, the following general criteria should be followed; any vehicle with more than three visible rust patches each of more than 20 sq. cms, should be failed.
  - 14.3.2 DENTS- Any vehicle with minor dents on three or more panels where such dents are more than 5 cms in diameter/ length or a single dent of more than 20 cms in diameter / length should be failed.
  - 14.3.3 SCRATCHES -Any vehicle with un-repaired scratches down to bare metal on three or more panels, of 5 cms in length, or a single scratch of more than 20 cms in length, should be failed.
  - 14.3.4 PAINT WORK- All panels on all vehicles including those which are wheelchair accessible and those which conform to the Conditions of Fitness as prescribed by the Metropolitan police shall be painted in manufacturers 'white' colour except for bonnet and boot panels which must be 'Aqua' in colour (BSI 6E53), except vehicles currently licensed which must meet this requirement upon replacement; panels with unmatched colours or in primer should be deemed as failures.
  - 14.3.5 SEATS- In conventional vehicles where it is intended that the licence be for four passengers, the rear seat must be at least 132cms in width. All seats shall have a minimum of 46cms per person and, in respect of seating shall comply with the Road Vehicle (Registration and Licensing) Regs. 2002. All seats, including the driver's, must be free from repaired cuts, tears or cigarette burns, except of a very minor nature. Any repairs must

have been carried out in a professional and neat manner. Front passenger seat must provide a head rest.

- 14.3.6 CARPETS / FLOOR COVERING. All carpets and floor covering shall be complete and free from cuts, tears or serious staining.
- 14.3.7 HEADLINING and OTHER TRIM. All interior trim, including headlining, shall be clean, complete, properly fitted and free from serious cuts, tears or major soiling.
- 14.3.7 WINDOW OPERATION. All passengers, excepting those occupying a middle seat, must be able to open adjacent window without difficulty.
- 14.3.8 BOOT / LUGGAGE COMPARTMENT. This should be empty, except for a spare wheel and essential tools. The compartment should be clean and any covering free from major cuts, tears or other damage or staining.
- 14.3.9 INTERIOR. The interior must be kept clean, tidy and free of any litter or other rubbish.
- 14.3.10 WHEELCHAIRS & SWIVEL SEATS. must comply with Condition 29 below.
- 14.3.11 DARKENED/TINTED WINDOWS except light tints and sun strips are not acceptable in the interest of public safety. In no circumstances should the tint exceed a light restriction of 25% for windscreens and 30% for all other windows.
- 14.3.12 The inspecting garage will advise if in their opinion the vehicle is suitable to be licensed. Any disputes in interpretation of the above will be at the discretion of the Director
- 14.3.13 Nets must be provided for use where luggage is not separated from the passengers.

#### 14.4 **Exterior Markings**

- 14.4.1 No vehicle shall be licensed as a hackney carriage vehicle unless its exterior paintwork is white with the bonnet and boot painted aqua marine to BSI 6E53
- 14.4.2 Each hackney carriage shall display signs on each door in accordance with the design approved and supplied by the Council. The sign shall be constructed of vinyl and be applied direct to the door.
- 14.4.3 The proprietor shall, forthwith upon the vehicle ceasing to be a hackney carriage licensed by the Council remove the exterior markings specified by the Council under this condition and, in accordance with the Councils requirements, return the vehicle to a single colour. The Council reserves the right to refuse to licence a replacement vehicle if this condition has not been complied with.
- 14.4.4 The vehicle plate issued by the Council in respect of the licensed vehicle shall be fixed securely on the outside of the vehicle at the rear in a conspicuous position and in such a manner as to be easily removed by an authorised officer or a constable.

## **15. PASSENGERS**

The proprietor or driver of the vehicle shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in the vehicle more than the maximum number of persons specified in the licence.

## **16. ALTERATION OF THE VEHICLE**

No material alteration or change in the specification, design, condition or appearance of the vehicle shall be made without the approval of the Council at any time while the licence is in force.

## **17. SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

A device to effectively prevent luggage and other goods placed in the rear of the vehicle from entering the front of the vehicle shall be available in estate cars and other similar vehicles at all times when such vehicles are used as a hackney carriage.

## **18. INTERIOR MARKINGS**

The proprietor shall cause to be clearly marked and maintained inside the vehicle in such a position as to be visible at all times to persons conveyed therein the number of this licence and the number of passengers prescribed in this licence and the driver's badge.

## **19. INSPECTION OF VEHICLE.**

- 19.1 The vehicle may not be available for hire or be used as a hackney carriage unless there is a current compliance certificate in force in respect of that vehicle.
- 19.2 The vehicle must be mechanically inspected by one of the Councils nominated testing garages prior to a licence being issued.
- 19.3 The Vehicle must be inspected and a mechanical inspection certificate issued within one month of application for a vehicle licence or for re-licensing of a vehicle licence.
- 19.4 Subparagraphs 19.2 and 19.3 will not apply in the case of a new vehicle with only delivery mileage on the milometer.

## **20. DOCUMENTS.**

There must be carried in the vehicle when it is available for hire or being used as a hackney carriage;

- 20.1 The insurance certificate or insurance cover note or copy “for the purpose of

- plying for hire”.
- 20.2 A copy of the current tariff as approved by the Council clearly displayed within the vehicle where it may be seen by any passenger carried.
- 20.3 A sign giving the licence number of the vehicle and driver giving the maximum number of passengers to be carried which will be issued by the Council and be displayed inside the vehicle where it may be clearly seen by any passenger carried.
- 20.4 signs shall not contain anything of a religious or political nature or contain any matter likely to cause offence. An exception will be a small discreetly placed, symbolic item that is reflective of a personal belief that will keep a driver safe. This should not be directly in the line of sight of any passenger and should not present a risk to the safety of a passenger for instance being inadequately fixed and be submitted for approval by the authorised officer.
- 20.5 A current vehicle excise duty disc (tax disc) correctly displayed in the windscreen,
- 20.6 A copy of the Byelaws with respect to Hackney Carriages in Brighton & Hove.

## **21. SIGNS NOTICES ETC.**

- 21.1 No signs, notices, advertisements, plates, marks, letters, figures, symbols, emblems or any devices whatsoever collectively referred to as ‘signs’), other than those mentioned in paragraph 21.2 below shall be displayed on, in or from the vehicle.
- 21.2 Signs permitted are;
- 21.2.1 any registration number.
- 21.2.2 any sign required by statute or subordinate legislation.
- 21.2.3 any sign on a taximeter indicating that the vehicle is for hire.
- 21.2.4 the licence plate giving the licence number and the maximum number of passengers to be carried on the outside rear of the vehicle displayed at bumper height. (This is in addition to the sign required in 20.3 above).
- 21.2.5 the roof sign referred to in paragraph 23 below.
- 21.2.6 any sign indicating membership of a national motoring organisation.
- 21.2.7 any sign requesting passengers not to smoke or eat or drink in the vehicle.
- 21.2.8 the tariff and licence number as in 20.2 and 20.3 above.
- 21.2.9 any sign approved by the Council to indicate that the payment of fares may be made by credit card shall be displayed on the front windscreen of the vehicle.
- 21.2.10 any sign provided by Brighton and Hove City Council to show that the vehicle is used for school contracts, shall be displayed in the windscreen in such a manner so as to not obstruct the driver's vision, and may only be displayed when actually employed in the performance of such contract work with pupils being carried.
- 21.2.11 any sign indicating use of security camera in a vehicle.
- 21.2.12 any sign permitted must be positioned so as not to impede visibility and in any event no sign shall be placed on the rear window of the vehicle,

- nor any hanging obstruction be placed in any part of the vehicle.
- 21.2.13 any other sign within the vehicle must be approved by an authorised officer and must meet the conditions as set out above.
- 21.2.14 approved council livery.

## **22. LICENCE PLATE.**

The design of the rear exterior plate shall be that approved by the Director of the Environment. The Council must be informed immediately should the licence plate showing the number of the hackney carriage licence be broken, lost or defaced. On no account must a hackney carriage ply for hire without a plate.(as required under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, sections 51 and 52.)

## **23. ROOF SIGNS.**

- 23.1 Each hackney carriage vehicle, other than a purpose built or wheelchair accessible vehicle shall have installed on the roof and display a toblerone roof sign bearing the words "Brighton & Hove Taxi" on its front and rear face in a position central to the width of the roof. The word "taxi" must be plainly and distinctly visible from the front and rear of the vehicle. The rear sign may have only the telephone number of the hackney carriage company instead of the wording "Brighton & Hove Taxi", and must be capable of being illuminated during the hours of darkness. The sign must be white with black lettering as agreed by the Director showing to the front and red with black lettering as agreed by the Director to the rear. The sign must at all times comply with any requirements of vehicle lighting regulations when illuminated.
- 23.2 Subparagraph 23.1 shall not apply to a vehicle complying with the Conditions of Fitness as prescribed by the Metropolitan Police or wheelchair accessible vehicle Any vehicle of this specification must display a sign bearing the word "taxi" on its front face at roof level. The word "taxi" must be plainly and distinctly visible from the front of the vehicle.

## **24. DRIVER IDENTITY BADGE.**

Two badges will be issued one of which will be displayed at all times in the top nearside of the front windscreen of the vehicle in a position so as to be seen by passengers. Vehicles with a partition may display this badge on the partition. The second badge is to be worn by the driver at all times when employed as a hackney carriage driver, in a clearly visible manner to passengers.

## **25. CRIMINAL CAUTIONS/CONVICTIONS.**

The proprietor must immediately, and in any case within 3 days, disclose to the Council in writing the details of any criminal cautions or convictions Anti Social Behavior Orders, County Court Judgments, High Court Judgements and Fixed Penalty Notices imposed upon him or her,(or in the case of a company or partnership, on any of the

directors or partners), during the period of the hackney carriage vehicle licence.

## **26. MOTORING CONVICTIONS & FIXED PENALTY TICKETS**

The proprietor must immediately, and in any case within 3 days, disclose to the Council in writing the details of any motoring convictions or fixed penalty tickets imposed upon him or her or any of their drivers using their hackney carriage, during the period of the hackney carriage vehicle licence.

## **27. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**

The proprietor must inform the Council of any change of address in writing prior to the change, where possible, but not more than seven days after in any case.

## **28. COMPLIANCE.**

The responsibility for complying with these conditions, unless otherwise stated, shall be the proprietors and drivers jointly and severally.

Any vehicle currently licensed that does not meet the conditions at the time they come into force will be permitted to be re-licensed annually provided it passes the mechanical requirements, but any replacement vehicle will be required to meet all conditions as set out in this handbook.

## **29. WHEELCHAIR BOUND PASSENGERS- APPLICABLE ONLY TO VEHICLES WHICH COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS OF FITNESS AS PRESCRIBED BY THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995.**

29.1 A vehicle complying with the specifications required by the Act must be adapted or designed to carry at least one wheelchair bound passenger and meet type approval and be of such configuration without alteration.

29.1.1 there must be sufficient space between the front of the rear seat and any partition for an occupied wheelchair to turn.

29.1.2 there must be sufficient space for a wheelchair to travel facing forward or rearward.

29.1.3 there must be a separate means of securing the chair and the wheelchair occupant.

29.1.4 there must be serviceable wheelchair ramps carried in the vehicle.

29.2 A vehicle designed or adapted in accordance with subparagraph 29.1 may carry a maximum of two signs indicating that it is capable of carrying wheelchair bound passengers.

29.3 Any swivel seat fitted must meet the requirements of the above Act.

## **30. SEEING AND HEARING (GUIDE) DOGS.**

No driver may refuse to carry a seeing, hearing or assistance (guide) dog that is in the charge of a fare paying passenger, and no charge shall be made for the carriage of such a



dog whilst in the company of a disabled person or any person training such a dog. Any driver with a medical reason for not complying with this condition must obtain a medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner to exempt him/her from this condition, any payment for such certificate to be paid by the applicant. The Council will then issue an exemption certificate to be displayed in the vehicle whilst that person is driving that vehicle.

### **31. TOWING OF TRAILERS.**

No licensed vehicle may tow any trailer unless evidence of valid insurance to cover such use for plying for hire has been produced to an authorised Officer.

The vehicle licence plate giving the licence number must be clearly displayed on the rear of any trailer used, this sign being in addition to that on the rear of the vehicle. The contents of such trailer must be secured and covered in a proper and watertight manner.

Any trailer used must comply with regulations in all respects and where required the driver must hold the appropriate towing licence as issued by the D.V.L.A.

The vehicle with a trailer attached may not ply for hire or stand for hire on a taxi rank.

### **32. DUAL PLATING.**

No vehicle will be granted a licence if it is licensed in another district or Council due to the problems of meeting the variance in conditions applied in different districts and Councils and the enforcement of those conditions in cases of non-compliance, (i.e. signs, meters, suspensions or revocation).

### **33. MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN.**

If any vehicle becomes unfit to complete a hiring during a hiring;

33.1 The driver shall be entitled to demand the fare for the distance already traveled as shown on the meter.

33.2 The driver shall secure alternative transport without delay to complete the journey if the hirer so wishes. If the original vehicle is repaired and completes the hiring the driver shall be entitled to the full fare with the exception of any time that the hirer waited for the repair to be executed.

### **34. ACCIDENTS**

Any accident to the vehicle causing damage materially affecting the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle should be reported to the council as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case within 72 hours.

