

## **SUITABLE PRIVATE HIRE CAR (PHC) POLICY**

With effect from 24 November 2009 the Council revised its policy on suitable private hire cars and from that date all applications for PHC new licences or replacement PHC vehicles must be for a vehicles which is either -

(1) **a saloon or saloon derivative vehicle** (such as an estate model based on a saloon vehicle); or

(2) **a tail lift vehicle which is based on a different model of vehicle from those vehicle types listed on the approved list of taxi vehicles,**

and must comply with the following specification –

- (1) have a minimum of four doors;
- (2) have **exactly** four passenger seats if it is a saloon vehicle, or eight passenger seats if it is a tail lift vehicle;
- (3) have a minimum back seat cushion width of 125cm;
- (4) have a maximum CO2 emission level of 150g/km for diesel vehicles or a maximum CO2 emission level of 165g/km for petrol vehicles (with the exception of tail lift vehicles which must have a maximum CO2 emission level of 225g/km for diesel or petrol vehicles);
- (5) have a minimum engine size of 1400cc unless it is an electric or hybrid vehicle.

and must comply with the standard conditions of fitness for hire cars contained in the taxi and private hire car licensing conditions.

In addition, tail lift vehicles must comply with the following accessibility standard – they must have hi-visibility interior features, interior grab rails, a step and a loop system.

Please note that on safety grounds steps must be retractable and the hi-visibility features must be permanent and fixed rather provided by way of seat covers.

**November 2009**