

GUIDANCE FOR PERSONS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING

1. The Council is issuing one (1) wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriage licence. Only one entry from each address will be considered.
2. A licence will only be issued in respect of a purpose built Hackney Carriage vehicle and purpose built to accommodate wheelchair disabled passengers, which is defined as follows:

A wheelchair accessible vehicle means, "a vehicle purpose built by the manufacturer or adapted prior to registration in a manner approved by the manufacturer and Chorley Borough Council and has obtained the appropriate vehicle type approval". The vehicle must provide access for a wheelchair through the near side or offside doors. Vehicles with rear door access will not be acceptable. Any door used for wheelchair access must be capable of opening as wide as the aperture. An approved method to secure both the wheelchair and the wheelchair occupant must be provided; additional high visibility handholds and additional steps must be provided for the assistance of elderly and ambulant disabled people; ramps or other means (mechanical lift) must be employed with the vehicle for the loading/un-loading of wheel chairs. In all cases any ancillary fittings will be Type 1 approved or equivalent. The Councils Conditions of application for Hackney Carriages remain unchanged save that, the requirement for the words "Chorley Borough Council" will not apply on the forward or rear face of the top sign where the sign is purposely built into the structure of the vehicle.

3. It will be a condition of the issue and annual renewal of the licence that the vehicle, and any subsequent replacement vehicle, shall be wheelchair accessible as defined above.
4. Any driver of the wheelchair accessible vehicle licensed will be required to demonstrate that he/she has either undertaken or has made arrangements for persons with disability training and will have successfully completed a recognised course.

Note: Under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, the Secretary of State may make "taxi accessibility regulations"; containing detailed specifications for hackney carriages. These specifications are likely to be phased in over a period of time, and will eventually apply to all hackney carriages, although as yet it is not known when. The Regulations have not yet been made, and it should be noted that the Council cannot guarantee that a vehicle which complies with its own definition of "wheelchair accessible" will necessarily comply with future taxi accessibility regulations.

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5. In addition to the existing fees for a hackney carriage licence there is also the additional fee of £294.02 for this licence, which is 1/37 of unmet demand survey 2008. The successful applicant must pay this additional fee.
6. The following criteria have been set for the allocation of the licence:
 - a) Every vehicle shall be a London style taxi such as TX2, Metrocab, or other models at the satisfaction of the council.
 - b) Vehicles shall be no more than two years old from date of manufacture or date of first registration whichever is the earlier.
 - c) Vehicles must be purpose built hackney carriage vehicle and purpose built to accommodate wheelchair disabled passengers.
 - d) Vehicles shall be properly insured and proof of insurance i.e. policy or appropriate cover note to be produced to the Council either upon application or before the issue of the licence. Where a cover note is provided, the policy must be produced within 7 days.
 - e) Applicants must confirm that he or she has not previously transferred, surrendered or had revoked a hackney carriage vehicle licence within the last 5 years.
 - f) The applicant is required to be an owner/driver or an intended owner/driver and must demonstrate proof of proprietorship or intended proprietorship of their vehicle. The vehicle licence will be awarded on a sole proprietorship basis.
 - g) The applicant must be registered on the electoral register in Chorley as of 1st December 2009.
 - h) Applicants must have held a private hire or hackney carriage driver licence issued by Chorley Council for more than 12 months at the time of application. **Existing hackney carriage vehicle licence holders cannot apply for the grant of this licence.**
 - i) The winning applicant must present a suitable vehicle for inspection and pass the Councils Taxi Test within two months of the date of notification of the determination of this application. Failure to do this will result in the offer being withdrawn and the reserve applicant will be allowed to complete the application for the licence where a further two month time restriction will be applied as above.
 - j) Any other considerations, which may fairly and reasonably relate to the grant of a hackney carriage licence and appear to the Council to be relevant; including the proposed operation of the vehicle in respect of the hours/area to be worked, may be taken into account.
 - k) Save in exceptional circumstances, the transfer of the licence will be prohibited for a period of 5 years from first application.
 - l) The applicant must not currently be declared bankrupt or have been excluded from being a director of a business by order of any court within the last 3 years.

