

**BUSINESS DIRECTORATE
LICENSING & ENFORCEMENT UNIT**

The Business Centre, Futures Park, Newchurch Road,
Bacup, OL13 0BB
Tel: 01706 217 777
Minicom: 01706 252 277
licensing@rossendalebc.gov.uk

**THE COUNCIL DOES NOT ACCEPT SERVICE OF
DOCUMENTS BY E-MAIL**

This matter is being dealt with by:

Name: Mrs J Hicks
Telephone: 01706 238602
Email: licensing@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Our reference:

Dear Sir,

**ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
REVIEW OF TAXI LICENSING POLICY**

On 12th July Rossendale's Licensing Committee resolved to commence a consultation exercise on the revision of the Council's Policies and Guidance relating to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policies.

In particular there are 16 policy issues that are under consideration these include:-

- Vehicle requirements.
- Use of CCTV in licensed vehicles.
- A basic skills and knowledge/locality tests and training requirements.
- Review of Guidelines to Convictions.
- Proposals for a driver Code of Conduct.

It is recognised that a substantial number of Rossendale's licensed vehicles currently operate outside of the Council's locality and therefore it is important that the consultation process invites comments from organisations who may be affected by current and future taxi policies, as well as Rossendale's licensed trade. Rossendale Council welcomes consultation responses from as wide a range of interested parties as possible.

Attached to this letter are the details of the taxi matters that are currently under consultation and a questionnaire that should be used to form the basis of consultation responses.

***"Rossendale will have strong communities with an enhanced environment and heritage.
It will be an attractive place to live where tourists visit and employers invest."***



Please note the consultation is open until **16th September 2016**. Any comments received after this date may not be considered as part of the review.

All responses should be returned to licensing@rossendalebc.gov.uk with the subject heading "Consultation Response"

or Licensing and Enforcement Unit,
Rossendale Borough Council,
The Business Centre,
Futures Park,
Bacup,
Lancashire.
OL13 0BB

Thank you for taking the time to consider this consultation.

The review is being undertaken to ensure that Rossendale Council has the necessary policies in place to ensure its licensed trade has the appropriate skills, knowledge and vehicle standards to deliver a safe and high quality licensed taxi trade.

Yours faithfully,



Clare Birtwistle
Legal Services Manager

*"Rossendale will have strong communities with an enhanced environment and heritage.
It will be an attractive place to live where tourists visit and employers invest."*



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ROSSENDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

CONSULTATION RESPONSE – REVIEW OF TAXI LICENSING POLICY

The following questions address each of the specific areas of the consultation.

1.	<p>a) Do you think that the maximum age of vehicles when first licence should be reduced from the current age of 7 years? i.e. a requirement of newer vehicles at first licence.</p> <p>b) Do you think the Euro Emission standard should be used as a parameter to determine the Councils age limit policy ?</p> <p>c) Do you think consideration should be given to changing the maximum age at which vehicle should be licensed ?</p> <p>d) Do you think a different age limit should be applied to wheelchair accessible vehicles?</p> <p>Please add comments below</p> <p><u>Reasons/Comments:</u></p>	YES/ NO YES/ NO YES/ NO YES/ NO
2.	<p>It is a legal requirement that private hire vehicles are not of a design and appearance, that would lead any person to believe that the vehicle was a hackney carriage. Do you think that the Council should introduce a uniform livery for Rossendale licensed hackney carriage vehicles?</p> <p><u>Reasons/Comments:</u></p>	YES/ NO

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3.	Do you think the Council should require all Rossendale licensed hackney carriage vehicles to be wheelchair accessible? <u>Reasons/Comments:</u>	YES/ NO
4.	Do you think a mandatory requirement of CCTV in all Rossendale licensed vehicles should be introduced? <u>Reasons/Comments:</u>	YES/ NO
5.	Do you think the Council should require all licensed drivers to maintain subscription to the online DBS update service with a requirement that a full enhanced DBS would only be required following a change in status in the DBS certificate? <u>Reasons/Comments:</u>	YES/ NO
6.	Do you think that all licensed drivers should be required to meet the	

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	<p>Rossendale basic standard in numeracy and English literacy? (This requirement is currently in place for all new applicants but consideration is being given to all existing licensed drivers to be required to meet this standard on renewal).</p> <p><u>Reasons/Comments:</u></p>	YES/ NO
7.	<p>Do you think hackney carriage proprietors should be required to maintain an accurate record of the use of their vehicles in order to assess whether the vehicle is predominately being used in Rossendale?</p> <p><u>Reasons/Comments:</u></p>	YES/ NO
8.	<p>There is currently no requirement for vehicle proprietors to demonstrate their fitness. Do you think vehicle proprietors licensed by Rossendale Council who are not currently licensed drivers should be required to obtain a basic disclosure?</p> <p><u>Reasons/Comments:</u></p>	YES/ NO

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9.	<p>Do you think the Council's current policy in respect of tinted windows in licensed vehicles should remain as current? (see attached taxi licensing consultation overview doc para ix)</p> <p><u>Reasons/Comments:</u></p>	YES/ NO
10.	<p>a) Do you think that as part of Rossendale's driver application process, applicants should be required to satisfactorily complete a locality knowledge test?</p> <p>b) Do you think any locality knowledge test should apply equally to both hackney carriage and private hire drivers licences?</p> <p>c) Do you think any locality knowledge test should apply to both new applicants and existing drivers upon renewal?</p> <p><u>Reasons/Comments:</u></p>	YES/ NO YES/ NO YES/ NO
11.	<p>Do you think Rossendale Council's licensing policy should be reviewed, having regard to the implications and trends seen as a result of the Deregulation Act 2015?</p> <p>Do you think Rossendale's Council intended use policy should be reviewed ?</p> <p><u>Reasons/Comments:</u></p>	YES/ NO YES/ NO

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12.	<p>Do you think Rossendale's Guidelines to Convictions Policy should be reviewed? (the policy can be viewed at https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/2379/draft_guidelines_to_convictions_including_statement_of_policy_about_relevant_convictions_cautions_complaints_and_other_relevant_matters)</p> <p><u>Reasons/Comments:</u></p>	YES/ NO

13.	<p>Rossendale Council proposes to introduce a Code of Good Conduct for licensed drivers. Do you think this would be useful/appropriate?</p> <p><u>Reasons/Comments:</u></p>	YES/NO
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14.	<p>Rossendale Council currently requires all driver applicants to satisfactorily complete the Taxi Driver DSA test. The Council has been requested to consider approval of alternative provision of a driving standards assessment (in order to assist with backlogs). Do you think this is appropriate?</p> <p><u>Reasons/Comments:</u></p>	YES/NO
15.	<p>As part of the review licence fees and tariff cards will also be considered. These reviews will be considered in accordance with legal requirements and any proposals will be subject to consultation in accordance with the statutory framework at the appropriate time. However please provide any initial views/comments below.</p> <p><u>Views/Comments:</u></p>	

In order to minimise the opportunity of multiple responses from an individual or organisation anonymised responses will be highlighted as such in any Council report and may not be given as much credence as other responses.

Please provide the following information:-

Name of respondent

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Representing

Rossendale Licence holder YES/NO

If Yes licence number

Contact telephone number

Contact e-mail address

Please note responses received from this consultation will be published in a public report.

If you do not wish your comments to be attributed to you or your organisation in any published report please tick this box.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation exercise.

Please note that all comments must be received by Rossendale Council by **16th September 2016**. Any comments received after this date may not be considered as part of the review.

All responses should be returned to:-

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