

**LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
2 OCTOBER 2008**

**FIRST AID TRAINING FOR LICENSED DRIVERS
(Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection)**

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 Dual and private hire drivers who were first licensed prior to 1 August 2001 are not presently required to participate in first aid training. It is recommended that in the interests of fairness and consistency, all licensed drivers should be required to attend a first aid course every five years to ensure that they are capable of providing emergency first aid or life support if necessary.
- 1.2 It is proposed that from April 2009, all drivers who have not yet attended a first aid course will be booked onto a course and notified of the details in writing. Failure to attend the course without good reason will lead to the driver's licence being suspended until a course is attended.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Committee approves the proposal that all licensed drivers who have not yet attended a first aid course be required to do so as part of a programme introduced from April 2009, that the cost of the course is to be paid by the licensed driver and that the Guidance Notes and Conditions for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Owners, Operators and Drivers be amended accordingly.**

3 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 3.1 The legal implications are identified within the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 3.2 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 3.3 There are no implications arising from the adoption of the recommendations.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 3.4 There are no strategic risk management implications arising from the adoption of the recommendations.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Under section 51(2) of the Local Government, Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a district council may attach to the grant of a driver's licence such conditions as the Council may consider reasonably necessary.
- 4.2 All new dual and private hire drivers are required, as a condition of their licence, to attend a first aid course run by the Council, unless they can provide documentation stating that they have passed a recognised first aid course within the last five years. Where a new driver fails to attend a first aid course within twelve months of the issue of their licence, their licence will be suspended until the course is passed. Drivers must also attend refresher first aid courses, five years after the date of their initial course or when their current certificate expires.
- 4.3 The Council did set aside free places for drivers licensed prior to August 2001 to attend first aid courses, with the aim of having all drivers first aid trained by 2010, but to date the Licensing Section are not aware of any drivers that have taken up this opportunity.
- 4.4 The Council runs one first aid course each month using an external training provider. The course lasts approximately half a day and covers emergency first aid and life support.

Background Papers

Guidance Notes and Conditions for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Owners, Operators and Drivers (April 2008)

Contact for further information

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