



## **Temporary Protective Screens in Licensed Vehicles - COVID-19 Situation**

Taxi drivers may wish to install protective screens within their licensed vehicles to mitigate the risks to drivers and passengers of inadvertently contracting the virus. Whilst the Council will not authorise their use, it is accepted that they may be installed as a control measure and this guidance note sets out the standards expected by the Borough Council. Once the pandemic is over they must be removed.

The protective screen:

- Must not be permanently installed in the vehicle;
- Must not have a solid frame to the screen;
- Must only be fitted by way of either Velcro or adhesive fastenings, which can be removed from the vehicle when the screens are no longer permitted.
- Must be fitted in such a way so as not to affect the structural integrity of the vehicle, or interfere with any manufacturer fitted safety features and equipment e.g. airbags;
- Must not wrap around the driver seat and create a partition between the two front seats, in addition to the rear cabin area;
- Must be frequently cleaned.

The partition used must be clear and transparent and can only be fitted across the rear of both front seats, creating a partition between the front and rear cabin area of the vehicle. All passengers must wear a seatbelt when the protective screen is in use.

Process to be followed when wishing to fit a Temporary Screen If any driver wishes to fit a temporary protective screen in their vehicle, they must first:

1. Notify the Licensing Team of their intention to fit a protective screen by emailing [ehlicensing@west-norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:ehlicensing@west-norfolk.gov.uk) together with;
2. Provide a written undertaking confirming that fitting the protective screen will not result in their insurer refusing to cover the vehicle or compromise any existing safety features built into the vehicle and;
3. Agree to remove the protective screen within a maximum of 21 days after the current social distancing restrictions relating to COVID-19 have been removed.

This guidance note does not substitute any of the Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Procedures and Conditions approved by Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Dated 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020