

Regulatory and Appeals Committee 24 September 2012

Title of paper:	Licensing of private hire vehicles to carry one passenger	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Andrew Errington	Wards affected: All
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Relevant Council Plan Strategic Priority:		
World Class Nottingham		X
Work in Nottingham		X
Safer Nottingham		X
Neighbourhood Nottingham		
Family Nottingham		
Healthy Nottingham		X
Leading Nottingham		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
<p>This report asks members to consider amending the current vehicle specification for private hire vehicles (attached at Appendix 1) to additionally allow vehicles which are only capable of carrying one passenger to be licensed as private hire vehicles.</p> <p>This will allow smaller vehicles onto fleets which in turn may lower carbon emissions for single passenger journeys compared with the 'standard' private hire vehicles available.</p> <p>The option may appeal to customers for short single passenger journeys</p>		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To approve the licensing of vehicles capable of carrying only one passenger	
2	To agree that the Councils adopted specification for private hire vehicles be amended to include the specification for 1 passenger vehicles attached at appendix '2' to this report	
3	That the licence fee for a private hire vehicle licence for a 1 passenger vehicle be the same as for other private hire vehicles, and that all other Council policies relating to private hire vehicles (such as the age policy,) shall apply to such vehicles.	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Licensing Section has been approached to consider the licensing of private hire vehicles which are capable of carrying a maximum of one passenger.

- 1.2 Private hire vehicles can be licensed to carry between 1, and 8, passengers.
- 1.3 The Council's currently adopted specification only permits the licensing of vehicles capable of carrying 4 or more passengers (appendix '1'). An amendment would be required to the specification in order to allow the licensing of vehicles capable of carrying only 1 passenger.
- 1.4 The Department for Transport's best practice guidelines for hackney carriage and private hire operations (paragraph 26/27) encourage Councils to consider licensing a range of vehicles for private hire usage.
- 1.5 Section 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that:

'A district Council may on receipt of an application from the proprietor of any vehicle for the grant in respect of such vehicle of a licence to use the vehicle as a private hire vehicle, grant in respect thereof a vehicle licence:

Provided that a district Council shall **not** grant such a licence unless they are satisfied that':

(a) The vehicle is:-

- Suitable in type, size, and design for use as a private hire vehicle;
- Not of such design and appearance as to lead to any person to believe that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage.
- In a suitable mechanical condition.
- Safe
- Comfortable

(b) That the vehicle is insured as a Private Hire Vehicle

And 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.

Also to note:

Any Private Hire Vehicle may be driven by any licensed driver.

- 1.6 Members may wish to also bear in mind that a Private Hire Vehicle is defined as:

"A motor vehicle constructed to seat fewer than nine passengers, other than a Hackney Carriage or Public Service Vehicle which is provided for hire with the services of a driver for the purpose of carrying passengers".

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 Licensing a range of vehicles with differing seating capacities will allow customers a

choice of vehicles for their journeys, It will also allow vehicle proprietors / operators to provide a vehicle and service which may be more environmentally friendly in respect of CO2 emissions, and / or suitable for the type of journeys to be undertaken than the more conventional vehicles which are currently licensed.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 None

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

4.1 None

5. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS)

The recommendation is at the Committee's discretion. As indicated in paragraph 1.5 above the Committee should address whether the proposed specification, amongst other things, is for a vehicle which is suitable in type, size, and design for use as a private hire vehicle. Any 1 passenger vehicles put forwarded for licensing will be subject to the Council's normal testing and inspection regime and policies which address matters such as vehicle safety. In addressing the size and design issue members should bear in mind that it is an offence for both private hire operators and drivers to refuse to carry assistance dogs. The Committee should have regard to the ability of this type of vehicle to accommodate a passenger accompanied by an assistance dog, and /or transport other equipment such as a wheelchair alongside the availability of other licensed private hire vehicles and public transport capable of transporting passengers with such needs

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs)

Comments will be reported to the Committee on the day following inspection.

7. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

7.1 None

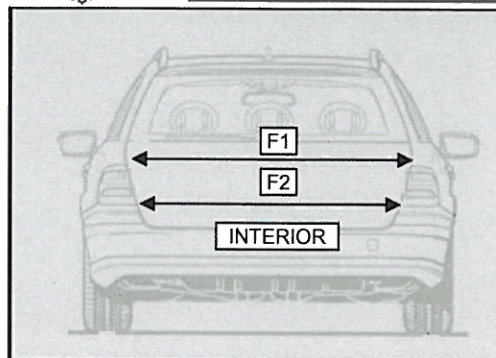
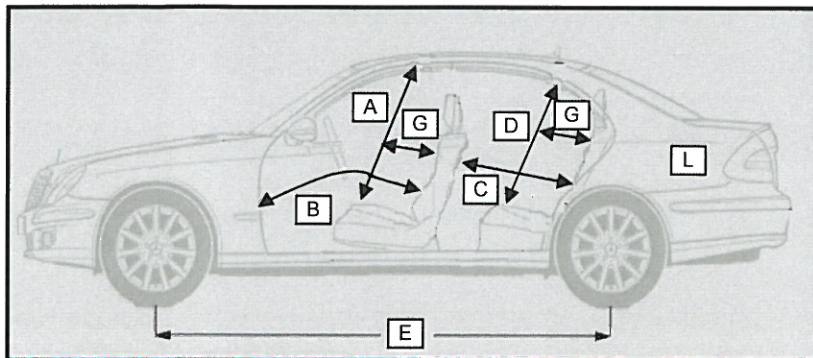
8. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