### **35. TRANSFER OF INTEREST**

If the proprietor transfers his/her interest in the vehicle to someone else he/she must,

within seven days, give written notice to the Council of the transfer and the name and address of the transferee.

### **36. DEPOSIT OF DRIVER LICENCES**

If the proprietor of the vehicle allows somebody other than him/herself to drive the vehicle, s/he shall before allowing that person to commence driving the vehicle ensure that the driver deposits his/her hackney carriage drivers licence with the proprietor for retention by him/her until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle or any vehicle of his/hers. Provided that any licence so deposited shall be made immediately available to the driver upon request if she/he is required to produce the licence by any authorised officer of the Council or any constable. Where a driver works for two or more owners arrangements should be made for duplicate licences to be issued.

### **37. RECORD OF LICENCES**

The proprietor of the vehicle shall supply the operator of the vehicle, where applicable, such details relating to the vehicle licence, insurance and MOT / Certificate of Compliance as are required by the operator.

### **38. TAXIMETERS**

All taximeters fitted to Brighton & Hove licensed hackney carriages shall be EEC or Public Carriage Office type approved and capable of being calendar controlled. If a taxi meter fitted to the vehicle is repaired, adjusted or for any reason the seal is broken, or if any change is made to the type of tyre fitted to the vehicle or alterations made to the vehicles transmission gearing ratio the proprietor shall not cause or permit the vehicle to be used for hire until the taximeter has been satisfactorily tested and sealed by an authorised officer of the Council.

### **39. TABLE OF FARES**

There shall be displayed within the vehicle in a position so as to be clearly visible to any passenger a current table of fares supplied by the Council. The driver shall if requested by the hirer of the vehicle provide him/her with a written receipt for the fare paid.

### **40. CCTV AND SAFETY SCREENS**

CCTV equipment may be installed in the licensed vehicle subject to the following conditions :

- 40.1 approval in writing must be obtained from the Council before CCTV equipment is installed and used in the vehicle.
- 40.2 the CCTV equipment shall be of a type approved by the Director.
- 40.3 the equipment shall be installed and operated and maintained in a manner to the

satisfaction of the Director.

- 40.4 any material recorded on the equipment shall only be used as evidence in court proceedings or to aid the investigation of crime or to confirm or rebut complaints made against the driver
- 40.5 no tape recording or other material created by the system shall be used or distributed for any purpose other than allowed by (40.4) above or kept more than 14 days if not required under 40.4) above.
- 40.6 access to any recorded material shall be limited to the police, any authorised officer of the Council and the vehicle operator and access to any material otherwise recorded must be available upon demand to the police, or any authorised officer of the Council and the vehicle operator
- 40.7 notices indicating that a video / recording system is in operation in the vehicle will be clearly displayed on the passenger windows visible from the outside and in the interior of the vehicle.

**A Safety Screen fitted between the driver and passengers,** may be installed in the licensed vehicle subject to the following :

- 40.8 approval in writing must be obtained from the Council before a safety screen is fitted into the licensed vehicle
- 40.9 for any safety screen installed in the licensed vehicle the Director must approve (a) the type of screen (b) the manner in which it is installed into the vehicle and (c) the person who installs it.
- 40.10 the vehicle proprietor must produce vehicle insurance for the vehicle which includes an indemnity covering liability for any injury caused by the presence of the screen.

#### **41. COMPLAINTS.**

Any vehicle against which a complaint is laid must be presented to an authorised officer within one working day of being so requested for inspection, testing and for the driver to answer such complaint.

#### **42. INSPECTION.**

The vehicle may be called in for inspection at anytime by an authorised officer to ensure compliance failure to attend and show any documentation as requested may lead to suspension or revocation of licence.

#### **43. RANKS.**

The number of vehicles stationed at any rank must not exceed the number for which the rank is appointed at any time.

#### **44. VEHICLE CHECKS.**

Any vehicle which is suspected of any infringement of legislation, bye laws or conditions

may be inspected by an authorised officer at any time to ensure its fitness to be used as a hackney carriage in the interest of public safety.

#### **45. APPEALS**

- 45.1 Licence holders may appeal against all or any of these conditions attached to a licence granted.
- 45.2 Applicants may appeal against the refusal to grant a licence.
- 45.3 Any appeal must be made within 21 days of the grant or refusal of a licence.
- 45.4 Appeals must be made to the Magistrates Court - you should contact the Clerk to the Justices, The Law Courts, Edward Street, Brighton. Before appealing it is advisable to seek independent aid/or legal advice.

**SECTION I.**  
**PART C.**

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE BYE LAWS** Made under section 68 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, and section 171 of the Public Health Act 1875, by the Brighton & Hove Council with respect to hackney carriages in the Brighton & Hove Council area.

**INTERPRETATION**

1. Throughout these byelaws "the Council" means the Brighton & Hove City Council and "the district" means the area of the City of Brighton & Hove.

**PROVISIONS REGULATING THE MANNER IN WHICH THE NUMBER OF EACH HACKNEY CARRIAGE CORRESPONDING WITH THE NUMBER OF ITS LICENCE, SHALL BE DISPLAYED.**

2. (a) The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause the number of the licence granted to him in respect of the carriage to be legibly painted or marked on the outside and inside of the carriage, or on plates affixed thereto.
- (b) A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall:
  - (i) not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer any such number to be concealed from public view while the carriage is standing or plying for hire;
  - (ii) not cause or permit the carriage to stand or ply for hire with any such painting, marking or plate so defaced that any figure or material particular is illegible.

**PROVISIONS REGULATING HOW HACKNEY CARRIAGES ARE TO BE FURNISHED OR PROVIDED.**

3. The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall:
  - (a) provide sufficient means by which any person in the carriage may communicate with the driver;
  - (b) cause the roof or covering to be kept watertight;
  - (c) provide any necessary windows and a means of opening and closing not less than one window on each side;
  - (d) cause the seats to be properly cushioned or covered;
  - (e) cause the floor to be provided with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable covering;
  - (f) cause the fittings and furniture generally to be kept in a clean condition, well maintained and in every way fit for public service;
  - (g) provide means for securing luggage if the carriage is so constructed as to carry luggage;
  - (h) provide an efficient fire extinguisher which shall be carried in such a position as to be readily available for use; and
  - (i) provide at least two doors for the use of persons conveyed in such carriage and a separate means of ingress and egress for the driver.
4. The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause the same to be provided with a taximeter so constructed, attached and maintained as to comply with the following requirements, that is to say:
  - (a) the taximeter shall be fitted with a key, flag or other device the turning of

which will bring the machinery of the taximeter into action and cause the word "HIRED" to appear on the face of the taximeter;

(b) such key, flag or other device shall be capable of being locked in such a position that the machinery of the taximeter is not in action and that no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter;

(c) when the machinery of the taximeter is in action there shall be recorded on the face of the taximeter in clearly legible figures a fare not exceeding the rate or fare which the proprietor or driver is entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage by time as well as for distance in pursuance of the tariff fixed by the Council;

(d) the word "FARE" shall be printed on the face of the taximeter in plain letters so as clearly to apply to the fare recorded thereon;

(e) the taximeter shall be so placed that all letters and figures on the face thereof are at all times plainly visible to any person being conveyed in the carriage, and for that purpose the letters and figures shall be capable of being suitably illuminated during any period of hiring; and

(f) the taximeter and all the fittings thereof shall be so affixed to the carriage with seals or other appliances that it shall not be practicable for any person to tamper with them except by breaking, damaging or permanently displacing the seals or other appliances.

**PROVISIONS REGULATING THE CONDUCT OF THE PROPRIETORS AND THEIR DRIVERS OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES PLYING WITHIN THE DISTRICT IN THEIR SEVERAL EMPLOYMENTS AND DETERMINING WHETHER SUCH DRIVERS SHALL WEAR ANY AND WHAT BADGES.**

5. The driver of a hackney carriage provided with a taximeter shall:

(a) when standing or plying for hire, keep the key, flag or other device fitted in pursuance of the byelaw in that behalf locked in the position in which no fare is recorded on the face of the taximeter;

(b) before beginning a journey for which a fare is charged for distance and time, bring the machinery of the taximeter into action by moving the said key, flag or other device, so that the word "HIRED" is legible on the face of the taximeter and keep the machinery of the taximeter in action until the termination of the hiring; and

(c) cause the dial of the taximeter to be kept properly illuminated throughout any part of a hiring which is between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise, and also at any other time at the request of the hirer.

6. A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not tamper with or permit any person to tamper with any taximeter with which the carriage is provided, with the fittings thereof, or the seals affixed thereto.

7. The driver of a hackney carriage shall, when plying for hire in any street and not actually hired:

(a) proceed with reasonable speed to one of the stands appointed by the Council which that hackney carriage is permitted to use;

(b) if a stand, at the time of his arrival, is occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, proceed to another stand which that hackney carriage is permitted to use;

(c) on arriving at a stand not already occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, station the carriage immediately behind the carriage or carriages on the stand and so as to face in the same direction; and

- (d) from time to time when any other carriage immediately in front is driven off or moved forward cause his carriage to be moved forward so as to fill the place previously occupied by the carriage driven off or moved forward.
8. A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage, when standing or plying for hire, shall not make use of the services of any other person for the purpose of importuning any person to hire such carriage.
  9. The driver of a hackney carriage shall behave in a civil and orderly manner and shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of persons conveyed in or entering or alighting from the vehicle.
  10. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage who has agreed or has been hired to be in attendance with the carriage at an appointed time and place shall, unless delayed or prevented by some sufficient cause, punctually attend with such carriage at -such appointed time and place.
  11. A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in such carriage any greater number of persons than the number of persons specified on the plate affixed to the outside of the carriage.
  12. If a badge has been provided by the Council and delivered to the driver of a hackney carriage, he shall, when standing or plying for hire, and when hired, wear that badge in such position and manner as to be plainly visible.
  13. The driver of a hackney carriage so constructed as to carry luggage shall, when requested by any person hiring or seeking to hire the carriage:
    - (a) convey a reasonable quantity of luggage;
    - (b) afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading; and
    - (c) afford reasonable assistance in removing it to or from the entrance of any building, station, or place at which he may take up or set down such person.

**PROVISIONS FIXING THE RATES OR FARES TO BE PAID FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT AND SECURING THE DUE PUBLICATION OF SUCH FARES.**

14. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall be entitled to demand and take for the hire of the carriage the rate or fare prescribed by the Council, the rate or fare being calculated by distance and time unless the hirer expresses at the commencement of the hiring his desire to pay by time.

Provided always that where a hackney carriage furnished with a taximeter shall be hired by distance and time the proprietor or driver thereof shall not be entitled to demand and take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter save for any extra charges authorised by the Council which it may not be possible to record on the face of the taximeter.

15. (a) The proprietor of a hackney carriage shall cause a statement of the fares fixed by the Council to be exhibited inside the carriage in clearly distinguishable letters and figures.
- (b) The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage bearing a statement of fares in accordance with this byelaw shall not wilfully or negligently cause or suffer the letters or figures in the statement to be concealed or rendered illegible at any time while the carriage is plying or being used for hire.

**PROVISIONS SECURING THE SAFE CUSTODY AND RE-DELIVERY OF ANY PROPERTY ACCIDENTALLY LEFT IN HACKNEY CARRIAGES, AND FIXING THE CHARGES TO BE MADE IN RESPECT THEREOF.**

16. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall immediately after the termination of any hiring or as soon as practicable thereafter carefully search the carriage for any property which may have been accidentally left therein.

17. The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall, if any property accidentally left therein by any person who may have been conveyed in the carriage be found by or handed to him:
- (a) carry it as soon as possible and in any event within 48 hours, if not sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner, to a police station in the district and leave it in the custody of the officer in charge of the office on his giving a receipt for it; and
  - (b) be entitled to receive from any person to whom the property shall be re-delivered an amount equal to five pence in the pound if its estimated value (or the fare for the distance from the place of finding to the police station, whichever be the greater) but not more than five pounds.

## **PENALTIES**

18. Every person who shall offend against any of these byelaws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine not exceeding two pounds for each day during which the offence continues after conviction therefore.



**SECTION I.**  
**PART D.**  
**PROCEDURE FOR THE LICENSING OF A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE**  
**INITIAL INSPECTION**

**46.**

The vehicle shall normally be presented to the authorised officer for inspection to ensure compliance with the following conditions;

Suitability.

