

TO: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
5 JANUARY 2017

PRACTICAL DRIVING ASSESSMENTS FOR LICENSED DRIVERS
Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since 1 February 2007, all new applicants have been required to pass the DVSA practical driving assessment specifically designed for taxi and private hire drivers. This was implemented by the Committee with a view to ensuring a consistent standard of assessment of driver competency.
- 1.2 The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) wrote to local authorities on 12 September 2016, notifying them that they would cease to carry out these assessments with effect from 31 December 2016. This was due to the need to reduce waiting times and the backlog of statutory driving tests. As soon as the announcement was made public, the few remaining available taxi and private hire driver assessment dates were rapidly booked up.

2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 On receipt of the communication from DVSA, officers immediately began research into alternative providers. Three bodies were found which carry out practical driving assessments specifically aimed at taxi drivers.
- 2.2 An exception to policy was therefore made in agreement with the Chairman of the Committee on Friday 11 November to accept practical driving assessment pass certificates from these three alternative providers. This was with a view to ensuring minimal delay in the issue of licences to new driver applicants. Applicants are able to choose their provider from the list at Annex A. Each of the three providers issues a certificate either directly to the applicant or via email to the Council. They also give feedback at the time of the test to the applicant.
- 2.3 The Council's Guidance Notes and Conditions booklet will also be updated to reflect this change in practice as per the other report considered at this Committee today.

3 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 None.

4 STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

Laura Driscoll, Licensing Team Leader - 01344 352517

laura.driscoll@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Practical Assessments for Licensed Drivers and Applicants**Annex A**

The following providers have been approved to carry out a practical driving assessment for drivers applying for a Private Hire or Dual licence, or those upgrading from Private Hire to Dual. Tests are booked directly with the provider, and any payment due is paid directly to the provider. You must use your own vehicle during the test. If you are taking the enhanced test or wheelchair upgrade, the vehicle must be wheelchair accessible. Once you have made a booking online, you will be contacted by your nearest examiner and a mutually convenient date, time and meeting location will be agreed.

Name of Provider	Provides wheelchair assessment?	Cost		
		Standard test For Private Hire	Enhanced Test For Hackney Carriage	Wheelchair upgrade If you already passed the standard test
Blue Lamp Trust	https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/Driver_Training/taxi_driver_assessment.php			
	No	£87	-	-
Diamond Advanced Motorists	http://www.advancedmotoring.co.uk/taxi-test			
	Yes	£78.00	£90.00	-
Green Penny	http://www.greenpenny.co.uk/taxi-driver-assessment			
	Yes	Weekdays: £80.00 Evenings/Weekends: £96.00	Weekdays: £92.00 Evenings/Weekends: £112.00	Weekdays: £26.00 Evenings/Weekends: £32.00

Please be advised that these prices are not set by Bracknell Forest Council and are subject to change.