

For publication

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy -

Meeting: Appeals and Regulatory Committee

Date: 18 January 2023

Cabinet portfolio: Health and Wellbeing

Report by: Licensing Manager

Policy Amendments

For publication

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider an amendment to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in relation to charging for safeguarding courses required of applicants for taxi licences.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the council introduces a financial charge of £25 for the safeguarding course required of every applicant for a taxi drivers' licence.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To recover the costs associated with the administration and delivery of this course.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In the interests of public safety, the council has been running safeguarding courses on the exploitation of children, young people, and vulnerable people since 2016.
- 4.2 The course highlights a variety of subjects and encourages drivers to report anything they are concerned about. This has resulted in several safeguarding referrals.
- 4.3 Attendance at a safeguarding course is a requirement of policy before the applicant can be licensed.
- 4.4 The training is delivered in-house by members of the council's licensing team, who up to now have absorbed the costs of administration, preparation, and delivery.
- 4.5 That situation is becoming more problematic with the financial pressures faced by the council and an influx of drivers from neighbouring districts. For example, we are now operating two courses a month instead of one.
- 4.6 Making a charge would cover costs even when a person fails to attend without good reason.
- 4.7 Most councils now deliver safeguarding training for this purpose with our closest neighbour, Bolsover/NEDDC, outsourcing delivery to the 'Blue Lamp Trust' who charge £25 per person for an online course.
- 4.8 It is estimated that we will receive 160 applications for a taxi licence this year. At £25 per person that would recover £4,000.

5.0 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 A preliminary equalities impact assessment has been conducted and is attached at Appendix A. The conclusion was that a full assessment was not required.

6.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A full risk management assessment has not been completed but this measure will not endanger public safety.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That the council introduces a financial charge of £25 for the safeguarding course required of every applicant for a taxi drivers' licence.

For more information on this report please contact Trevor Durham
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