

## LEWES DISTRICT COUNCIL

### TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING

#### GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

There are no restrictions on the number of Hackney Carriage plates that are issued by Lewes District Council.

As a general policy vehicles presented for first licensing shall not be more than 5 years old from date of first registration, and vehicles more than 10 years old will not be re-licensed.

1. Vehicles must be fitted with a minimum of four side doors.
2. Engine capacity shall not be less than 1290cc.
3. The vehicle shall be so designed to permit the specified number of passengers to be carried in comfort and safety. The rear seat must be at least 48" wide and all seats shall have a minimum width of 16" per person.
4. The vehicle shall be provided with adequate luggage space for the number of passengers for which the vehicle is licensed.
5. Vehicles may be of the saloon, estate, hatchback or MPV type, all of which require approval from the Council. Estate vehicles must be fitted with a grill or parcel shelf.
6. Left hand drive vehicles will not be licensed.

A Hackney Carriage requires "Public Hire Insurance" and a Private Hire Vehicle requires "Private Hire Insurance". Both insurances can be very costly and it may be advisable to obtain an insurance quote before deciding to purchase a vehicle for licensing.

A valid MOT Certificate is required for Hackney Carriage Vehicles over 1 year old and Private Hire Vehicles over 3 years old. Both categories of vehicle require two garage inspections per year at an authorised MOT Testing Station, within Lewes District Council area, one at licensing and one six months later.

Hackney Carriages require a calendar controlled taximeter set to the Lewes District Council fare tariff. Private Hire vehicles need not be fitted with a meter. Hackney Carriages require a roof sign and both vehicles require a Fire Extinguisher and First Aid Kit.

Plates that are issued to both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles always remain the property of the Council and must be returned when de-plated. The plate must be fixed to the OUTSIDE of the vehicle at the rear AT ALL TIMES.