- 46.1 In the case of a first application for a vehicle licence it must be under 5 years since date of first registration, not more than 10 years in the case of any subsequent application for renewal of licence, and not be a left-hand drive vehicle.
- 46.2 The age of the vehicle to be taken from the vehicle registration document.
- 46.3 The maximum age limit may only be exceeded if the vehicle is in exceptional condition, as confirmed by the inspecting garage. The vehicle must be any single manufactures colour other than white. White to be decided by the Director.
- 46.4 In the case of a normal saloon type vehicles they must be fitted with four road wheels and at least four doors. The type of vehicle to be decided by the Director.
- 46.5 In the case of an estate / hatchback type vehicle the hatch will not be considered or counted as a door for means of entry or egress
- 46.6 In no circumstances will any vehicle be licensed which would require any passenger to move or tip any seat to enter or egress from any seat they may occupy or that would require them to climb over any seats or luggage in the vehicle.
- 46.7 In the case of minibus or conversions there must be a minimum of two rear side doors, one opening to the near side, to the passenger compartment and any luggage which occupies that compartment must be separated from the passengers in a safe manner and not obstruct any passageway or exit door. All passenger seats must face forward or rearwards in relation to direction of travel.
- 46.8 In the case of conversions all external fittings such as roof pods that could lead the vehicle to be mistaken as a hackney carriage must be removed.
- 46.9 Vehicles must be of a sufficient size to comfortably accommodate the number of passengers the vehicle will be licensed to carry (the minimum number being 4) and have rear seat width with not less than 138cm being clear of any obstruction such as handles or arm rests.
- 46.10 The seating configuration should be that ingress and egress should

- not be restricted by other seats i.e. that it should not be necessary to move or tip a seat to get into and or out of the vehicle.
- 46.11 An audio warning for vehicles with sliding doors shall be operational when the ignition is turned on when the sliding doors are open.
  - 46.12 Extra door handles shall be fitted in a position above the steps at the rear side entrances to the vehicle to assist passengers getting into and out of people carrier type vehicles.
  - 46.13 Suitable additional step(s) as agreed by the Director shall be fitted at the rear side entrances of people carrier type vehicles
  - 46.14 In the case of vehicles which make provision for the carriage of passengers whilst still occupying a wheelchair there must be separate means of securing the wheelchair and passenger and serviceable ramps to assist loading and unloading.
  - 46.15 The vehicle must not be of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that it is a hackney carriage.
  - 46.16 Luggage space must reasonable and sufficient for the maximum number of passengers permitted on the licence and be physically separated from the passenger seating.
  - 46.17 Any spare wheel must normally be of the same type as the road wheels. Space saver types are only acceptable if provided with the vehicle at time of manufacture. Due to limits on speed and distance imposed by the manufacturers on space saver tyres passengers must not be carried when in use.
  - 46.18 Other than new vehicles with LPG capacity, L P G conversions must have been carried out by a garage approved by the Government for such conversions and a certificate confirming this produced. Sufficient luggage space should still be available following the conversion.

#### **47. STANDARDS, MAINTENANCE AND APPEARANCE OF VEHICLE.**

- 47.1 The vehicle and its fittings must be at all times when it is available for hire or being used as a private hire;
  - 47.1.1 be safe.
  - 47.1.2 be tidy.
  - 47.1.3 be clean.
  - 47.1.4 comply with all relevant statutory requirements application to the class of vehicle to which the vehicle belongs including but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the Motor Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.
- 47.2 The vehicle must be, and shall be maintained throughout the term of the private hire vehicle licence, to a high standard of appearance to the complete satisfaction of the Council.
- 47.3 The vehicle must be kept in good condition to include the following;

- 47.3.1 RUST. Any vehicle presented should be free from any significant areas of visible rusting. Although minor blemishes should not constitute a failure, the following general criteria should be followed; Any vehicle with more than three visible rust patches of more than 20 sq.cms each should be failed.
- 47.3.2 DENTS. Any vehicle with minor dents on three or more panels where such dents are more than 5cms in diameter/length, should be failed.
- 47.3.3 SCRATCHES. any vehicle with un-repaired scratches down to bare metal on three or more panels, of 5cms in length, or a single scratch of more than 20cms in length, should be failed.
- 47.3.4 PAINT WORK. All panels on a saloon vehicle shall be painted in a manufacturers standard colour which may not be white or of a colour which may appear to be white under street lighting; panels with unmatched colours or primer should be deemed to be failures.
- 47.3.5 SEATS. In conventional saloon vehicle where it is intended that the licence be for four passengers, the rear seat must be at least 138cms in width. All seats in any vehicle must have a minimum of 46cms per person and in respect of seating comply with the Road Vehicle (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1971. All seats including the driver's must be free from cuts, tears or cigarette burns except of a very minor nature. Any repairs must have been carried out in a professional and neat manner. Swivel seats must meet the Disability Act standards. Front passenger seat must provide a head rest.
- 47.3.6 CARPETS / FLOOR COVERING. All carpets and floor coverings shall be complete and free from cuts, tears or serious staining.
- 47.3.7 HEADLINING and OTHER TRIM. All interior trim including headlining shall be clean, complete, properly fitted and free from serious cuts, tears or major soiling.
- 47.3.8 WINDOW OPERATION. All passengers, excepting those occupying a middle seat, must be able to open adjacent window without difficulty.
- 47.3.9 BOOT / LUGGAGE COMPARTMENT. This should be empty, except for spare wheel, essential tools and first aid kit. The compartment should be clean and any covering free from major cuts, tears or other damage or staining.
- 47.3.10 INTERIOR. The interior must be kept clean, tidy and free of any litter or other rubbish.
- 47.3.11 DARKENED/TINTED WINDOWS except light tints and sun strips are not acceptable in the interest of public safety. In no circumstances should the tint exceed a light restriction of 25% for windscreens and 30% for all other windows.
- 47.3.12 The inspecting garage will advise if in their opinion the vehicle is suitable to be licensed. Any disputes in interpretation of the

above will be at the discretion of the Director of Environment.  
47.3.13 Nets will be provided for luggage not separated from the passengers.

#### **48. INSPECTION OF VEHICLE.**

- 48.1 The vehicle may not be available for hire or be used as a private hire vehicle unless there is a current mechanical inspection certificate in force in respect of that type or class of vehicle.
- 48.2 The vehicle must be mechanically inspected by the Councils nominated testing centre prior to a licence being issued. For nominated garages see section 2 of this handbook.
- 48.3 The vehicle must be inspected and a mechanical inspection certificate issued within one month prior to application for a vehicle licence or for the re-licensing of a vehicle.
- 48.4 Sub- paragraph 48.2 and 48.3 will not apply in the case of a new vehicle with delivery mileage on the milometer from the date of first registration as verified by the vehicle registration document.

#### **49. FINAL INSPECTION PRIOR TO LICENSING.**

The following will be checked by an Authorised Officer prior to Licensing;

- 49.1 The Mechanical Inspection (Certificate of Fitness).
- 49.2 Insurance cover for the use to which the vehicle will be put to include towing and wheelchairs if necessary and other vehicle documents as listed on the application form.
- 49.3 That the vehicle has a Council approved valid fire extinguisher, and that all windows are clear of stickers with approved exceptions. That the vehicle is displaying a current road fund licence (tax disc).
- 49.4 If fitted a calendar control meter fitted in a position as to be seen by all passengers, sealed and with the correct tariff
- 49.5 Certificate of Compliance for all vehicles. New vehicles with only delivery mileage on milometer are exempt.
- 49.6 Door signs and numbers if required.
- 49.7 Vehicle registration document or proof of ownership i.e. bill of sale.

#### **50. ISSUING A LICENCE.**

If all of the above items and all conditions are met and are satisfactory then the licence will be issued together with other appropriate material after the licence fee and plate deposit have been paid.

#### **51. RE-LICENSING.**

- 51.1 All licenses issued run from one year from the date of issue.
- 51.2 All vehicles presented for grant of a new licence must have a certificate of

- mechanical inspection dated within one month prior to application.
- 51.3 Any late applications may result in the vehicle not being licensed for the commencement of the following licensing period.
  - 51.4 The vehicle will be re-inspected in accordance with section 2 above
  - 51.5 A licence will only be granted if all documents, information and the payment required are complete. Any incomplete application will be returned to the applicant.
  - 51.6 The Councils nominated testing garage will endeavour to test all vehicles within 15 working days of application to them for testing.
  - 51.7 If a vehicle fails the test and in the opinion of the examiner would fail to meet the standards required by the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, then the plate may be removed by the testing centre or any authorised officer until such time as the vehicle passes the test, and until such time as the plate is returned, the vehicle may not be used for hire and reward
  - 51.8 Any vehicle called for inspection which fails to attend may have its licence suspended immediately and subsequently the licence may be revoked.
  - 51.9 Any vehicle failing to keep an appointment for testing will incur a fee payable to the nominated garage

## **52. VEHICLE DAMAGE OR ACCIDENT INVOLVING A LICENSED VEHICLE**

- 52.1 The proprietor of any private hire vehicle must report to the Authorised Officer as soon as reasonable practicable, and in any case within seventy two hours, the occurrence of any accident involving the private hire vehicle.
- 52.2 The vehicle will be inspected by the Authorised Officer and a decision made as to whether or not the vehicle is in such condition to continue in service.
- 52.3 If any damage to the vehicle is such that the Authorised Officer considers it still to be a fit condition to continue in service until such time as a permanent repair is undertaken these must be undertaken within a maximum of 28 days of the damage occurring.
- 52.4 If any damage is considered by the Authorised Officer to be extensive enough to affect the safety or general appearance of the vehicle it must be immediately withdrawn from service and the plate removed. The vehicle must be repaired before the plate is re-affixed and the vehicle returned to service.
- 52.5 In the case of any dispute as to section 52.4 above, the vehicle will be taken to the Councils nominated testing garage (See Section 2) where a qualified mechanic will give a binding decision which shall be final, the appropriate fee for such examination will be paid for by the proprietor.

### **53. REPLACEMENT VEHICLES.**

Any replacement vehicle must comply with sections 51.1-51.9 above. A completed application form must be submitted with any other necessary documents and fee paid prior to any replacement vehicle being used as a private hire vehicle

### **54. OPERATOR.**

The vehicle used must be covered by an Operator's Licence issued by the Council.

### **55. CHANGE OF VEHICLE OWNER.**

If a proprietor transfers his interest in a vehicle to somebody else he must immediately or in any event within 7 days give notice of the transfer in writing to an Authorised Officer, giving the name and address of the transferee. In no circumstances may the vehicle be used as a licensed vehicle by the new owner until the licence has been transferred to that person and all documentation completed and any necessary fees paid.

### **56. EXCEPTION FROM DISPLAY OF PLATE.**

There are exceptions if a vehicle is used for a wedding ceremony or funeral. Application must be made in writing and a certificate of exception granted before the plate may be removed from the rear of the vehicle and it will then be displayed inside the vehicle to the side of the drivers seat in such a manner so as to be clearly seen when the drivers door is open. All other signs may in these circumstances be removed and the drivers badge must be carried in the vehicle and produced on demand

### **57. CONDITIONS.**

The Council has power to attach conditions to private hire licenses. The standard conditions are as set out in this handbook. The vehicle must comply with these conditions before it is submitted for its test. If doubt exists about the application of any of these conditions the Authorised Officer should be contacted.

It is an offence to ply for hire or to stand on a hackney carriage rank with a private hire vehicle or to permit others to do so or tout for business.

The Council has the power to suspend or revoke a licence if the vehicle is unfit or for offences or non-compliance with the 1976 Act by operator or driver, or any other reasonable cause. In the case of revocation the plate must be returned.

**SECTION I.**

**PART E.**

**PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS MADE UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976.**

**58.** In these conditions;

58.1 “The Council” means ‘Brighton & Hove City Council.’

58.2 “the Director” means the Director of Environment, for the time being of the Council.

**INTERPRETATION.**

58.3

58.3.1 “Authorised Officer” means the Licensing Officer or Assistant Licensing Officer for the time being of the Council.

58.3.2 “the vehicle” means the vehicle subject of the private hire vehicle licence to which the conditions are attached.

58.3.3 “the proprietor” means the person for the time being shown on the private hire vehicle licence as the proprietor of the vehicle.

58.3.4 “the driver” means the driver for the time being of the vehicle.

58.3.5 “mechanical inspection” means the certificate issued by the Councils nominated garage certifying that the vehicle is mechanically sound and fit for use as a licensed vehicle.

58.3.6 “nominated garage” means for the time being the garage approved by the Council for the purpose of undertaking mechanical inspections.

58.4 Any obligation in these conditions not to do any act or thing shall be deemed to include an obligation not to cause or permit that act or thing to be done.

58.5 Any reference to any statute or subordinate legislation shall be deemed to include a reference to any amendment or re-enactment.

**59. PASSENGERS**

The proprietor or the driver of the vehicle shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in the vehicle more than the maximum number of people (irrespective of age) specified in the licence

**60. AGE OF VEHICLE.**

60.1 In the case of a first application for a vehicle licence for that vehicle to be under 5 years since date of first registration and not more than 10 years in the case of any subsequent application for renewal of licence.

60.2 The age of the vehicle is to be taken from the vehicle registration document.

60.3 The maximum age limit described in section 60.2 above, may only be

- exceeded if the vehicle presented is in exceptional condition as confirmed by the inspecting garage.
- 60.4 A vehicle shall be taken as re-licensed, (renewal of licence), only if there was in force in respect of the vehicle a current private hire vehicle licence previously issued by the Council immediately prior to its being re-licensed, there may not be a lapse period between licenses.
- 60.5 Any vehicle with a “Q” plate registration will not be licensed if in excess of 5 years old from date of manufacture. Where the age of a “Q” registered vehicle is not identifiable the age will be calculated as three years old at the date of “Q” registration in line with the policy of the D.V.L.A. and taken from the registration document.

