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**Consultation on Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing**

**Proposal to Offer Three Year Driver Licences**

* Three year licences will be offered to drivers with:-
  + a total of less than 3 points on DVLA licence and City Council penalty points scheme, and
  + no criminal convictions relating to drugs, violence, dishonesty or other serious offences in last ten years.
* Two year licences will be offered to drivers with:-
  + a total of 3 to 5 points on DVLA licence and City Council penalty points scheme, and
  + no criminal convictions relating to drugs, violence, dishonesty or other serious offences in last ten years.
* One year licences will be offered to all other drivers.
* Drivers will not be offered a licence which expires beyond the date of their next DBS disclosure (criminal record check) is due. Drivers may opt to have a DBS disclosure early.
* Fees are likely to be in the region of £173 for a three year licence, £120 for a two year licence and £71 for a one year licence. A 10% discount for NVQ holders will still apply.

Questions

1. Do you agree with the criteria proposed by the City Council for determining eligibility for longer licences?
2. Do you want to suggest other criteria that could be used?

**Proposal for Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Briefings**

* All drivers will be required to attend a briefing on child sexual exploitation within three months of the grant or renewal of their licence.
* The briefing will also cover other areas such as:
  + Legal requirements;
  + Customer Care;
  + Disability Access.
* The cost of the briefing will be met by the Council for existing drivers and included in the application fee for new drivers.
* If a driver does not attend a briefing within 3 months, the Council may suspend their licence.
* The need for future refresher training will be considered at a later date.

Questions

1. Are there other areas that you would like information on during the briefing?
2. Do you want to make any other comments about the proposed CSE Briefings?

**Driver Penalty Points Scheme**

* The City Council will record penalty points against drivers because of misconduct that is not serious enough in itself to warrant a prosecution.
* If a driver receives more than 12 penalty points within a 3 year period, the Council will consider suspending or revoking the driver’s licence.
* The driver will have an opportunity to state their case before any points are added.
* The scheme will run separately to the guidelines on convictions and points on a driver’s DVLA licence.
* An initial proposal as the maximum points that may be added are as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Offence/Breach of Condition** | **Maximum Points Applicable** |
| 1 | Providing false or misleading information on licence application form, or failing to provide relevant information (serious cases may result in prosecution). | 3 |
| 2 | Failure to use taxi meter for journeys within prescribed distance | 4 |
| 3 | Refusal to accept hiring without reasonable cause | 4 |
| 4 | Parking a vehicle in contravention of parking restrictions | 3 |
| 5 | Failure to display appropriate plates, or plate improperly secured, or failure to display door signs. | 3 |
| 6 | Failure to wear driver’s badge | 3 |
| 7 | Failure to undertake 6 monthly vehicle examination | 4 |
| 8 | Driving a vehicle in an unroadworthy condition (eg prohibition notice) | 5 |
| 9 | Failure to notify Licensing Authority of a conviction | 3 |
| 10 | Failure to comply with the drivers’ code of conduct. | 1 |

Questions

1. Do you consider that the proposed points schedule is appropriate?
2. Do you want to make any other comments about the proposed penalty points scheme?

**Review of Private Hire Vehicle and Hackney Carriage Age Policy**

* The vehicle age policy was introduced in July 2013 and we are now reviewing it.
* The age policy requires that vehicles are less than 5 years old when licensed for the first time and less than eleven years old when their licence is renewed.
* The policy was intended to bring about a continuous replacement of the fleet with time, with more modern vehicles that were safer, more reliable, more comfortable, had lower emissions and gave a better impression of the city.

Question

1. Do you want to make any comments about how the age policy is working?