

Tendring District Council

Taxi News

December 2022

Taxi Policy – Pre-Consultation Survey

Following a recommendation of the Licensing and Registration Committee in respect of developing a comprehensive taxi/private hire policy, officers have put together a pre-consultation survey which focusses on items raised in the recent Best Practice Guidance issued by the Department for Transport and other areas Members have raised.

The pre-consultation survey is available for taxi/private hire licence holders, stakeholders, and general public to submit their comments no later than 8 February 2022. Once the consultation period has closed any comments will be put before Members at the next Licensing and Registration Committee for review.

The survey is available either by the QR code below or visiting www.tendringdc.gov.uk



Personal Callers

Please be aware that the Licensing Office is open for pre-arrange appointments only, if you do not have an appointment, you will not be seen. Please do not come to the offices unless you have been specifically requested and been given an appointment time. The main reception staff at The Town Hall are unable to assist with your applications and documents.

The Licensing Office are able to accept applications for vehicles grants, change of vehicle, temporary vehicle and renewal applications via e-mail (licensingsection@tendringdc.gov.uk or taxi@tendringdc.gov.uk) and payments can be made over the telephone using either a credit or debit card.

Please ensure that the email document is no larger than 25mb as these are unable to pass the Council's email security system.

Vehicle Plates

It has come to our attention recently that Hackney Carriage/Private Hire taxi plates are not being returned to the Licensing Office when they are no longer required.

Please ensure that if you have renewed your licence that the old plate is returned to The Town Hall offices marked for the attention of the Licensing Team within 7 days of the receipt of your new plate.

If your vehicle is off the road for any reason e.g. being repaired following an accident, your plate will also need to be handed to the Licensing Team for holding whilst the repairs take place. These will be returned to you once your vehicle is fit to be used as a taxi again.

If you are unsure if you are required to do this please do not hesitate to speak to one of the team who will clarify this for you.

Driving in adverse weather

We want everyone to keep themselves and their passenger's safe over the winter so we hope that the tips shown below might help a little in that regard.

Driving in adverse weather conditions requires additional care and attention and you should ensure your vehicle is adequately prepared. Below are just some general notes intended to help you prepare for the winter.

We are sure that your vehicles are regularly inspected, serviced and in good working order, but in adverse weather, particular attention should be given to the following –

- * Car batteries last approximately five years, and extra demand placed on them during adverse weather from the use of heaters, lights, and wipers can decrease their lifespan.
- * Check the tyre pressure in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- * Check the tyre treads depths. For winter driving it is recommended to have 3mm of tread and certainly not less than 2mm.
- * Ensure that there is an adequate amount of anti – freeze, in both the windscreen washer bottle and radiator.
- * Keep lights clean and check bulbs regularly so you'll be prepared for lower visibility and shorter days.
- * Make sure wiper blades aren't worn and the vehicle has sufficient windscreen washer fluid in the reservoir so you can keep your windscreen as clean as possible.
- * Dirty windows and mirrors can make it hard to see as the low winter sun hits. Make sure they are kept clean and free of ice and snow in colder weather. Ensure windows are clear and de-misted before setting off.
- * Ensure the taxi plate and registration plate are kept clean and legible.

Christmas Closure

Please note that the Council Offices will be closed to the public from Friday 23 December 2022 until Tuesday 03 January 2023.

Any documents can still be emailed to taxi@tendringdc.gov.uk, which will be dealt with once the team are back in the office.

Thank you for reading this edition of Taxi News. In the meantime, please keep safe, drive safe and always pay extra attention to the weather conditions during these dark winter months.

From all in the Licensing Team, we would like to wish you a safe and very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.





County Lines Awareness – December 2022

Dear Sir/ Madam,

We are seeking to raise awareness around County Lines and protecting those who need help.

Research has highlighted that gangs and criminal networks who recruit vulnerable children as couriers to move cash and drugs are utilising taxis as a mode of transport.

Help us to keep our children and young people safe by highlighting the possible signs of and play your part in keeping your community safe.

Please find attached information within this letter which can be put up in staff rooms which identifies your role and responsibility to safeguard vulnerable people.

As you may already be aware, #LookCloser is a partnership campaign between **The Childrens Society**, the **National County Lines Co-ordination Centre** and the **British Transport Police** aiming to raise awareness of child exploitation and abuse, with a particular focus on public spaces (including transport). The campaign also seeks to challenge stereotypes of victimhood, highlighting that child exploitation can happen anywhere, and any young person can be a victim.

Please find below links to the Children's Society website where you can find further information:

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/look-closer>

If you have previously come across young vulnerable people, please do inform us on how you took steps to safeguard them. We are always looking for positive role models and companies who support the community partnership with the Police in tackling serious and organised crime.

Also find below links to further Home office guidance and information about your responsibilities and how you can be supported to recognise the signs of exploitation and how to safeguard effectively.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/county-lines-posters-for-taxi-and-private-vehicle-hire-staff>

Should you have concerns for a child, it is important that you know what you can do with that information and how to report your concerns. If you believe a child is at immediate risk of harm always dial 999. You can also dial 101, however, there are also online facilities available to make this easier for you.

[Something you've seen or heard | Essex Police](#)

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