## **61. MAINTENANCE AND APPEARANCE OF VEHICLE.**

- 61.1 The vehicle and its fittings must at all times when it is available for hire or being used as a private hire vehicle;
- 61.1.1 be safe.
  - 61.1.2 be tidy.
  - 61.1.3 be clean.
  - 61.1.4 comply with all relevant statutory requirements applicable to the class of vehicle to which the vehicle belongs including but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing the Motor Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.
- 61.2 The vehicle must be, and shall be maintained throughout the term of the private hire vehicle licence, to a high standard of appearance to the complete satisfaction of the Council.
- 61.3 The vehicle must be of any single manufacturers colour other than white.(Interpretation of ' white' to be decided by the Director.)
- 61.4 Permitted door signs must be permanently fixed centrally on each front door of the vehicle as determined by the council. They should be 30cms by 46cms in size with white lettering, containing only the words “PRIVATE HIRE” and “PRIOR BOOKING ONLY” and a single telephone number for the operator of the vehicle. The rear passenger doors will have signs showing the vehicle plate number. The signs to be supplied by the Council at no extra cost to the licence holder. If door signs are displayed a roof sign must also be displayed showing the single telephone number for the operator of the vehicle on the front and back of the roof sign.
- 61.5 The vehicle must be kept in exceptional condition to include the following;
- 61.5.1 RUST. Any vehicle presented should be free from any significant areas of visible rusting. Although minor blemishes should not constitute a failure, the following general criteria should be followed; Any vehicle with more than three visible rust patches of more than 20 sq.cms should be failed.
  - 61.5.2 DENTS. Any vehicle with minor dents on three or more panels



where such dents are more than 5cms in diameter / length or a single dent of more than 20cms in diameter / length should be failed.

- 61.5.3 SCRATCHES. Any vehicle with un-repaired scratches down to bare metal on three or more panels of 5cms in length, or a single scratch of more than 20cms in length, should be failed.
- 61.5.4 PAINT WORK. All panels shall be painted in other than white or any colour which may appear to be white panels with unmatched colours or in primer should be deemed a failure.
- 61.5.5 SEATS. In conventional saloon vehicles where it is intended that the licence be for four passengers, the rear seat must be at least 138cms in width. All seats have a minimum of 46cms per passenger and in respect of seating comply with the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1971. All seats, including the drivers, must be free from repaired cuts, tears or cigarette burns, except of a very minor nature. Any repairs must have been carried out in a professional and neat manner.
- 61.5.6 CARPETS / FLOOR COVERING. All carpets and floor covering shall be complete and free from cuts, tears or serious staining.
- 61.5.7 HEADLINING and OTHER TRIM. All interior trim, including headlining, shall be clean, complete, properly fitted and free from serious cuts, tears or major soiling.
- 61.5.8 WINDOW OPERATION. All passengers, excepting those occupying a middle seat, must be able to open adjacent windows without difficulty.
- 61.5.9 BOOT / LUGGAGE COMPARTMENT. This should be empty, except for spare wheel, essential tools and first aid kit. The compartment should be clean and any covering free from major cuts, tears or other damage or staining.
- 61.5.10 INTERIOR. The interior must be kept clean, tidy and free of any litter or other rubbish
- 61.5.11 DARKENED/TINTED WINDOWS except light tints and sun strips are not acceptable in the interest of public safety. In no circumstances should the tint exceed a light restriction of 25% for windscreens and 30% for all other windows.

## **62. INSPECTION OF VEHICLE.**

- 62.1 The vehicle may not be available for hire or be used as a private hire vehicle unless there is a current mechanical inspection certificate in force in respect of that type or class of vehicle.
- 62.2 The vehicle must be mechanically inspected by the Councils nominated testing garage prior to a licence being granted (For list of nominated testing garages see Section 2.)
- 62.3 The vehicle must be inspected and a mechanical inspection certificate

issued within one month of application for the vehicle licence or for the re-licensing of a vehicle.

- 62.4 Sub - paragraphs 62.2 and 62.3 will not apply in the case of a new vehicle with only delivery mileage on the odometer.
- 62.5 The vehicle may be called for inspection at anytime by the Authorised Officer to ensure compliance. Failure to attend and show any documentation requested may lead to suspension or revocation of licence.

### **63. ALTERATION OF THE VEHICLE.**

No alterations in the original type specification, design or appearance of the vehicle shall be made without the approval in writing under the hand of the Director.

### **64. DOCUMENTS.**

There must be carried in the vehicle when it is available for hire or used as a private hire vehicle;

- 64.1 A copy of the insurance certificate or current insurance cover note.
- 64.2 A copy of the current tariff as advertised by the operator clearly displayed within the vehicle where it may be seen by any passenger carried in cases where a meter is fitted.
- 64.3 A sign giving the licence number of the vehicle and giving the maximum number of passengers to be carried will be displayed where it may be clearly seen by any passenger carried such notice to be issued by the Council.
- 64.4 A current vehicle excise disc correctly displayed in the windscreen.

### **65. SIGNS.**

- 65.1 No signs notices, advertisements, plates, marks, letters, figures, symbols, emblems or devices whatsoever (collectively referred to as "signs"), other than those mentioned in paragraph 65.2 and 65.8 below shall be displayed on in or from the vehicle.
- 65.2 Signs permitted are;
  - 65.2.1 any registration numbers.
  - 65.2.2 any sign required by statute or subordinate legislation.
  - 65.2.3 any sign on a taximeter indicating the vehicle has been hired.
  - 65.2.4 the licence plate giving the licence number and the maximum number of passengers to be carried on the outside rear of the vehicle displayed to the rear side at bumper height. (This is in addition to the sign required in 64.3 above inside the vehicle.
  - 65.2.5 the roof sign referred to in paragraph 67 below. If required vinyl door signs as provided by the Council to be fitted direct to the vehicle front doors indicating that the vehicle is only available for hire by prior booking and showing one telephone number of the

operator. If front signs used, rear door vinyl signs as provided by the Council showing the vehicle plate number to be fixed by the door handles.

- 65.2.6 any sign indicating membership of a national motoring organisation.
- 65.2.7 any sign requesting passengers not to smoke in the vehicle.
- 65.2.8 the tariff and licence number as in 64.2 and 64.3 above.
- 65.2.9 any sign approved by the Council to indicate that the payment of fares may be made by credit cards shall be displayed on the front windscreen of the vehicle.
- 65.2.10 any sign provided by 'Brighton & Hove City Council' to show that the vehicle is used for school contracts shall be displayed in the windscreen in such a manner so as not to obstruct the drivers vision, and may only be displayed when actually employed in the performance of such contract work with pupils being carried.
- 65.2.11 any sign approved by the council to indicate that a security camera system is operated within the vehicle.
- 65.2.12 any other sign on or in the vehicle must be approved by the Authorised Officer.
- 65.3 any sign permitted must be positioned so as not to impede visibility and in any event no sign shall be positioned on the rear window of the vehicle, nor any hanging obstruction be placed in any part of the vehicle.
- 65.4. No sign may include in the lettering any word whether in the singular or the plural the words "taxi", "cab" or "hire" or any word of similar meaning or appearance to any of those words whether alone or as part of another word.
- 65.5 all badges, plates or signs provided by the Council remain the property of the Council at all times.
- 65.6 only licensed vehicles shall be permitted to carry advertising in relation to Hackney carriage or Private Hire operators.
- 65.7 No vehicle may be double plated (i.e. be licensed in two districts), due to the variance in conditions, signs required and matters relating to suspension and revocation
- 65.8 Livery as permitted by Brighton & Hove Council.

## **66. LICENCE PLATE.**

The Council must be informed immediately should the licence plate showing the number of the private hire vehicle be broken, lost or defaced. On no account must a private hire vehicle be used for hire without a plate unless written application has been made for, and an exemption certificate been granted. An exemption certificate will only be granted if the application meets the requirements of section 75 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

#### **67. ROOF SIGNS.**

An approved roof sign may be displayed on a private hire vehicle provided that it does not exceed 28cms by 10cms by 10cms, being white to the front and red to the rear, if such a sign is used it must at all times in black numbering display the telephone number of the company operator to the front and to the rear. Such signs must be gutter or magnetically mounted to the near side of the vehicle above the front passenger door and may be illuminated. The sign must at all times comply with any requirement of vehicle lighting regulations if and when illuminated.

#### **68. DRIVERS IDENTITY BADGE.**

Two badges will be issued one of which will be displayed at all times in the vehicle on the dashboard in a position so to be clearly seen by passengers at all times, the second badge is to be worn by the licensed driver at all times when employed as a private hire driver and be clearly visible to passengers. The photographs to be colour passport size provided by the applicant, any replacement badges will require a further photograph to be provided by the applicant.

#### **69. CRIMINAL CAUTIONS/CONVICTIONS.**

The proprietor must immediately, and in any case within 3 days, disclose to the Council in writing the details of any criminal cautions or convictions Anti Social Behavior Orders, County Court Judgments and Fixed Penalty Notices imposed upon him or her,(or in the case of a company or partnership, on any of the directors or partners), during the period of the hackney carriage vehicle licence.

#### **70. MOTORING CONVICTIONS AND FIXED PENALTY TICKETS**

The proprietor must immediately, and in any case within 3 days disclose to the Council in writing the details of any motoring convictions or fixed penalty tickets imposed upon him or any of his/her drivers.(or in the case of a company or partnership, of any directors or partners, during the period of the licence.

#### **71. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**

The proprietor must inform the Council of any change of address in writing before the change, where possible, but not more than seven days after in any case of such a change

#### **72. SEEING, HEARING AND ASSISTANCE (GUIDE) DOGS.**

No driver may refuse to carry a seeing, hearing or assistance (guide) dog which is in the charge of a fare paying passenger, and no charge shall be made for the carriage of such a dog whilst in the company of a disabled person or any person training such a dog. Any driver with a medical reason for not complying with this condition must obtain a medical certificate from a registered medical practitioner to exempt him from this

condition, any payment for such a certificate to be paid by the applicant. Drivers must comply with the Disability Discrimination Act at all times.

### **73. COMPLIANCE.**

The responsibility for complying with these conditions unless otherwise stated shall be the proprietor and drivers jointly and severally. Any complaint in writing of a vehicle will result in the vehicle being called for inspection by the Authorised Officer and the vehicle must be presented within one working day with all documents, from the time the owner is informed. Failure to comply with any condition or legislation may result in the issue of a notice under Section 68 of the Act. (Stop notice).

### **74. APPEALS.**

- 74.1 You may appeal against all or any of the conditions attached to a licence granted to you.
- 74.2 You may appeal against the refusal of a licence to you.
- 74.3 Any appeal must be made within 21 days of grant of licence or the refusal of such a licence.
- 74.4 Appeals must be made to the Magistrates Court - you should contact the Clerk to the Justices, The Law Courts, Edward Street Brighton.

### **75. INTERIM INSPECTION.**

A vehicle may be called for inspection, including documents, at anytime. If it fails to meet the required standards the licence may be suspended or revoked under Section 68 of the Act of 1976. (Vehicles which fail to comply with any condition or requirement of legislation may be suspended until such time as they comply, failure to comply within two months will result in automatic revocation of licence).

### **76. MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLE AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT.**

The proprietor of the vehicle shall;

- 76.1 provide sufficient means by which any person in the vehicle may communicate with the driver.
- 76.2 cause the roof or covering to be kept watertight.
- 76.3 provide adequate windows and the means of opening and closing them.
- 76.4 cause the seats to be properly cushioned and covered.
- 76.5 cause the floor to be provided with a proper carpet, mat or other suitable covering.
- 76.6 cause the fittings and furniture generally to be kept in a clean and well maintained condition.
- 76.7 provide means for securing luggage.
- 76.8 provide an efficient vaporising liquid or dry powder fire extinguisher which shall be carried in such a position as to be readily available at all times, and this should be to BS EN3: 1996 Standard.

- 76.9 A device to effectively prevent luggage and other goods placed in the rear of the vehicle from entering the front of the vehicle shall be available in estate cars and similar types of vehicle at all times when such a vehicle is in use as a private hire vehicle.
- 76.10 ensure that the vehicle and all its fittings and equipment are at all times when the vehicle is in use or available for hire are kept in an efficient, safe, tidy and clean condition and all relevant statutory requirements (including those contained in the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations) are fully complied with.
- 76.11 ensure that no material alteration or change in the specification, design condition or appearance of the vehicle are made without the written approval of the Council at any time whilst the licence is in force.
- 76.12 all vehicles with rear seat belt anchorage points must be fitted with rear seat belts.
- 76.13 no private hire vehicle may be white or appear to be white in colour.
- 76.14 if a vehicle is fitted with a meter it shall be maintained in working order at all times and must be inspected and sealed by the Authorised Officer prior to use.
- 76.15 At all times a tariff card will clearly be displayed where it may be seen by any passenger giving the tariff applied by the operator through whom the vehicle is operated.

## **77. MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN.**

If any vehicle becomes unfit to complete a journey during a hiring;

- 77.1 The driver shall be entitled to demand the fare for the distance already travelled.
- 77.2 The driver shall secure alternative transport without delay to complete the journey if the hirer so wishes. If the original vehicle is repaired and completes the hiring the driver is entitled to the full fare with the exception of any time that the hirer waited for the repair to be executed.

## **78. TOWING OF TRAILERS.**

No licensed vehicle may tow any trailer unless evidence of valid insurance to cover such use for hire and reward has been produced to the Authorised Officer. The vehicle licence plate giving the licence number must be clearly displayed on the rear of any trailer used, this sign being in addition to that on the rear of the vehicle. The contents of such trailer must be secured and covered in a proper manner so as to be water tight. Any trailer used must comply with regulations in all respects and where required the driver must hold the appropriate towing licence as issued by the D.S.A.

## **79. HACKNEY CARRIAGE RANKS.**

Private hire vehicles may not stop on or near an appointed hackney carriage rank at anytime.

## **80. PRIVATE HIRE RANKS.**

Any private hire vehicle, singularly or with others, which give the appearance that it is available for immediate hiring ,may commit an offence, no more than two vehicles may congregate in any one location giving the appearance that they are a rank and may be plying for hire, except at the office location of the operator for whom they work.