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- m) The applicant must be free from any driving convictions or penalty points and has none pending at the time of application, other than convictions that have been previously declared and/or considered by the council's licensing sub committee
 - n) The applicant must be free from any criminal convictions and has none pending at the time of application, other than convictions that have been previously declared and/or considered by the council's licensing sub committee.
7. If more than one applicant satisfies these criteria, their names will be placed in sealed envelopes and then placed into a tombola type box under the scrutiny of the Chair and Vice Chair of Licensing and one name shall be drawn from the box at the Licensing and Public Safety Committee on 10th March 2010. A second place name shall be drawn as reserve should the first selected applicant fail to meet the full application conditions by 5th May 2010 (two months).

It is anticipated that there will be more than one person interested in obtaining the additional plate and satisfy the above criteria. Applicants are asked at this stage to complete a 'registration of interest form'. **It will not** be necessary for a fee to be paid or a vehicle presented for testing until the new licence is allocated.

8. The 'registration of interest form' must be completed and returned in a sealed envelope, marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and for the attention of "Mr Paul Carter (Hackney Plate)" to the address at the bottom of this document by 5pm on Wednesday 3rd February 2010.

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**APPLICATION OF INTEREST FOR A WHEELCHAIR
ACCESSIBLE MOTOR HACKNEY VEHICLE LICENCE
TO PLY FOR HIRE IN THE BOROUGH OF CHORLEY**



1	Full name of person making application	Title: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms		
	Forename(s)			
	Surname			
2	Permanent Address and Post Code			
3	Telephone N°			
	Mobile			
	E-Mail			
4	<u>Details of proposed vehicle</u>			
	Registration (If known)	Year of Manufacture		
	Make	Model		
	Passenger capacity	Engine capacity		
	Is the vehicle purpose built for the carriage of wheelchairs?	Yes / No		
	Was it adapted prior to registration	Yes / No		
	Was the adaptation approved by the manufacturer (documentary evidence of this will be required)	Yes / No		
	Will you own the vehicle? (proof of proprietorship or intended proprietorship must be supplied)	Yes / No		
	Have you ever been convicted at a court or cautioned by the Police for any Offence	Yes / No		
	Have you ever been convicted of any motoring or traffic offence?	Yes / No		
5	If the answer to either of the above questions is YES, provide details of offences below including approximate date, the offence and the court or Police force which dealt with you and all relevant fixed penalties :			
	Date of conviction or fixed penalty	Court or Police force	Offence (s)	Sentence or order of court

6	Have you transferred, surrendered or had revoked a hackney carriage vehicle licence within the last 5 years?	Yes / No
7	Do you currently hold a hackney carriage vehicle licence issued by Chorley Borough Council	Yes / No
8	Have you held a private hire or hackney carriage drivers licence issued by Chorley Borough Council for 12 months or more at the time of application	Yes / No
	If yes please give number and date of issue of licence	
9	Are you currently declared bankrupt or have you been excluded from being a director of a business by order of any court within the last 3 years?	Yes / No
10	If there are there any other matters that you wish to mention that are relevant to this application please enter these below:	

Please read and sign declaration -

I wish to be considered for the issue of a new hackney carriage vehicle licence.

I have read and understood the guidance enclosed with this document, and I accept the terms and conditions contained therein.

The information, which I have given in this form, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that the information I have given will be used by the Council to determine whether I may be allocated the vehicle licence, and that if I have knowingly or recklessly made a false statement or omitted any material particular, I may be liable to prosecution under Section 57(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, and any licence granted may be revoked.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Please return to: CONFIDENTIAL
 Mr Paul Carter (Hackney Plate)
 People and Places Directorate
 Public Protection
 Chorley Council
 Civic Offices
 Union Street
 Chorley
 PR7 1AL

**Important Note: THE FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY 5PM
 ON WEDNESDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2010**