

Private Hire Drivers

An individual requires a Private Hire Driver's Licence before they can drive a Private Hire Vehicle. In addition the vehicle being driven will require a Private Hire Vehicle Licence. (Section 51, LG (MP) A 1976)

Private Hire Driver's Licences are issued subject to the conditions of the Licence and the relevant provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1976.

1. ELIGIBILITY

The application requirements for a Private Hire Driver's Licence are that the applicant must:

- hold and have held a Full Drivers Licence for at least 12 months;
- be a fit and proper person for the duties of driving a Private Hire Vehicle. Any convictions or cautions, including motoring offences will be considered in the light of the Council's Policy Guidelines for Convictions at the time of application;
- be physically and mentally fit;
- be over the age of 21;
- provide business and/or personal references that are satisfactory to the Council.

In addition to these provisions all applicants for a Private Hire Driver's Licence shall be required to successfully pass a driving test with the Driving Standards Agency (DSA), as distinct from the DVLA driving test. Where it is considered appropriate, the test shall include the component for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles.

Existing drivers will not be required to undergo this DSA test. Where it becomes evident that a licensed drivers' driving ability has fallen below the standard considered to be safe or where a driver has acquired between 7 to 9 penalty points on their DVLA driving licence, a licensed driver should undergo the DSA test. If such a test is failed, consideration will be given to suspend a driver's licence until they successfully pass. This decision will only be taken by the Assistant Director (Environmental Health) under existing delegated powers where there is a potential risk to the public.

An applicant or driver would meet the cost of the Private Hire DSA test.

Further details of the Test can be obtained from the Licensing Officer.

2. FITNESS

All new applicants are required to undergo a medical examination by a Doctor to the Group 2 Vocational Standard, based upon the prescribed D4 medical examination required by the DVLA. In addition, all existing drivers are required to undertake a medical examination every four years and annually from the age of 60 years.

This Council shall only accept a medical certificate completed by an applicant's own Doctor or a Doctor from the same medical practice who has access to a patient's medical history notes. The same requirement shall apply to existing drivers.

On each renewal of a licence applicants are required to make a declaration as to their physical and mental fitness.

3. POLICE CHECK

All new applicants are also required to obtain at their own expense a Standard level Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) search. All existing Drivers will be required to complete a CRB search every three years.

4. CONVICTIONS AND CAUTIONS

Any licensed driver shall within seven calendar days report to the council in writing details of any conviction(s), caution(s) or Fixed Penalty Notices for crime or endorsable offences, ASBO's or penalty notices for disorder, imposed on him or her during the period of the licence, including all motoring offences or pending proceedings.