## **81. DUAL PLATING.**

No vehicle may be licensed in two districts due to problems in the variance of conditions applied and enforcement of such conditions in cases of non-compliance.

## **82. VEHICLE CHECKS.**

Any vehicle which is suspected of any infringement of any legislation or condition may be stopped by an Authorised Officer at anytime to ensure its fitness to be used as a private hire vehicle in the interest of public safety.

## **83. DEPOSIT OF LICENCE.**

Any vehicle proprietor who is employed by an operator to fulfil bookings made by the operator shall produce the original licence and deposit a copy of his vehicle licence with that operator during the period that the vehicle is employed by that operator. The operator shall return the licence to the vehicle proprietor at the end of the period. The deposit of licence will not be required of proprietors who hold their own operator licence.

## **84. CCTV AND SAFETY SCREENS**

CCTV equipment may be installed in the licensed vehicle subject to the following conditions:

- 84.1 Approval in writing must be obtained from the Council before CCTV equipment is installed and used in the vehicle.
- 84.2 The CCTV equipment shall be of a type approved by the Director.
- 84.3 The equipment shall be installed, operated and maintained in a manner to the satisfaction of the Director.
- 84.4 Any material recorded on the equipment shall only be used as evidence in court proceedings or to aid the investigation of crime or to confirm or rebut complaints against the driver
- 84.5 No tape recording or other material created by the system shall be used or

distributed for any purpose other than allowed by 84.4 above or kept for more than 14 days if not required under 84.4 above.

- 84.6. Access to any recorded material shall be limited to the police, any authorised officer of the Council and the vehicle operator. Access to any material otherwise recorded must be made available upon demand to the police any authorised officer of the Council and the vehicle operator.
- 84.7 Notices indicating that a (video) recording system is in operation in the vehicle will be clearly displayed on the passengers windows visible from the outside and the interior of the vehicle.

**A safety screen may be installed in the licensed vehicle subject to the following conditions:**

- 84.8 Approval in writing must be obtained from the Council before a safety screen is fitted into a licensed vehicle.
- 84.9 For any safety screen installed in the licensed vehicle the Director must approve (a) the type of screen (b) the manner in which it is installed in the vehicle (c) the person who installs it
- 84.10 The vehicle proprietor must produce vehicle insurance for the vehicle which includes an indemnity covering liability for any injury caused by the presence of the screen.

**85. ACCIDENTS**

Any accident to the private hire vehicle causing damage materially affecting the safety performance or appearance of the vehicle should be reported to the Council as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case within 72 hours.

**86. TRANSFER OF INTEREST**

If the proprietor transfers his/her interest in the vehicle to someone else he/she must, within seven days, give written notice to the Council of the transfer and the name and address of the transferee.

**87. RECORD OF LICENCES**

The proprietor of the private hire vehicle shall supply the operator of the vehicle, where applicable, such details relating to the vehicle licence insurance and MOT/Certificate of Compliance as are required by the operator.

**88. TAXIMETERS**

If a taxi meter is fitted in a licensed private hire vehicle it shall be EEC or Public Carriage Office type approved and capable of being calendar controlled. If the meter is repaired, adjusted or for any reason the seal is broken, or if any change is made to the type of tyre fitted to the vehicle or alterations made to the vehicles transmission gearing ratio



the proprietor shall not cause the vehicle to be used for hire until the taximeter has been satisfactorily tested and seal by an authorised officer.

### **89. TABLE OF FARES**

If a taxi meter is fitted in the vehicle, there shall be displayed within the vehicle in a position so as to be clearly visible to any passenger a current table of fares in form and printing previously submitted and approved by the Council. The driver shall if requested by the hirer of the vehicle provide him/her with a written receipt for the fare paid.

### **90. LICENCE CONDITIONS.**

Any requirements of legislation which effect the operations being carried out under the terms of this licence shall be regarded as if they are conditions of this licence. Wherever there appears in the Licence Conditions/Guides/Handbook a summary of any statutory provision you are advised that such summary is not exhaustive.

Any vehicle licensed that does not meet the conditions at the time they come into force will be permitted to be re-licensed annually provided it passes the mechanical requirements, but any replacement vehicle will be required to meet all conditions as set out in this handbook.

## **SECTION 2.**

### **PART A.**

#### **PROCEDURE FOR LICENSING HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS.**

Brighton & Hove City Council condemns all incidents of harassment whether racist, religiously motivated, homophobic, transphobic or due to gender or disability, whether perpetrated by Council staff, employees agents third parties or those involved in providing licensed taxi service whether hackney or private hire. If incidents are reported to the Council they will be investigated and where warranted enforcement action taken against the perpetrator. It is clear under the law that if the matter was to go to Court on appeal then these allegations can and should be put before the Court to help it decide whether the driver or operator is a fit and proper person.

#### **91. MAKING APPLICATION.**

All applicants are advised that to avoid errors in completing an application they collect the papers required from the office of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Officer, at that time they will receive an explanation as to the requirements.

Prior to issue of a licence the following will be required;

- 91.1 The Criminal Record Bureau form must be completed and forwarded to the Criminal Record Bureau. A copy of this form is returned to the Licensing Officer with details of any record which may or may not exist, a copy will also be sent to the applicant. This form is required every three years.
- 91.2 Applicants will be required to produce a birth certificate and / or passport to show date and place of birth, on initial application only
- 91.3 The applicant will be required to produce a full current driving licence, both parts where this type of licence is held, for the correct group as required for driving a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle as issued by the DVLA and must have been held for at least twelve months without break. EEC licenses must be converted to a UK DVLA licence before application is made.
- 91.4 The application form must be completed and all questions must be fully answered.
- 91.5 References will be written for from the names provided, these must be persons of some standing in the community, and should normally include your current employer. A future employer, relations or friends are not acceptable. References are only required on initial application.
- 91.6 Four colour passport photographs must be provided for initial applications (one on subsequent applications to renew a current licence); these are used for positive identification on references, for the issue of I.D. badges to successful applicants and for office records.
- 91.7 A medical certificate in the form supplied by the Council, from the applicants own general medical practitioner on initial application, one at age 45, 5 yearly between 45 and 65 and annually thereafter, or at anytime

as required by the council. All medicals are to be to the standard required for vocational licenses Group 2 as described on the DVLA web site under the heading 'At a glance Guide to the current Medical Standards of Fitness to Drive'.

- 91.8 All applicants must have in addition to the above have attended one of the Councils Disability Awareness Courses and have undertaken and passed the( D.S.A.) Driving Standards Agency Taxi Drivers Test or Private Hire Drivers Test and produce the necessary pass certificate before undertaking a knowledge test.
- 91.9 No licence will be issued unless all information has been supplied and appropriate fee paid.
- 91.10 When all above items are in hand, the applicant will, when ready, be invited to undertake a knowledge test of the area and a routes test. Subject to the applicant achieving a satisfactory standard and the fee being paid then an appropriate licence will be granted and I.D. badges issued.
- 91.11 Anyone failing the knowledge test or routes test will be invited to retake the test at a later date, at least one month following the failure of the first test without additional fee. Should the second attempt result in failure a period of three months must elapse before the third and final attempt is made. If unsuccessful on the third attempt the application will be considered to be a failure and a fresh application will be required, if the applicant wishes to continue, with the necessary forms and fees as described above.
- 91.12 The Council reserves the right to require any applicant to provide additional Criminal Record forms or full medical forms if they have reason to believe that changes have taken place since the original application.
- 91.13 Any application not completed within six months will be considered as null and void and all new information will need to be submitted. No refund of fees paid will be made.
- 91.14 In all cases sight of a passport will be required or other document as required by the Council.

## **92. ANNUAL RE-LICENSING OF DRIVERS.**

- 92.1 Drivers will be required to comply with those conditions for initial application above in section 91.1 to 91.14 with the exceptions of 91.2, 91.5, 91.8, 91.10, and 91.11.
- 92.2 In cases where a medical condition of the applicant needs to be referred to the Councils Medical Consultant, a licence will not normally be renewed until a satisfactory report is received from the Councils Medical Consultant.
- 92.3 Hackney Carriage driver's licenses are issued for a period of one year from the date of commencement of the licence.
- 92.4 Private Hire drivers licenses are issued for a period of one year from the date of commencement of the licence

- 92.5 All applications for renewal should be made a minimum of three weeks prior to expiry date with all papers required complete at time of application to enable any checks of official records to be made prior to the issue of a new licence.
- 92.6 Any licence not renewed on or before renewal date will be deemed to be a new application and not a renewal of an existing licence.
- 92.7 Any incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant and not be processed until application is resubmitted with all details and papers as required.
- 92.8 No licence will be issued unless the payment has been submitted and the right is reserved to present cheques and drafts for payment on receipt and withhold processing of applications pending clearance. Any applicant who presents a cheque which is not honored, will have the licence immediately suspended and this will subsequently be revoked, unless the payment is honored within seven days. Payment will be required in cash in cases where a cheque has not been honored
- 92.9 Any new and existing Brighton & Hove hackney carriage or private hire driver who after 1 August 2005 accrues more than seven penalty points on his or her UK drivers licence within a one year period will be required to undertake and obtain a pass certificate for the hackney carriage / private hire taxi assessment test from the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) within a period of one year from the date of the last conviction or fixed penalty endorsement before their drivers licence will be renewed.
- 92.10 The Director has delegated powers to require at his discretion any Brighton & Hove licensed hackney carriage or private hire driver to undertake and pass the DSA hackney carriage / private hire driver taxi test within a period of one year or shorter period from being required to do so
- 92.11 Any driver disqualified by a court under the totting up procedure or otherwise will be required to undertake and pass the DSA hackney carriage / private hire taxi drivers test before a new hackney carriage / private hire drivers licence will be issued.

### **93. DRIVERS BADGE.**

The drivers badge issued by the Council must be worn in such position that it be clearly seen at all times. The second badge is to be displayed clearly in the vehicle. The badges remain the property of the Council.

### **94. COMPLAINTS.**

Any driver against whom a complaint is laid will attend at the office of the authorised officer, within one working day to answer such complaint, after having been informed of such requirement to attention.

#### **95. INSPECTION.**

Any driver called for inspection must attend with any documents requested; failure to do so may lead to suspension or revocation of licence.

#### **96. MUST BE LICENSED.**

Attention is drawn to section 46 of each of the 1847 and 1976 Acts which require ALL drivers of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles to hold an appropriate driver licence, as issued by the Council, and it is an offence which affects the insurance to allow any unlicensed person to drive any licensed vehicle, (see Guidelines to Offences for penalties). In effect only hackney driver licence holders may drive hackney carriages and private hire vehicles may only be driven by private hire driver licence holders.

#### **97. LAPSE IN LICENCE.**

Any lapse in licence will result in any application being treated as a new application and not a renewal, and full application requirements as detailed in Section 2, Part A, 91, will have to be satisfied.

#### **98. NOTES.**

The Council has the power to revoke or suspend licenses after convictions for various offences, or failure to comply with the relevant provisions of The Town Police Clauses Act 1847, and The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976, Part II, or any other reasonable cause. Any requirements of legislation which affect the operations carried out under the terms of a licence shall be regarded as if they are conditions of that licence.

## **SECTION 2.**

### **PART B.**

#### **HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS LICENCE CONDITIONS**

##### **IMPORTANT NOTE;**

**DUE TO THE STATED CASE OF WATHAN v NEATH AND PORT TALBOT BOROUGH COUNCIL of 2002, in which it was said that there is no power to attach conditions to a hackney carriage drivers licence, one may consider 'conditions' to be desirable and therefor will need to look at the Acts of 1847 and 1889 and the Model Bye Laws of 1974 as a method of imposing controls by the use of bye laws.**

#### **HACKNEY CARRIAGE. BYE LAWS MADE UNDER SECTION 68 OF THE TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847 AND SECTION 171 OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1875.**

### **99. INTERPRETATION.**

Throughout these bye laws;

- 99.1 "the Council" means 'Brighton & Hove City Council.
- 99.2 "the driver" means the person to whom the Council has granted the hackney carriage licence to which these bye laws are attached.
- 99.3 "the proprietor" means the person to whom the Council has granted the hackney carriage vehicle licence to which these bye laws are attached.
- 99.4 "the district" means Brighton & Hove City Council
- 99.5 "hiring" means all hiring's involving a journey commencing within the district

### **100. FOR REGULATING THE CONDUCT OF THE PROPRIETORS AND DRIVERS OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES PLYING WITHIN THE DISTRICT IN THEIR SEVERAL EMPLOYMENT'S, AND DETERMINING WHETHER SUCH DRIVERS SHALL WEAR ANY AND WHAT BADGES.**

- 100.1 Every driver of a hackney carriage for which stands are fixed by any bye law in that behalf shall when plying for hire in any street and not actually hired,
  - 100.1.1 proceed with reasonable speed to and station the carriage on one of such stands,
  - 100.1.2 if a stand, at the time of his arrival, is occupied by the full number of carriages authorised to occupy it, proceed to another stand,
  - 100.1.3 on arriving at a stand not already occupied by the full number of carriages authorized to occupy it, station the carriage

- immediately behind the carriage or carriages on the and so as to face in the same direction,
- 100.1.4 from time to time when any other carriage immediately in front is driven off or moved forward cause his carriage to be moved forward so as to fill the place previously occupied by the carriage driven off or moved forward.
- 100.2 The driver of a hackney carriage shall, if such carriage occupies the first position on one of the stands fixed by these bye laws, remain with the carriage ready to be hired at once.
- 100.3 Every driver or proprietor of a hackney carriage who shall have agreed or shall have been hired to be in attendance with the carriage at an appointed time and place shall unless delayed or prevented by some sufficient cause, punctually attend with such carriage at such appointed time and place.
- 100.4 Every driver of a hackney carriage so constructed as to carry luggage shall when requested by any person hiring or seeking to hire the carriage,
- 100.4.1 convey a reasonable quantity of luggage,
- 100.4.2 afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading,
- 100.4.3 afford reasonable assistance in removing it to or from the entrance of any house, station or place at which he may take up or set down such person.
- 100.5 every driver of hackney carriage provided with a taximeter shall, if the taximeter is fitted with a flag or other device bearing the words "For Hire";
- 100.5.1 when standing or plying for hire keep such flag or other device locked in the position in which the words are horizontal and legible;
- 100.5.2 as soon as the carriage is hired by distance, and before commencing the journey, bring the machinery of the taximeter action by moving the flag or other device so that the words are not conveniently legible;
- 100.5.3 when standing or plying for hire, keep the meter locked in the position in which no fare is recorded on the face of the meter.
- 100.5.4 cause the face of the taximeter to be kept properly illuminated throughout any part of the hiring which is during the hours of darkness -- this being the time between sunset and sunrise, and also at any other time at the request of the hirer.
- 100.6 A proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall not with intent to deceive, tamper with or permit any person to tamper with any taximeter with which the carriage is provided.
- 100.7 Every driver of a hackney carriage when hired to drive to any particular destination shall, subject to any directions given by the hirer, proceed to such destination by the shortest available route.

