

Taxis Committee – 19th March 2009

Report of the Interim Director of Law and Property

Proposed Condition of Licence and Approval of the Learning Skills Approved List of Course Providers

Purpose of Report

1. For the Committee to consider making it a condition of all private hire and hackney drivers licences, that they successfully complete a NVQ (level 2) Course, in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving with a course provider from the Learning Skills approved list of course providers, within one year of the grant of a hackney carriage/private hire drivers licence(s).
2. The Licensing Officer presented a report to the Committee, at their meeting of the 11th February, 2009, containing the background information to the introduction of a 3 months pilot of the NVQ level 2 course in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving to be offered to all private hire and hackney carriage drivers by the Council in partnership with Dudley College.
3. The Committee noted the information contained in the report and requested the Licensing Officer to submit a further report to this meeting in relation to an approved list of course providers and proposals, to make attendance of the course a condition of licence to be attached to all private hire and hackney carriage drivers licences.
4. A list of approved course providers has been received from the Learning Skills Council. Attached to this report as appendix 1 is an information sheet about the learning skills Council and a copy of their approved list is attached to this report as appendix 2.
5. It is proposed that the following conditions be attached to all private hire drivers licences as numbers 14 and 15:

The holder of this licence shall complete a Road Passenger Vehicle Driving Course NVQ (level 2) with a course provider from the Learning Skills Council approved course provider list within 12 months of the grant of this licence.

The holder of this licence shall submit the original course pass certificate to the Licensing Office within 3 months of successful completion of the Passenger Vehicle Driving Course NVQ (level 2).

And the following conditions to all hackney carriage vehicle licences as numbers 9 & 10:-

Any person driving this vehicle under the provisions of this licence shall complete a Road Passenger Vehicle Driving Course NVQ (level 2) with a course provider from the Learning Skills Council approved course provider list within 12 months of the grant of this licence.

Any person driving this vehicle under the provisions of this licence shall submit the original course pass certificate to the Licensing Office within 3 months of successful completion of the Passenger Vehicle Driving Course NVQ (level 2).

6. Mr Terry Guy Field Sales Manager from Dudley College, Mr Paul Cornick West Midlands Co-ordinator for the Learning Skills Council and Mr Brian Shipley Licensing Enforcement Officer will be in attendance at this meeting to answer any questions the committee may have.
7. The information contained in this report falls within the Council's responsibility for Taxi and Private Hire Licensing which has a direct link to the Council's key corporate priority that safety matters.

Finance

8. There are no financial implications to the Council. Dudley College will pay the Council an hourly rate for the enforcements officers' time. The rate will be agreed between Dudley College and the councils' Finance Directorate.

Law

9. The Town Police Clause Act 1847 governs the licensing of Hackney Carriages and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Governs the licensing of both private hire and hackney carriages.

Equality Impact

10. This report complies fully with the Council's policy on equal opportunities.
11. The licensing of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles and drivers will impact on children and young people through their transportation in licensed vehicles.
12. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people on developing these proposals.

Recommendation

13. That the Committee consider approval of both the Learning Skills Council approved list of course providers of the Road Passenger Vehicle Driving Course NVQ (level 2) report and the proposed conditions of licence to be attached to the

grant of all private hire and hackney carriage drivers licences contained in paragraph 5 of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Elliott', written in a cursive style.

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INTERIM DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY

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List of Background Papers