

Appendix A

Driver Licence Application Process

Rotherham MBC will only issue licences to those applicants that it considers to be 'fit and proper' to hold a licence.

There is no statutory definition of what constitutes a 'fit and proper' person, however Rotherham MBC will take a number of factors into account, and set specific criteria for applicants, when considering a licence application. These factors and criteria are detailed below:

1. Applications will only be accepted from applicants that have held a full UK driving licence for at least five years (please note that the requirement is to have held the full licence for at least five years, not five years since the date that you passed your driving test). Applicants that hold full EU licences will have the length of time that they have held such licences taken into consideration, however holders of EU licences will only be issued with a licence for 12 months – the licence will not be renewed unless the EU licence is exchanged for a full UK licence (as required by national legislation).
2. From 1st April 2015, all applicants for the grant of a driver's licence must have satisfactorily completed the BTEC Level 2 Certificate in "The introduction to the Role of the Professional Private Hire and Taxi Driver". Equivalent or higher level qualifications may accepted, such as an NVQ Level 2 in "Road Passenger Vehicle Driving".

Renewal applications will only be accepted after 1st April 2016 from applicants that have satisfactorily completed the BTEC Level 2 Certificate in "The introduction to the Role of the Professional Private Hire and Taxi Driver". Equivalent or higher level qualifications may accepted.

3. Applicants will be required to obtain an Enhanced Disclosure Certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service. The contents of this certificate will be assessed in accordance with the council's policy on convictions in determining the fit and properness of the applicant.

Licences will not be granted unless the applicant is able to provide at least five years UK address history except in the following cases:

- The applicant is able to provide a document from an EU member state, which is the equivalent of a UK issued Enhanced DBS Certificate
- If this cannot be provided then an official document provided by the embassy of a non-EU member state will be acceptable, provided that the document can be verified and is comparable to a UK issued Enhanced DBS Certificate

In either of the cases above, the onus is on the applicant to obtain such a document, and the applicant remains liable for all associated costs.

4. Applicants are required to pass the council's communication and knowledge test. This test will assess the applicants knowledge and ability in relation to:
 - i. Literacy and numeracy
 - ii. Child / adult safeguarding awareness
 - iii. Disability awareness
 - iv. Road Safety
 - v. Basic vehicle maintenance
 - vi. Customer care / customer awareness
 - vii. Local knowledge

A fee is payable by the applicant prior to them undertaking the test. If the applicant fails the test then they may retake it at a later date (subject to the payment of the appropriate fee). However, if an applicant fails the test after retaking it for a second time they will not be permitted to take the test again until at least 6 months has passed since the date of the most recent failure.

5. Applicants are required to satisfactorily complete an advanced driving skills test to Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency standards. Details of the test will be provided to the applicant by the Licensing Office.
6. All applicants must agree to the council verifying their DVLA driving licence, this will be done via a third party organisation and will require the applicant to give their consent to such a check being carried out.
7. Before a licence is issued, applicants must provide a certificate from their GP stating that the GP has conducted a medical examination and reviewed the applicant's medical history and is satisfied that the applicant meets the "Group 2" standards.

There will be a fee for this examination and this should be paid directly to the GP.

A medical to Group 2 standards will be required on first application. Then every five years from the age of 45. On reaching the age of 65 a medical will be required annually and therefore a licence will only be issued for a period of 1 year.

n.b The Council may also request a medical at any other time it feels may be necessary to ascertain a persons' fitness to drive a licensed vehicle.

Applications should be made on the appropriate form(s), and should include the following:

- 5 years' address history for the applicant

- One colour passport standard photograph, which is a good likeness of the applicant
- DVLA driving licence & photo-card (or paper licence if the photocard licence is not held by the applicant)
- Documents required as part of the DBS check
- Proof that the applicant is legally permitted to work in the UK
- the correct fees (non-refundable)
- any other documents an officer may ask you for to help progress your application.

In certain cases, applications may need to be referred to the Council's Licensing Board. In these cases the Licensing Board make a decision on what length of licence to grant; or to refuse to grant a licence. This is usually if you have any conviction or police caution, reprimand or warning on your DBS record, but may also be for other reasons.

Once a licence expires, the applicant will be required to complete the application as if it were for a grant of a licence (i.e. the whole process must be undertaken from the start, regardless of how many years the applicant has held a licence previously).