**101. FOR FIXING THE RATES OR FARES, AS WELL FOR TIME AS DISTANCE, TO BE PAID FOR SUCH HACKNEY CARRIAGES WITHIN THE DISTRICT, AND FOR THE DUE PUBLICATION OF SUCH FARES.**

101.1 Every proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage plying for hire shall be entitled to demand and take for hire of the carriage the rate or fare prescribed by the Council, the rate or fare being calculated by distance unless the hirer express at the commencement of the hiring his desire to engage by time.

Provided always that where a hackney carriage furnished with a taximeter shall be hired by distance the proprietor or driver thereof shall not be entitled to demand and take a fare greater than that recorded on the face of the taximeter, save for any extra charges authorized by the Council which it may not be possible to record on the face of the meter.

101.2 the proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall cause statement of the fares fixed by the Council in that behalf to be exhibited inside the carriage, in clearly distinguishable letters and figures.

101.3 The proprietor of a hackney carriage bearing a statement of fares in accordance with this condition shall not willfully or negligently cause or suffer the letters or figures in the statement to be concealed or rendered illegible at any time whilst the carriage is plying or being used for hire.

Note; The Tariff set shall be a maximum scale of charges and the charging of additional fees such as Tolls, Parking, Congestion Charges and Ferry's shall be allowed and must be noted on the Tariff Card.

**102. FOR SECURING THE SAFE CUSTODY AND REDELIVERY OF ANY PROPERTY ACCIDENTALLY LEFT IN HACKNEY CARRIAGES, AND FIXING THE CHARGES TO BE MADE IN RESPECT THEREOF.**

102.1 Every proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall, immediately after the termination of any hiring, carefully search the carriage for any property which may have been accidentally left therein.

102.2 The proprietor or driver of a hackney carriage shall, if any property accidentally left therein by any person who may have been conveyed in the carriage be found by or handed to him;

102.2.1 report the finding or handing to him of the property to a police station as soon as possible, and in any event within 48 hours if not sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner;

102.2.2 be entitled to receive from any person to whom the property shall be redelivered an amount equal to five pence in the pound of its estimated value (or the fare for the distance from the place of find to the police station, whichever be the greater), but not more than five pounds.



### **103. PERMITTING OR EMPLOYING ANY OTHER PERSON TO DRIVE.**

If the proprietor of a hackney carriage permits or employs any other person to drive the vehicle as a hackney carriage vehicle, he shall before the person commences to drive the vehicle, cause the driver to deliver to him his hackney carriage drivers licence for retention until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle or any other vehicle of his.

### **104. PENALTIES.**

Every person who shall offend against any of these bye laws shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale and in the case of a continuing offence to a further fine not exceeding two pounds for each day during which the offence continues after conviction thereof.

## **SECTION 2.**

### **PART C.**

#### **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE CONDITIONS MADE UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976.**

##### **105. INTERPRETATION.**

- 105.1 In these conditions;
  - 105.1.1 “the Council” means ‘Brighton & Hove City Council.
  - 105.1.2 “the Director” means the Director of the Environment Directorate for the time of the Council.
  - 105.1.3 “the driver” means the person to whom the Council has granted the Private Hire Drivers Licence to which these conditions are attached.
  - 105.1.4 “Authorised Officer” means the Hackney Carriage Officer, Licensing Enforcement Officer, Divisional Environmental Officer, for the time being of the Council.
- 105.2 Any obligation in these conditions not to do any act or thing shall be deemed to include an obligation not to cause or permit that act or thing to be done.
- 105.3 Any reference to any statute or subordinate legislation shall be deemed to include a reference to any amendment or re-enactment.

##### **106. CONDUCT.**

- 96.1 The driver shall behave in a civil and orderly manner at all times.
- 96.2 The driver shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of persons conveyed in or entering or alighting from the vehicle.
- 96.3 The driver shall at all times when operating wear the badge provided by the Council in such position as to be plainly visible.

##### **107. PROMPT ATTENDANCE.**

The driver who has agreed or has been hired to be in attendance with the vehicle at an appointed time and place shall, unless delayed or prevented by some sufficient cause, punctually attend with the vehicle at such appointed time and place.

##### **108. NUMBER OF PASSENGERS.**

The driver shall not convey in the vehicle any greater number of persons than the number of persons specified on the plate affixed to the outside of the vehicle, (regardless of the age of any passenger carried). Shall not convey in the front seat any child below the age of twelve years or under 135cms unless wearing a suitable restraint and using a child/booster seat and not more than one person in any seat. Without the consent of the hirer permit any other person to be carried whilst hired.

### **109. LUGGAGE.**

The driver of a vehicle so constructed as to carry luggage shall, when requested by a person hiring the vehicle;

- 109.1 convey a reasonable quantity of luggage.
- 109.2 afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading.
- 109.3 afford reasonable assistance in removing it to or from the entrance gate or door of any building, station or any place at which he may take up or set down such person.

### **110. PROVISION SECURING THE SAFE CUSTODY AND REDELIVERY OF ANY PROPERTY ACCIDENTALLY LEFT IN PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES, AND FIXING THE CHARGES TO BE IN RESPECT THEREOF.**

- 110.1 The proprietor or driver of a private hire vehicle shall immediately after the termination of any hiring or as soon as practicable thereafter carefully search the vehicle for any property which may have been accidentally left therein.
- 110.2 The proprietor or driver of a private hire vehicle shall, if any property accidentally left therein by a person who may have been conveyed in the carriage be found by or handed in to him;
  - 110.2.1 report the finding or handling to him of the property to a police station as soon as possible and in any event within 48 hours if not sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner,

### **111. APPEARANCE.**

- 111.1 The driver shall be clean and tidy in appearance.
- 111.2 The driver shall at all times be dressed in a manner not to cause embarrassment to members of the public and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing;
- 111.3 Shall wear;
  - 111.3.1 Long/short sleeved shirts/blouses.
  - 111.3.2 Long trousers and/or tailored shorts of one colour which reach to 3 inches above the knee when the wearer is standing upright, or in the case of female drivers, skirts and dresses of at least knee length.
  - 111.3.3 Suitable footwear.
- 111.4 Shall not wear;
  - 111.4.1 Swimming costumes.
  - 111.4.2 Sleeveless vests or singlet.

## **112. TOUTING AND SOLICITING.**

The driver shall not, whilst driving or in charge of a private hire vehicle;

- 112.1 tout or solicit any person to hire, or be carried for hire in any private hire vehicle.
- 112.2 cause or procure any other person to tout or solicit any person to hire or be carried for hire in any private hire vehicle.
- 112.3 ply for hire or appear to be plying for hire and any roof light affixed to the vehicle must be extinguished when hired.

## **113. DEPOSIT OF LICENCE.**

If a driver is permitted or employed to drive a private hire vehicle of which the operator is someone other than himself, he shall, before commencing to drive that vehicle, deposit his private hire licence with that operator for retention by him until such time as the driver ceases to be permitted or employed to drive the vehicle or any other vehicle. The operator must return such licence to the driver when he ceases to drive any vehicle operated by that operator.

## **114. TAXIMETER.**

- 114.1 If a private hire vehicle being driven by the driver is fitted with a taximeter, the driver shall not cause the fare recorded thereon to be cancelled or concealed until the hirer has had reasonable opportunity of examining it and has paid the fare.
- 114.2 The driver of a private hire vehicle shall not tamper with or permit any person to tamper with any taximeter which the vehicle is provided, with the fittings thereof, or with the seals affixed thereto.
- 114.3 Private hire vehicles fitted with a taximeter may not operate unless the meter is in working condition and has been checked by the councils authorized officer.
- 114.4 All private hire vehicles must display a tariff card showing the rates fares charged by the operator through whom they work and as advertised by the operator.

## **115. FARE TO BE DEEMED.**

The driver shall not demand from any hirer of a private hire vehicle a fare in excess of any previously agreed for the hiring between the hirer and the operator or, if the vehicle is fitted with a taximeter and there has been no previous agreement as to the fare, the fare shown on the taximeter. Journeys shall be by the shortest or most direct route unless requested otherwise. Receipts for payments made must be given if requested to show company name, fare paid, and date and be signed by the driver.

### **116. CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**

The driver shall notify the Council in writing of any change of address during the period of licence prior to such change taking place, and in any case within 7 days of such change.

### **117. MOTORING CONVICTIONS.**

The driver must immediately and in any case within seven days disclose to the Council in writing, details of any motoring conviction or fixed penalty imposed upon him during the period of his hackney carriage or private hire drivers licence.

### **118. CRIMINAL CAUTIONS/ CONVICTIONS**

The driver must immediately and in any case within seven days disclose to the Council in writing, details of any police criminal cautions or convictions Anti Social Behavior Orders, County / High Court Judgments and Fixed Penalty Notices imposed upon him during the period of his hackney carriage or private hire drivers licence.

### **119. BADGES.**

The drivers badge must be worn in a position where it may be seen at all times. The driver shall upon expiry (without immediate renewal), revocation or suspension of his licence, (in the case of revocation or suspension after the 21 days appeal period) forthwith return to the Council the drivers badge issued to him by the Council. A second badge is issued and must be clearly displayed in the vehicle. The badges shall remain the property of the Council at all times.

### **120. OPERATORS.**

All private hire drivers are responsible to check that the operator through whom they are working has a current operators licence.

### **121. LOST PROPERTY.**

- 121.1 The driver shall immediately after the termination of any hiring of a private hire vehicle or as soon as practicable thereafter carefully search the vehicle for any property which may have been accidentally left there.
- 121.2 If any property accidentally left in a private hire vehicle by any person who may have been conveyed therein is found by or handed to the driver, unless it be sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner, shall be taken within 48 hours to the nearest police station and left in the custody of the officer in charge.

## **122. ANIMALS.**

- 122.1 Whilst plying for hire or whilst hired the driver shall not convey in any private hire vehicle any animals belonging to or in the custody of himself or the proprietor or operator of the vehicle.
- 122.2 Any animal belonging to or in the custody of any passenger, which in the drivers discretion may be conveyed in a private hire vehicle, shall only be conveyed in the rear seating area of the vehicle.
- 122.3 No driver of a private hire vehicle may refuse to carry a 'guide dog' or 'assistance dog' provided it is accompanied by a fare paying passenger, unless the driver can produce a medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner to the effect that the driver has an allergy to dogs as produced to the Council. No charge shall be made for the carriage of seeing or hearing dogs, (guide dogs assistant dog), as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995

## **123. ILLNESS OR INJURY.**

The driver shall notify the Council in writing as soon as possible and in any event within 14 days of any illness or injury affecting his fitness to drive.

## **124. OPERATOR LICENCE.**

The owner of any vehicle which carries a mobile telephone, pager or otherwise makes provision for the acceptance of bookings must hold an Operators licence.

## **125. PERMITTING OR EMPLOYING ANY OTHER PERSON TO DRIVE.**

Before any proprietor of a private hire vehicle permits or employs any other person to drive the vehicle he shall ensure that the vehicle is adequately insured for that person to drive and produce evidence of that insurance for inspection by any person employed or permitted to drive or by any Authorised Officer on request.

## **126. NOTE.**

Any requirements of legislation which effects the operations being carried out under the terms of this licence shall be regarded as if they are conditions of this licence.

## **127. GENERAL LICENCE CONDITIONS.**

All drivers shall operate strictly within the terms of any licence issued under the incorporating of all terms and conditions of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, and other conditions within this handbook but these may not necessarily be exhaustive.

## **128. APPEALS.**

- 128.1 You may appeal against all or any of these conditions.
- 128.2 Any appeal must be made within 21 days of the grant of licence.
- 128.3 Appeals must be made to the Magistrates Court - You should contact the Clerk to the Justices, The Law Courts, 'Edward Street Brighton
- 128.4 Appeals are made by way of section 52 and 77 of the 1976 Act and section 300 of the Public health Act 1936.

