

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## LICENSING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

19 MARCH 2012

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER TRAINING</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW HR AND ASSET MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR BILL DAVIES – COMMITTEE CHAIR</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek a decision from Members in respect of currently licensed drivers who have not complied with the training requirement.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 In September 2006 Members resolved that with effect from 1 November 2006 all current Private Hire and Hackney Carriage drivers will be required to complete a training course in Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire within a five year period from the implementation date of 1 November 2006.
- 2.2 At the meeting of this Committee on 10 November 2011 it was reported that a number of currently licensed drivers had not complied with the training requirement. Members resolved that officers be given delegated authority to suspend the Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver Licence of any licensed driver who has not enrolled to undertake the required training by 29 November 2011 and to suspend the Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Driver Licence of any licensed driver who has not completed the required training by 28 March 2012.
- 2.3 Twelve licensed drivers were identified as not having enrolled to undertake training and suspension notices were issued to those drivers on 2 December 2011.
- 2.4 Eleven of these drivers either enrolled on a training course or surrendered their licences. One driver remains suspended.
- 2.5 In February 2010 Members further resolved that all new applicants must obtain a Vocationally Related Qualification in Road Passenger Transport (VRQ) prior to being granted a licence and then achieve the Level 2 National Vocational Qualification in Road Passenger Vehicle Transport (NVQ) within 12 months of being issued with a licence.

- 2.6 In all these cases drivers have enrolled to undertake the training and therefore have been allowed to continue to hold a licence until 28 March 2012 to enable them to obtain the relevant qualification.
- 2.7 The Licensing Service have been advised by a number of training providers that due to changes in funding available to deliver the required training, whilst drivers have enrolled for training, they will be unable to deliver the required training by 28 March 2012. It is reported that this affects approximately 25 drivers. In view of this Members are asked to consider appointing a further deadline of 14 May 2012 by which Drivers must complete the training.
- 2.8 Changes to funding available for training has also had an effect on those drivers, having obtained the BTEC have to obtain an NVQ within 12 months of being issued with a licence. This can result in no funding being available for drivers to obtain the NVQ. Mr Norbury from Merseylearn will attend the meeting to update Members regarding the funding available for training and the qualifications available to drivers. In view of these changes Members are asked to review the requirement for drivers to obtain an NVQ within the first twelve months of being granted a Licence.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 The safety of passengers could be at risk due to the lack of training undertaken by drivers.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 There is no provision for other options to be considered.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 This is not a matter which requires consultation.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 6.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

### **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 A decision of the Committee may be subject to Appeal

### **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Has the potential impact of the proposal been reviewed with regard to equality?

No because there is no relevance to equality.

## **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no specific implications arising out of this report.

## **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no planning implications arising out of this report.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

12.1 Because of the funding changes detailed within the report Members consider setting a new deadline of 14 May 2012 for Taxi Drivers to complete the training requirement.

12.2 Members are asked to review the requirement for drivers to obtain an NVQ within the first twelve months of being granted a Licence.

## **13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

13.1 It is a responsibility of this Committee to determine the appropriate action to be taken.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** *Margaret O'Donnell*  
*Licensing Manager*  
telephone: (0151) 691 8606  
email: [margaretodonnell@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:margaretodonnell@wirral.gov.uk)