

# Regulatory Committee

9 June 2021

<b>Report title</b>	Update on Medical Certification for Taxi Drivers and Applicants	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable director</b>	Ross Cook, Director for City Housing and Environment	
<b>Originating service</b>	Licensing Services	
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	None	

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## Recommendations for decision:

The Regulatory Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the acceptance of medical certificates for taxi driver licence applications on templates from other West Midlands licensing authorities.
2. Approve medical certificates for taxi driver licence applications up to four months from the date of examination, as recommended by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the acceptance of other West Midlands taxi licensing authorities' medical certificate templates within four months of being completed by a medical practitioner for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver licence applications.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The West Midlands Metropolitan Leaders requested that an officer working group be established to harmonise taxi licensing in the region. The first meeting of the Taxi Licensing Harmonisation group took place on the 9 July 2020.
- 2.2 It was identified that all West Midlands licensing authorities required their driver licence holders and applicants to be certified to DVLA Group 2 Medical Standard.
- 2.3 City of Wolverhampton Council already requires the frequency of assessment recommended by the DVLA and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). A medical certificate should be presented upon application, at five-yearly intervals from age 45, then annually from age 65.
- 2.4 City of Wolverhampton Council currently requires that medical certificates are dated no more than three months prior to the date of licence application. This is contrary to the standards of the DVLA and HSE, who state that medical certificates are valid for four months.

## **3.0 Proposal**

- 3.1 As all licensing authorities in the West Midlands require their driver licence holders and applicants to be certified to DVLA Group 2 Medical Standard, it was agreed that reports would be presented to each authority's respective committee for consideration on accepting each other's medical certificate.
- 3.2 This will improve harmonisation across the region, remove the bureaucracy of non-transferable certificates proving the same thing and reducing unnecessary demand on the healthcare sector.
- 3.3 It is also proposed that medical certificates be accepted for applications up to four months after medical examination.

## **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

[SB/28052021/C]

## **5.0 Legal implications**

5.1 Section 51 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 (LGMPA 1976) provides that in order to qualify to hold a licence, a person must be deemed fit and proper. In determining whether a person is fit and proper the Council may, in accordance with Under the provisions of Section 57 of the LGMPA 1976:

(1) ..... require any applicant for a licence under the Act of 1847 or under this Part of this Act to submit to them such information as they may reasonably consider necessary to enable them to determine whether the licence should be granted and whether conditions should be attached to any such licence.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing subsection—

(a) a district council may require an applicant for a driver's licence in respect of a hackney carriage or a private hire vehicle—

(i) to produce a certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner to the effect that he is physically fit to be the driver of a hackney carriage or a private hire vehicle; and

(ii) whether or not such a certificate has been produced, to submit to examination by a registered medical practitioner selected by the district council as to his physical fitness to be the driver of a hackney carriage or a private hire vehicle;

[SH/28052021/A]

## **6.0 Equalities implications**

6.1 There are no equalities implications.

## **7.0 All other Implications**

7.1 Resource requirements of medical practices to offer medical examinations to applicants and existing licensed drivers during this period has meant delays due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

7.2 Allowing applicants who want licences with multiple authorities to use the same certificate is expected to reduce demand on medical practitioners in the region.

## **8.0 Schedule of background papers**

8.1 Medical Examinations for Drivers – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Sub-Committee – 20 March 1998