8.1 TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING: BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE
March 2010

New Vehicle Measurement Form
Specification For Private Hire Vehicles



Nottingham
City Council



GENERAL DIMENSIONS

Vehicle Make & Model

- A** 914mm min Cushion not compressed =
- B** 939mm min Seat fully rearward =
- C** 609mm min Front seat fully rearward =
- D** 863mm min Cushion not compressed =
- E** 2438mm min Wheelbase for rear wheel drive =
 vehicles (shorter wheelbases will be considered for front wheel drive cars and other types of vehicle where the design of the vehicle provides interior space in excess of the above minimum dimensions)
- F1** 1346mm min Interior width measured in line =
 with the top face of the seat cushions, but excluding any arm rests and at a point on the bodysides 2" below the bottom edge of the side window aperture.
- F2** 1244mm min Interior width measured between any =
 arm rest on the door.
- G** 254mm Point of measurement parallel with the squab. =
- H** 0.42cu Metres of hard luggage min. (15 cu feet) =

Length =

Width =

Height =

Divide (L) x (W) x (H) by 1728 to obtain cubic capacity. =

General Specifications

- (1) Front Engine - Petrol or Diesel
 - Front or Rear Wheel Drive
 - Minimum Engine Capacity of 1600cc for conventional 4 passenger vehicles.
- (2) Seating should be for at least 4, but no more than 8 passengers in addition to the driver.
 Rearward facing seats over or rearward of the rear wheels and axle(s) having normal access only through a rear door will not be accepted.
 Folding or moving seats which are so constructed to provide access to other seats to which there is no direct access will not be accepted.
 Front seats shall be equipped with safety belts in accordance with current legislation and any vehicle having a gangway between the bodyside and nearside passenger seat must be equipped with a lap and shoulder belt which does not obstruct the gangway.
- (3) A separate lockable luggage compartment is preferred. In vehicles where the luggage is not in a separate compartment passengers must be protected by a screen from items of luggage being propelled into the passenger compartment area by the vehicle movement.
- (4) At least 4 road wheels.
- (5) Manufacturers gross vehicle weight for tyres and suspension actually fitted to the vehicle submitted for a licence must be sufficient for a minimum payload equal to the driver, full fuel tank, the number of passengers for which a licence is requested (at 70 kg per person) and luggage (at 20 kgs per person).
 Where Propane or L.P.G is used as the vehicle fuel the weight of extra equipment must be within the gross weight.
 Where the vehicle type has a marginal payload rating and it has many nonstandard fittings and equipment, a weighbridge certificate of kerb weight may be required.
- (6) All vehicles will be of an approved type, being properly constructed in accordance with all appropriate Act of Parliament and E.E.C Legislation applicable to the U.K. Approved vehicles will be right hand drive, with the exception of chauffeur driven limosine type vehicles used for executive hire which may be left-hand drive, fitted with at least 4 road wheels, with at least two passenger doors in the bodysides and separate means of access for the driver.

Passengers will be provided with sufficient means of communication with the driver and have facilities to carry luggage in a safe and secure condition. The passenger accommodation will have properly upholstered and covered seats, with floors also properly covered. There will be direct access to all doors without the need to fold or move any seats to provide a gangway. There will be means of opening and closing at least one window each side of the vehicle.

GENERAL EQUIPMENT

Where a vehicle has more than 4 passenger seats and arranged on more than 2 rows of seats, the headroom for the intermediate seats will be as for the front seat.

