

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Licensing Committee

26 September 2018

Report title	Driver training programme update		
Wards affected	All		
Accountable director	Ross Cook, Place		
Originating service	Licensing Services		
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Recommendations for noting:

The Licensing Committee is asked to note:

1. That the driver training programme will include modern slavery.
2. The duration of the course will be extended to include the extra training requirements.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To update Licensing Committee of proposed changes, to commence 1 October 2018, to the driver training programme and explain why this is considered necessary.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The existing driving training programme was endorsed by the Licensing Committee in July 2015. Worcestershire County Council has administered and delivered the training on behalf of City of Wolverhampton Council.
- 2.2 The content has been updated over the past three years, in consultation with subject experts, to ensure the course content is both up to date and fit for purpose. The course is advertised as being a four-hour programme, albeit that, it always overruns.
- 2.3 The driver training programme has been examined by Members and Officers of other local authorities, an Express & Star reporter and was also vetted by the Wolverhampton Private Hire Drivers Association who have all endorsed the course as fit for purpose. The feedback universally agrees the driver training programme is up there amongst the best in the Country.

3.0 Driver training programme.

- 3.1 Licensing services have been requested to include modern slavery content into the driver training programme as part of this year's annual review of content. We will be the first driver training course in the UK to include the modern slavery content.
- 3.2 Currently, the number of attendees failing the written assessment is nearly 50%. This has previously been thought of as confirmation that the course and assessment is sufficiently robust. However, at the last review, it was discussed with the training provider whether the very high failure rate could be because more and more content has been added, meaning less time spent on each subject ensuring the student understood the lessons being taught.
- 3.3 With the modern slavery content being added to the existing learning categories, it has been decided to extend the course to a full day. This will enable more time to be spent on each area of training and will produce better drivers who are better trained and more equipped to perform the role of private hire driver. The stringent testing and mandatory questions will remain, ensuring the calibre of driver is maintained.
- 3.4 The cost for the driver training programme will remain at £40 per applicant, paid directly by the applicant to a third-party supplier.
- 3.5 The slides and information that will be used in the driver training programme are at Appendices 1 and 2.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. [MK/19092018/J]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that a district council shall on receipt of an application from any person for the grant to that person of a licence to drive private hire vehicles, grant to that person a driver's licence.

"Provided that a district council shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a driver's licence"

Section 59 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that a council, before granting a hackney carriage driver's licence must be satisfied that an applicant is a fit and proper person to hold such a licence and that the applicant has for at least 12 months prior to the date of the application, been authorised to drive a motor car.

Section 61 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states a district council may suspend or revoke or on application, refuse to renew a licence of a driver of a hackney carriage or a private hire vehicle for any other reasonable cause to include where a person is no longer fit and proper.

Successful completion of the driving training programme does to some extent assist in demonstrating a person's suitability to hold a drivers' licence and as such it is important that the training reflects ongoing developments and requirements. [SH/12092018/X]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 Initial equality analysis has been carried out and determined that a full equality analysis is not required.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no Environmental implications associated with this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are no Human resources implications associated with this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no Corporate landlord implications associated with this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 Licensing Committee 22 July 2015 - Proposed Revisions to Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicle, Driver and Operator Criteria.