



PLANNING, LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Date Written	28 th September 2016
Report Author	Paul Lewis
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	12 th October 2016

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Taxi Licensing – Driver Assessment.

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 As part of the current application process for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver applications we require the applicant to have passed a Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency Taxi Assessment.
- 1.2 The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency will cease providing the assessments from the 31st December 2016.
- 1.3 The Authority will therefore seek to appoint a new assessor who will be able to undertake assessments of applicants wishing to become licensed drivers.
- 1.4 The requirement of a new assessor will be that they are approved by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and are able to undertake assessment to the same standard as is currently provided.
- 1.5 Due to the short timeframe it is requested that delegated Authority is given to the Trading Standards, Licensing and Transport manager to evaluate external providers and appoint a new assessor.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

Delegated Authority is given to the Trading Standards, Licensing and Transport Manager to evaluate and appoint an assessor approved by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the Authority has adopted an application guidance process for applicants wishing to become a Licensed Hackney Carriage or/and Private Hire Driver.
- 3.2 The Authority is required by law to only licence ‘fit and proper’ persons to undertake such duties. In determining an applicant’s fitness and propriety we undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service check to reveal if there are any past criminal convictions, a DVLA penalty points check and we also require applicants to take the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Taxi Assessment test to ensure their driving standards are to an appropriate standard.
- 3.3 In September the Authority were advised by the DVSA that they were ceasing to provide taxi assessments with effect from the 31st December 2016.
- 3.4 In order to continue to assess the suitability of applicants driving standards the Authority will now need to appoint a replacement assessor to carry out such checks.
- 3.5 To ensure continuity we will seek a provider who is approved by the DVSA to carry out similar assessments to those already being undertaken.
- 3.6 Due to the short notice from DVSA delegated Authority is sought for the Trading Standards, Licensing and Transport Manager to evaluate and appoint an assessor approved by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency to undertake future driver assessments.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 4.1 None. The cost of the assessment is paid directly by the applicant to the assessor.

**ELLIS COOPER
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**CLLR CHRIS BARRY, PORTFOLIO
MEMBER FOR REGENERATION,
PLANNING AND COUNTRYSIDE**

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		NO