**SECTION 2.(D).**  
**APPENDIX I.**

**GUIDELINES RELATING TO THE RELEVANCE OF CAUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS, ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOR ORDERS, COUNTY COURT AND HIGH COURT JUDGMENTS AND FIXED PENALTY NOTICES WHEN DETERMINING APPLICATIONS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES.**

**129.** The council is empowered in law to check for the existence and content of any criminal record held in respect of an applicant for a hackney carriage or private hire driver or operator licence so when submitting an application for such a licence an applicant is required to declare all convictions (whether or not spent), cautions, Anti Social Behavior Orders, County Court and High Court injunctions, Fixed Penalty Notices they have recorded against them, and any pending proceedings. In making its decision the council will consider the nature of the information, its own guidelines on the relevance of cautions, convictions, Anti Social Behavior Orders, County Court / High Court injunctions and Fixed Penalty Notices in the licensing process and any other factors which may be relevant. These guidelines will also be taken into account in relation to renewal applications, and decisions to suspend or revoke licences. For the purpose of these guidelines, cautions will be treated as convictions.

- 129.1 Each case will be decided on its own merits.
- 129.2 A person with a conviction for serious crime need not be permanently barred from obtaining a licence but should be expected to remain free of conviction for 3 to 5 years, according to the circumstances, before the application is entertained. However, persons with convictions for offences of indecency, sexual, or child related nature or other serious crime will not normally be issued with a licence. Persons subject to pending proceedings for such offences will be properly investigated.
- 129.3 Some discretion may be appropriate if the offence is isolated and there are mitigating circumstances. However, the overriding consideration should be the protection of the public.
- 129.4 Hackney carriage and private hire drivers are classed as 'regulated occupations' by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (exemption order as amended) which means that the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act does not apply to them (and thus their convictions are never spent). Furthermore, in respect of applications or renewals for hackney carriage Proprietor or private hire operators licences, the Council as a judicial authority under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 may take into account spent convictions involving serious offences, (i.e. Death by Dangerous driving, Drugs, Violence, Sexual offences or offences of a habitual nature).
- 129.5 Cautions are never spent, but their age and gravity will be taken into account as for convictions.
- 129.6 Fixed penalty notices are now used in relation to a range of offences and



they will be taken into consideration depending upon their number, the nature of the offence and all the circumstances.

### **130. MINOR MOTORING OFFENCES.**

Isolated convictions or fixed penalty notices for minor traffic offences, e.g., obstruction, waiting in a restricted street, speeding etc., should not prevent a person from proceeding with an application. Any new applicant must have held a full drivers licence as issued by DVLA for a period of twelve months without any period of suspension during those twelve months. Licence holders convicted during the period of licence of such offence may be warned as to future conduct, and that any disqualification may lead to revocation of any hackney carriage or private hire licence held with the Council.

### **131. MAJOR TRAFFIC OFFENCES.**

An isolated conviction for reckless or dangerous driving or driving without due care and attention etc., will merit at least a warning as to future driving and advice on the standards expected of hackney carriage and private hire drivers. More serious convictions and those with more than one conviction for these types of offences within two years will normally merit revocation, or refusal in the case of new applicants, and no further application will then normally be considered until a period of at least three years free from convictions has elapsed.

### **132. DRUNKENNESS.**

#### **132.1 With a motor vehicle.**

A serious view will be taken of cautions / convictions of driving or being in charge of a vehicle under the influence of drink. An isolated incident in the past will not necessarily debar an applicant provided he has been at least three years free of cautions / conviction, but strict warnings will be given as to future behavior. More than one caution / conviction for these offences will raise grave doubts as to an applicant's fitness to hold a hackney carriage or private hire licence. At least one year should elapse (after the restoration of the DVLA driving licence), before an applicant is considered for a hackney carriage or private hire driver's licence. If the applicant is found to be an alcoholic a minimum period of five years should elapse after treatment is completed before a licence application is considered.

#### **132.2 A driver found guilty of driving passengers for hire and reward whilst under the influence of drink will normally have his hackney carriage or private hire drivers licence revoked immediately and be banned from holding a hackney carriage or private hire drivers licence with the Council for a minimum period of two years.**

#### **132.3 Not in a motor vehicle.**

An isolated caution / conviction for drunkenness need not debar an applicant from obtaining a licence, however, a number of cautions /

convictions for drunkenness could indicate a medical problem necessitating a critical examination, ( see 132.1 above).

### **133. INSURANCE OFFENCES.**

133.1 With a motor vehicle.

A serious view will be taken of any caution / convictions of driving or being in charge of a vehicle without insurance. An isolated incident in the past will not necessarily debar an applicant provided he has been three years free of any caution / conviction, but strict warning will be given as to future behavior. More than one caution / conviction for these offences will raise grave doubts as to an applicant's fitness to hold a hackney carriage or private hire licence. At least three years should elapse (after the restoration of the DVLA driving licence), before an applicant is considered for a hackney carriage or private hire drivers licence.

133.2 A driver found guilty of driving passengers for hire and reward whilst without insurance will normally have his hackney carriage or private hire drivers licence revoked immediately and be banned from holding a hackney carriage or private hire drivers licence with the Council for a minimum of five years.

133.3 Any applicant with three insurance offences or more will not normally be considered fit and proper to hold a hackney carriage or private hire licence with the Council.

### **134. DRUGS.**

An applicant with a caution / conviction for a drug related offence should normally be required to show a period of at least three years free of any caution / convictions before any application is entertained or minimum of three years after detoxification treatment if applicant was an addict. Medical advice will be sought where necessary.

### **135. VIOLENCE.**

As hackney carriage and private hire drivers maintain close contact with the public, a firm line will be taken with applicants who have cautions / convictions for grievous bodily harm, wounding, assault or criminal damage. A minimum of three years free of cautions / convictions should be shown before an application is entertained and even then a strict warning will be administered. An existing licence holder could expect his licence to be suspended or revoked if convicted of these offences.

### **136. DISHONESTY.**

Licence holders are expected to be person of trust. The widespread practice of deliveries for companies, taking children to school and families on holiday shows this trust. It is easy for dishonest drivers to defraud foreign visitors when giving change, or other customers by taking them by other than the shortest route. Lost property can be

kept by unscrupulous drivers. For these reasons a serious view will be taken of any cautions / convictions involving dishonesty. In general, a period of at least three years free of any cautions / convictions will be required before entertaining an application for a hackney carriage or private hire drivers licence by the Council. Any existing driver convicted of offences of dishonesty may expect any licence held to be suspended or revoked and a possible ban on holding a hackney carriage or private hire driver's licence for three year period at minimum.

### **137. INDECENCY OFFENCES.**

As hackney carriage and private hire drivers often carry unaccompanied passengers, applications with convictions for indecent exposure, importuning, or any of the more serious offences, should be refused until a substantial period (at least 3 to 5 years) free of such offences. More than one conviction of this kind should preclude consideration for at least 5 years. In either case, if the applicant was required to register on the National Sex Register as a result of an offence of a sexual nature ,then no application should normally be considered whilst the applicant is still on the register.

### **138. DISCRIMINATION OFFENCES**

An applicant with a caution / conviction for a discrimination related offence should be required to show a period of at least three years free of any caution / convictions before any application is entertained.

### **139. BREACHES OF LICENSING CONDITIONS AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFENCES**

Isolated convictions / cautions for breach of licensing conditions or other local authority offences should not prevent a person from proceeding with an application but these offences may be considered when determining if an applicant should be granted a licence. Licence holders committing offences during the period of licence may be warned as to future conduct and may lead to revocation of any hackney carriage or private hire licence held with the Council.

### **140. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS (ASBO'S)**

An ASBO during its current term or within 3 years of its final date should not prevent any person from proceeding with an application, but it will be considered, taking into account all the circumstances, and nature of the behaviour, when determining if an applicant should be granted a licence.

### **141. COUNTY/HIGH COURT INJUNCTIONS**

Any Court injunction and / or order relating to anti-social behaviour especially those for harassment or violence (including domestic violence) within the last 3 years should not

prevent any applicant from proceeding with an application, but will be considered when determining if an applicant should be granted a licence, taking into consideration the nature and severity of the behaviour and all relevant circumstances.

#### **I 42. SCANNERS.**

Anyone convicted of the use of a radio scanner will normally be banned from holding any licence for a minimum of a five year period.

#### **I 43. NOTES.**

Any information disclosed will be kept in strict confidence and will only be taken into account in relation to the application and will be retained no longer than necessary. It is an offence for any person knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement or to omit any material particular in giving information required by the application for a licence, punishable by up to seven years imprisonment upon conviction.

**SECTION 3.**  
**PART A.**  
**PROCEDURE FOR LICENSING A PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR.**

**I 44. GENERAL.**

Anyone who makes provision for the invitation or acceptance of bookings for a private hire vehicle must hold an operators licence, (with the exception of those who only operate vehicles covered by section 75 of the Act of 1976). This means that any individual (group or company) which advertises the services of any private hire vehicle with the services of a driver for hire and reward, or has a mobile telephone or pager which is carried within a licensed vehicle then that driver and vehicle have made provision for the acceptance of bookings for hire and reward and will be required to hold a private hire operators licence.

**I 45. THE OPERATOR.**

- I 45.1 The application form must be complete and returned to the Hackney Carriage Office.
- I 45.2 Every applicant will be checked to ensure that they are fit and proper person to hold a private hire operators licence.
- I 45.3 The applicant is required to provide proof of holding a radio transmission licence (and planning permission for any aerial if required) if such radios are used by the operator.
- I 45.4 In the case of operators who invite the public to make bookings in person at a premises, the prospective premises will be inspected to ensure compliance with the following;
  - I 43.4.1 clean, adequately heated, ventilated and lit, both for bookings and waiting,
  - I 43.4.1 if required waiting area has adequate seating facilities.
- I 45.5 The operator premises to be licensed must be situated within the district of Brighton & Hove.
- I 45.6 The operator may only utilise drivers and vehicles also licensed by Brighton & Hove City Council.
- I 45.7 No licence will be issued until all licence requirements are met to the satisfaction of the authorised officer and the appropriate fee has been paid.
- I 45.8 All operators premises to which the public have access must be covered by public liability insurance to cover all risks.
- I 45.9 Planning permission for operating purposes maybe required and it is the operators liability to ensure any permission required is granted and produced to an authorised officer at the time of application.

#### **146. NOTES.**

Any requirements of legislation which effect the operations being carried out under the terms of this licence shall be regarded as if they are conditions of this licence. Case law has shown that anyone making provision for the acceptance of bookings for private hire must be licensed in the District where such provision is made (this includes such things as mobile telephones, pagers and redirected calls by any electronic means) and such bookings must be fulfilled by drivers and vehicles licensed in the same district as which the operator holds his licence. So if an operator accepts a call on a mobile telephone in a district other than the one in which he is licensed he will commit an offence of operating in an un-licensed manner.

**SECTION 3.**

**PART B.**

**PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES OPERATOR'S LICENCE CONDITIONS MADE UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ( MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ) ACT 1976.**

**147. INTERPRETATION.**

- 147.1 In these conditions;
  - 147.1.1 “the Council” means ‘Brighton & Hove Council.
  - 147.1.2 “the operator” means the person to whom the Council has granted the Private Hire Operators Licence to which these conditions apply. In the case of a partnership to each of the partners and in the case of a company to each of the company directors.
- 147.2 Any obligation in these conditions not to do any act or thing shall be deemed to include an obligation not to cause or permit that act or thing to be done.
- 147.3 Any reference to any statute or subordinate legislation shall be deemed to include a reference to any amendment or re-enactment.

**148. THE RECORDS TO BE KEPT BY THE OPERATOR.**

- 148.1 The records required to be kept by the operator under Section 56 (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 shall be kept in a suitable book, folder, computer system or other means approved by the Authorized Officer, and produced for his examination on demand.
- 148.2 The operator shall enter in the recording system ( book folder or other means before the commencement of each journey, the following particulars of every booking of a private hire vehicle invited or accepted by him;
  - 148.2.1 the time and date of the booking.
  - 148.2.2 the name where possible and pick up point of the hirer.
  - 148.2.3 the time and date of pick up and call sign of the vehicle used.
  - 148.2.4 how the booking was made (e.g. by telephone, personal call).
- 148.3 The operator shall keep records of all private hire vehicles operated by him, which will include details of the owner, registration numbers and drivers of such vehicles, together with any radio call sign used.
- 148.4 The operator shall keep all records for a period of not less than six months following the date of last entry.

#### **149. THE STANDARD OF SERVICE.**

The operator shall provide a prompt, efficient and reliable service to members of the public at all reasonable times, and for this purpose shall in particular;

- 149.1 ensure that when a private hire vehicle has been booked that the driver attends at the appointed time and place punctually, unless delayed or prevented by sufficient cause.
- 149.2 keep clean, adequately heated, ventilated and lit premises which the operator provides and to which the public have access, whether for the purpose of booking or waiting.
- 149.3 ensure that any waiting area provided has adequate seating facilities.

#### **150. PROVISIONS REGULATING SIGNS ON VEHICLES.**

The proprietor of a private hire business shall not cause any advertisement in respect of his business or the vehicles used for that purpose to include the words “taxi” or “cab”, whether in the singular or plural, or those words of similar meaning or appearance to either of those words, whether alone or as part of another word. Only licensed vehicles may carry any advertisement in relation to any Private Hire Operator which must be approved by an authorised officer.