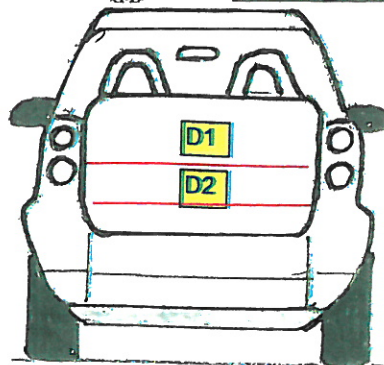
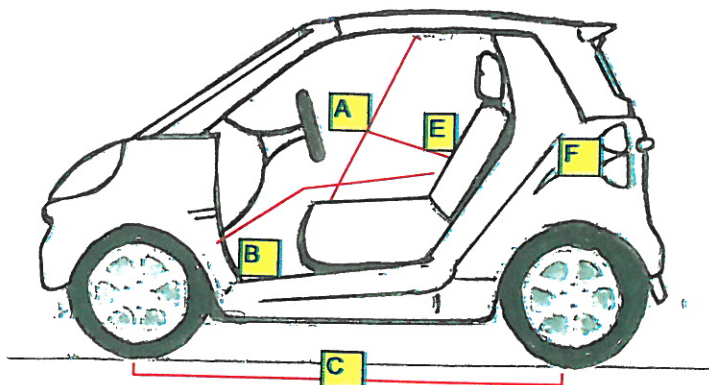
- (1) Spare Wheel and Tyre - properly stowed to protect passengers luggage.
 (2) Jack and Wheel Brace.
 (3) 1.36kg B.C.F or Dry Powder Fire Extinguisher and First Aid Kit in the passenger compartment of
 (4) Nearside and Offside rear view mirrors
 (5) If a faremeter is fitted it must be visible to all passengers and not be a safety hazard to passengers.

In addition to the general requirements, Private Hire Vehicles will not display any advertising or lettering other than the permitted 127mm x 76mm label in the windscreen displaying the City of Nottingham Private Hire Licence number or other approved legend in letters and figures no more than 25mm high.

London type Hackney Carriages are not allowed to be licensed as Private Hire Vehicles.



Minimum Dimensions For One Passenger Vehicle
Specification For Private Hire Vehicles



GENERAL DIMENSIONS

Vehicle Make & Model

A 914mm min Cushion not compressed =

B 939mm min Seat fully rearward =

C 1807mm min Wheelbase =

vehicles (shorter wheelbases will be considered for front wheel drive cars and other types of vehicle where the design of the vehicle provides interior space in excess of the above minimum dimensions)

D1 1150mm min Interior width measured in line with the top face of the seat cushions, but excluding any arm rests and at a point on the bodysides 2" below the bottom edge of the side window aperture. =

D2 1140mm min Interior width measured between any arm rest on the door. =

E 254mm Point of measurement parallel with the squab. =

F 12.6 cu ft Cubic Feet of hard luggage min. =

Length =

Width =

Height =

Divide (L) x (W) x (H) by 1728 to obtain cubic capacity. =

General Specifications

- (1) Front Engine
 - Petrol or Diesel
 - Front or Rear Wheel Drive
 - Minimum Engine Capacity of 800 cc (min) for 1 passenger vehicles.
- (2) Seating should be for 1 passenger in addition to the driver.
Rearward facing seats over or rearward of the rear wheels and axle(s) having normal access only through a rear door will not be accepted.
- (3) Folding or moving seats which are so constructed to provide access to other seats to which there is no direct access will not be accepted.

Front seats shall be equipped with safety belts in accordance with current legislation.

- (4)
- (5) A separate lockable luggage compartment is preferred. In vehicles where the luggage is not in a separate compartment passengers must be protected by a screen from items of luggage being propelled into the passenger compartment area by the vehicle movement.
- (5) At least 4 road wheels.
- (6) Manufacturers gross vehicle weight for tyres and suspension actually fitted to the vehicle submitted for a licence must be sufficient for a minimum payload equal to the driver, full fuel tank, the number of passengers for which a licence is requested (at 70 kg per person) and luggage (at 20 kgs per person).
Where Propane or L.P.G is used as the vehicle fuel the weight of extra equipment must be within the
- (7) gross weight.
Where the vehicle type has a marginal payload rating and it has many nonstandard fittings and
- (8) equipment, a weighbridge certificate of kerb weight may be required.
- (9) All vehicles will be of an approved type, being properly constructed in accordance with all appropriate Act of Parliament and E.E.C Legislation applicable to the U.K. Approved vehicles will be right hand drive, with the exception of chauffeur driven limousine type vehicles used for executive hire which may be left-hand drive, fitted with at least 4 road wheels, with at least one passenger door in the bodyside and separate means of access for the driver.
Passengers will be provided with sufficient means of communication with the driver and have facilities to carry luggage in a safe and secure condition. The passenger accommodation will have properly upholstered and covered seats, with floors also properly covered. There will be direct access to a door without the need to fold or move any seats to provide a gangway. There will be means of opening and
- (10) closing at least one window.

GENERAL EQUIPMENT

- (1) Spare Wheel and Tyre - properly stowed to protect passengers luggage.(or manufacturers equivalent -
- (2) Jack and Wheel Brace.
- (3) 1.36kg B.C.F or Dry Powder Fire Extinguisher and First Aid Kit in the passenger compartment
- 4 Nearside and Offside rear view mirrors
- (5) If a faremeter is fitted it must be visible to all passengers and not be a safety hazard to passengers.

other than the permitted 127mm x 76mm label in the windscreen displaying the City of Nottingham Private Hire Licence number or other approved legend in letters and figures no more than 25mm high. Or any advertising approved by the Council