



# East Northamptonshire Council

## Policy and Resources Committee - 13 July 2009

### Wheelchair accessibility specification for Hackney Carriage Vehicles

#### Summary

This report seeks approval of a new specification for wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriages

#### Attachment(s)

- Appendix One:- Existing wheelchair accessible specification
- Appendix Two:- Proposed wheelchair accessible specification

#### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 In July 2001, the Council set a specification for Hackney Carriages to encourage the provision of wheelchair accessible vehicles available for the disabled. The original specification approved (at Appendix 1) has become obsolete as vehicles are no longer being manufactured to this standard.

#### 2.0 Wheelchair accessibility standards

2.1 Taxi drivers have a duty to ensure disabled people are not discriminated against or treated less favourably. The Department of Transport has never made a recommendation for accessibility for taxis; the last specification approved was based on a proposed European standard at that time. The Department of Transport is now currently consulting on 'Accessibility to Taxis' and intends to have a specification in place from 2010. However, we cannot wait until this is verified as there are no vehicles that meet our current specifications available and drivers want to purchase new vehicles. The specification being consulted on is attached at Appendix 2.

2.2 The Department of Transport does not foresee the specification being altered significantly from that in the consultation. On this basis, it is recommended that part of the specification from the consultation be utilised until the revised specification from the Department of Transport has been finalised.

2.3 Members should note that there are 36 vehicles in the hackney carriage fleet that retained 'Grandfather Rights' for the specification without provision for the disabled.

#### 3.0 Recommendation

That the Hackney Carriage specification set out in Appendix 2 be approved.

Implications:		
Corporate Outcomes or Other Policy/Priority/Strategy		
Good Quality of Life	<input type="checkbox"/>	Good Reputation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Good Value for Money	<input type="checkbox"/>	High Quality Service Delivery <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Partnership Working	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strong Community Leadership <input type="checkbox"/>
Effective Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge of our Customers and Communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Employees and Members with the Right Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours		<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:		<input type="checkbox"/>

Decision(s) would be outside the budget or policy framework and require full Council approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Financial</b>	There are no financial implications at this stage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	There will be financial implications – see paragraph	<input type="checkbox"/>
	There is provision within existing budget	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may give rise to additional expenditure at a later date	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Decisions may have potential for income generation	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Risk Management</b>	An assessment has been carried out and there are no material risks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Material risks exist and these are recorded at Risk Register Reference - inherent risk score - residual risk score -	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Staff</b>	There are no additional staffing implications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Additional staff will be required – see paragraph	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equalities and Human Rights</b>	There will be no impact on equality (race, age, gender, disability, religion/belief, sexual orientation) or human rights implications	<input type="checkbox"/>
	There will be an impact on equality (see categories above) or human rights implications – see paragraph 2.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Legal</b>	Power: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1974	
	Other considerations:	
<b>Background Papers:</b> None		
<b>Person Originating Report:</b> Julia Smith Commercial Health Manager 01832 742066 jsmith@east-northamptonshire.gov.uk		
<b>Date:</b> 1 June 2009		
<b>CFO</b>		<b>MO</b>
		<b>CX</b>

(Committee Report Normal Rev. 19)

**TYPE APPROVAL FOR WHEELCHAIR  
ACCESSIBLE HACKNEY CARRIAGES**

In addition to existing standard vehicle conditions the following specification shall apply.

1. Internal floor to roof height to be 1400 mm (55 inches).
2. Seat bases to be 420 mm x 420 mm (16 ½ x 16 ½ inches).
3. Wheelchair access door height to be 1310 mm (51½ inches).
4. Wheelchair access door width to be 780 mm (31 ¾ inches).
5. Wheelchair floor space and method of securing to be to the satisfaction of the licensing authority and to comply with all relevant legislation.
6. Luggage space to be compatible with seating capacity.
7. "Taxi Hire" sign to be mounted at the centre of the roof in the front position.
8. Seat base to roof for "Walk In" type vehicles to be 1050 mm (41 ½ inches).  
Seat base to roof for "Sit In" type vehicles to be 900 mm (33 inches).
9. A Fire Extinguisher to be a minimum of 1Kg, accessible from the driver's seat and securely mounted. It must be renewed every 3 years or carry a twelve monthly service sticker.
10. The acceptance criteria may vary from vehicle to vehicle depending on luggage space, seating lay out and dimensions. Each vehicle will be assessed individually for acceptance to carry adult passengers with a maximum of eight passenger seats, with or without a wheelchair.

## Appendix Two

### Wheelchair accessibility requirements:-

1. Wheel chair spaces requirements: 1130mm length, 690mm width, 1290mm height (min)
2. Acceptable intrusions into the wheelchair space:- One or more tipping, folding or easily removed seats. Padded head and back restraint. Handrails or handholds provided that they do not extend into the wheel chair space by more than 90mm. Wheelchair restraint system and wheelchair user restraint system and appropriate anchorages and fittings
3. Wheelchair user safety provisions:- Every wheelchair space shall be fitted with a wheelchair tie-down system and a wheelchair user restraint system.
4. The vehicle must have type approval certification i.e. EU whole type approval certificate or UK low volume type approval certificate.

### Boarding lifts and ramps

5. Dimensions: Single piece ramp – width 700mm (min), length 1600mm (max)
6. Ramp gradients: Side entry: Kerb (125mm): 14 degs (max)  
Ground: 19 degs (max)
7. Slip resistant surfaces: All surfaces over which a wheelchair user may travel shall have a slip resistant finish applied.
8. Colour contrasting edge marks: A band contrasting with the remainder of the boarding ramp surface, 45mm to 55mm in width around and abutting the edge of the ramp or lift surface.
9. Control and fail safe mechanisms or power operated equipment: Power operated shall only be capable of operation from a control adjacent to the ramp.
10. Load sensors and re-cycling mechanisms for power operated equipment:- A device to stop the movement of the boarding ramp that motion is likely to cause injury.
11. Manual override provisions for power operated equipment: A provision to repeatedly operate the equipment in the event of power failure shall be provided.
12. Manual/portable ramp: Such ramps must have a designated stowage location which can store the equipment such that it does not present a risk of injury.

### Entrances and exits

13. Number and position: A minimum of 1 located on the nearside
14. Minimum doorway width: 740mm
15. Minimum doorway height: 1230mm