#### **151. PROVISIONS REGULATING THE CONDUCT OF THE OPERATOR.**

- 151.1 The operator shall immediately upon receipt notify the Council in writing of any complaints concerning the cleanliness / condition of a vehicle or a complaint against a driver.
- 151.2 The operator shall notify the Council in writing of any change of address during the period of the licence within seven days of such change.
- 151.3 No operator may change the address from which he operates without prior agreement in writing from the Council and all licence requirements being met.
- 151.4 The operator shall within seven days disclose to the Council in writing details of any convictions (motoring or otherwise) imposed upon him (or if the operator is a company or partnership, on any of the directors or partners) during the period of the licence.

#### **152. EMERGENCY CALL SIGN.**

All operators using a radio network must have in place an emergency call sign. When this call sign is used the operator and / or other cars will render all assistance possible to the caller. The use of the call sign in a frivolous manner could result in suspension of licence. On hearing the call sign all other vehicles will maintain radio silence until advised that the situation is resolved. The call sign should only be used when a person is at risk, (e.g. need for police, fire or ambulance assistance). The call should be changed at regular intervals to avoid misuse. All drivers must be aware of the call sign currently in use by the operator. Each operator is responsible to ensure compliance. Whilst this will



complement the “Police Link” it is not voluntary but a condition of the operators licence in the interests of the safety of drivers and passengers.

### **153. OPERATOR OFFICE LOCATION.**

The office must be located within Brighton & Hove City to enable any Authorized Officer access to the premises or any records as required by statutes or conditions. If unable to fulfill a booking they may only pass these to another operator within the same licensing district.

### **154. DEPOSIT OF DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENSES.**

Any operator who employs or permits anyone to drive any licensed vehicle owned by them will ensure that a copy of the drivers licence is deposited with him during the period that the driver is employed or permitted to drive, the licence must be returned to the driver at the end of that period. Any vehicle employed or used by an operator must be licensed and the proprietor of the vehicle shall deposit his vehicle licence with the operator during the period that his vehicle is so employed. The operator must return the licence to the vehicle proprietor at the end of the period.

### **155. APPEALS.**

- 155.1 The applicant / licence holder may appeal against all or any of these conditions.
- 155.2 Any appeals must be made within 21 days of the grant of the licence.
- 155.3 Appeals must be made to the Magistrates Court - contact: the Clerk to the Justices, The Law Courts, Edward Street Brighton

### **156. PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR ASSOCIATION.**

- 156.1 Operators may form an association and must give a copy of the constitution of that Association to the Licensing Officer.
- 156.2 The Association must keep the Authorised Officer informed in writing of the offices and members of the Association.
- 156.3 Only vehicles being operated through members of the Association may display signs as approved by an Authorised officer.

### **157. CONFIDENTIALITY**

Due the nature of enforcement work undertaken by authorised officers, operators are expected not disclose/broadcast to drivers or proprietors of the whereabouts of authorised officers or any other enforcement agencies as this may jeopardise any enforcement actions being undertaken at the time. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in suspension of licence.

## **158. POLICE LINK.**

All operators and drivers should assist in this scheme. The main purposes are:

158.1 To alert radio controlled vehicles as to missing or suspicious persons or vehicles etc.

158.2 To alert Brighton & Hove Police of any criminal activities observed.

158.3 To create a safer environment for all taxi and private hire drivers.

Drivers should report through the operator to the police and the police will use the scheme to advise drivers of incidents or help required.

**SECTION 4.**  
**PROCEDURE FOR FARES INCREASES.**

**159.**

- 159.1 Applications for hackney carriage fare increases will be made through the Taxi Forum in accordance with the agreed formula approved by the Council.
- 159.2 If the general consensus of the trade is in agreement with a fare increase, representatives of the trade will be called to a meeting to discuss any proposals with officers of the Council and the lead councilor of the licensing committee who will then present any proposal agreed by that meeting to the next available meeting of the Licensing Committee of the Council for their consideration.
- 159.3 No increase in fares can come into operation until the proposals have been advertised as required and objections have been considered.
- 159.4 Any fare increase approved must be set into the taximeter within one week of the date on which such increase comes into force.
- 159.5 No proprietor may charge any increase until the due date and the taximeter has been re-calibrated to the new fares.
- 159.6 All taximeters must be checked and sealed by the authorized officer prior to being used for hire and reward in any vehicle
- 159.7 The Council may not set fares for private hire as these are set and advertised at the discretion of individual private hire vehicle operators in accordance with the Provisions of the Act of 1976,

**160. FEEES FOR LICENCES.**

All fees for licences and plates deposits are made by the Council with an annual review each year to come into effect for any licence issued and valid from 1st April following, this applies to both hackney carriages and private hire. There are procedures for objections to certain fees and details will be included when the Council advertises such increases. The Act does not allow this function to be profit making.

**SECTION 5.**  
**HACKNEY CARRIAGE RANKS.**

**161. RANKS**

See the latest list as approved by the Council.

**SECTION 6.**  
**PART A.**  
**ADVICE TO OPERATORS.**

Within the Conditions of your licence you are responsible for many items in relation to your business, the drivers working through your circuit and the vehicles used. You may be required to display or produce various items to various Officers, visiting your premises, on demand.

These include;

D.T.I. Radio licence.	Fire Extinguishers.
Public Liability Insurance.	First Aid Kit.
Health and Safety Policy.	Operators Licence.
Health and Safety Notices.	Adequate Lighting.
Shops and Factories Offices Notice.	Booking Records.
Fire Evacuation Notice.	Planning Permission.
Advice on Lifting Notice.	Vehicle Licenses.
Company Register Certificate.	Copy of Vehicle Licenses.
List of Vehicles with details.	List of Drivers with details.
Diary of Advanced Bookings.	Accident Book.

**The Records of Bookings MUST show;**

Date and Time made.	Name and Address where possible of hirer.
Destination where possible	Personal or Telephone booking.
Time of Pick-Up.	Point of Pick-Up.
Time Allocated to Driver.	Allocated to which Vehicle.

**The Records of Vehicles MUST show;**

Registration of Vehicle.	Council Plate Number.
Name and Address of Owner.	Any Radio Call Sign.
Number Licensed to Carry.	Name and Address of ALL Drivers.
Date Commenced Using Vehicle.	Date Ceased Using Vehicle.

**The Standards required of an Operator include;**

Punctual Attendance for Bookings.	Clean Premises with Public Access.
Premises Heated to standard.	Premises Ventilated to standard.
Premises well lit.	Seating if Public Access.
Radio Equipment in Working Order	Correct Radio Procedures used
Check P.H. Driver Licence Valid.	Ensure Vehicle Licenses are Valid.
Check Vehicles Clean and Safe.	Ensure Insurance is Valid.
Check Road Fund Licence Valid.	Check Vehicle for Damage.
Report Any Driver Offences.	Ensure Plates Displayed Correctly.
Report any Accidents.	Report any Lost Property.

Assist with Police Link calls.                      Maintain Driver Standards.  
Keep all Records for 6 months.                      Give Fixed Price Quote if Requested.  
Telephone in Working Order.                      Report any changes of Director.  
Report any changes of Address.  
Ensure Only Licensed Drivers are used to drive licensed Vehicles.  
Only use the services of drivers and vehicles licensed by Brighton & Hove City Council.  
Failure to comply with certain items above can lead to arrest and carry a fine of up to £2,500. This list is for advice only and is not exhaustive.

## **PART B.** **ADVICE TO DRIVERS.**

Within the Conditions of the grant of your licence you are responsible for various items, some of which may be checked by various Officers on demand.

These include;

- Only a Licensed driver may drive a licensed vehicle at any time.
- Do not use anyone to tout for you.
- Do not tout for hire.
- Check operator is licensed.
- Never stop for flag down (Private hire vehicle only ).
- Keep vehicle clean inside and out.
- Ensure vehicle complies with law.
- Control language on radio.
- Ensure vehicle is insured.
- Check road fund licence valid.
- Check road' tax ' is clearly displayed.
- Report any convictions.
- Report any change of address.
- Always check destination.
- Report any found property.
- Use your radio call sign properly.
- Assist with any Police Link Calls.
- Attend at Licensing Office if called.
- Keep Records of Bookings.
- Ensure vehicle signs correct.
- Keep copy of valid insurance
- Undertake Medical if required.
- Produce any Licence if required.
- Only drive licensed vehicles.
- Wear I.D. badge at all times.
- Display I.D. badge in vehicle.
- Ensure children wear seat belts and advise adults.
- Comply with Criminal Record Bureau requirements.
- Never exceed number of passengers on Plate regardless of age.
- Check car after every journey for lost property.

Do not accept immediate hiring for private hire.  
Report any change of Medical Fitness and attend for a medical if required.  
Give reasonable assistance with luggage.  
Produce any documents required by operator for checking.  
Driver, Vehicle and Operator MUST all be licensed in 'Brighton & Hove.

Remember;

Passengers hire the vehicle with the services of the driver and he should;

- a) Not use the horn to make passengers aware of his arrival.
- b) Not cause distress, by loud radio use, to passengers or others.
- c) Refrain from smoking when passengers are in the vehicle.

### **IMPORTANT.**

The courts have clearly stated that a driver must only drive for an operator licensed with that same district as their vehicle and driver licence, so all three licences, (driver, vehicle and operator) must be issued by the same council. Failure to comply with certain items above can lead to arrest and a fine of up to £2,500. This list is for advice only and is not exhaustive.

### **PART C.**

#### **ADVICE TO VEHICLE OWNERS.**

Your licence is issued subject to the vehicle being mechanically fit and meeting the requirements of licence conditions. Your vehicle could be required to undertake inspections by various Officers and failure to meet the standards required may result in the suspension of the licence and possible revocation.

We would advise that attention be given to the following;

- Vehicle Insurance is valid.
- Road Fund Licence is valid.
- Certificate of Compliance is valid
- Driver holds valid D.S.A. licence.
- Driver holds Brighton & Hove driver licence.
- Check vehicle complies with law.
- Boot kept clear for luggage.
- Vehicle clean inside and out.
- All accidents are reported.
- Any change of Address reported.
- Any change of vehicle reported
- Carry Fire Extinguisher.
- Meter must be sealed if fitted.
- Roof sign must be fitted (HC)
- Display tariff inside vehicle.
- Meter must be fitted (HC).
- Display vehicle plate number inside.
- Carry copy of insurance in vehicle.
- Maintain to "Exceptional Condition"

Ensure attend for Interim Inspection.

Display plate on exterior of vehicle.

Roof sign correctly positioned (PH).

Do not let anyone drive who does not hold the correct type of licence for the type of vehicle, at any time (i.e. they must hold a private hire or hackney carriage driver licence issued by Brighton & Hove City Council, depending on the class of vehicle).

This list is for advice only and is not exhaustive. Failure to comply with certain items above could lead to arrest and a fine of up to £2,500.

#### **PART D.**

#### **GENERAL ADVICE.**

\*\*Operators must be licensed in the same district as the district in which they have the office, and only make use of drivers and vehicles that are also licensed in the same district for which they hold a licence.

\*\*Once licensed the vehicle becomes a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire and can only be driven by a person who holds a licence to drive that type of vehicle i.e. A Hackney carriage is always a Hackney Carriage and can only be driven by a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence holder (Yates v Gates, 1970, and Thain v Darlington, 1995,) and Private Hire has similar cases in respect of drivers and vehicles (Mahmood v Leeds, 1995 and Benson v Boyce, (Copeland), 1997), the law has not changed since those decisions were handed down.

\*\*If the vehicle does not comply with the requirements of the law or the licence conditions in any respect it may not be used until it complies in all respects.

\*\*Touting or plying by Private Hire are serious offences which could not only see the offender being arrested but also liable to a fine of up to £2,500, (plus the revocation of any licenses held). The touting legislation also applies to hackneys.

\*\*Any gathering of more than 2 private hire vehicles could be seen as 'forming a rank' and lead to prosecution for plying for hire.

\*\* Anyone convicted of any criminal offence, (this could include many offences against the taxi and private hire requirements) can be disqualified from holding a DVLA driving licence and this is particularly so if a vehicle was used in the crime.

\*\*No unlicensed driver or vehicle may be used at anytime for the fulfilling of any booking which falls within the licensing requirements of the 1847 or 1976 Acts.

#### **AUTHORISED OFFICERS.**

It is an offence to obstruct or not give assistance or information to any such Officer or Police Constable in relation to the performance of his duties for the purpose of the licensing of Private Hire or Hackney Carriages.

### **HORSEDRAWN, RICKSHAWS OR OTHER VEHICLES.**

Any person wishing to licence any vehicle which does not have four wheels, is not propelled by mechanical means, or does not comply with the conditions as relating to Hackney Carriages or Private Hire Vehicles is advised to seek the assistance of an authorised Officer.

### **FIRST AID.**

Your attention is drawn to your liability if rendering first aid. The kit if carried is to enable ONLY those trained in its use to render assistance to third parties. If the need for its use should arise it should only be used by a person who holds a current recognised first aid certificate. If a passenger requested the equipment then it may be provided for self administration by the customer in the interest of customer care.

### **JOINT RESPONSIBILITY**

Drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators will be held responsible to ensure that each is licensed and any information passed to the authorised officer of non compliance will be treated in strictest confidence.