

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Licensing Committee

5 March 2020

TITLE:	Review of Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy – Minor Amendment NVQ requirement
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Sloman - Executive Councillor for Housing and Licensing
CONTACT OFFICER:	Alicia Patterson - Head of Environmental Health
WARDS INVOLVED:	(All Wards)

Appendices Attached – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy (Appendix E)

- 1. Reason for the Report**
 - 1.1 To make a minor amendment to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy 2016, as a response to funding opportunities within Derbyshire.

- 2. Recommendation**
 - 2.1 That the Committee supports the amendment to remove the pre-application requirement as detailed within Appendix E of the Council's Policy.
 - 2.2 That new drivers will be issued with a driver badge for 12 months, if they fail to complete the required course within 12 months then their badge will not be renewed.

- 3. Executive Summary**
 - 3.1 The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy became effective in 2016, with no minor amendments being made since its implementation.
 - 3.2 The Authority has been made aware of an issue from one of the free training providers and has been advised that a number of prospective High Peak applicants have approached them about completing the NVQ Qualification because the provider currently has funding to offer the course for free. If funding cannot be secured the prospective applicant has to pay up to £400.00.

- 3.3 The Local Operators have expressed concern about recruiting new drivers due to the cost of this requirement, and they are frustrated that they cannot access the free training due to the conditions contained in Appendix E of the Council's Policy.
- 3.4 The conditions in Appendix E make the qualification a pre-application requirement from 1st November 2019, however, new drivers cannot access the free funding unless they have a valid licence from the authority, due to the course structure and the practical elements that need to be assessed whilst the driver is operational.
- 3.5 It is proposed, therefore, that the Council's Policy be revised to allow new drivers to receive a licence for 12 months, during which time they must complete the required course to satisfy the existing condition of the Policy.

4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 Aim 3 of the Council's Corporate Plan, to protect and create jobs by supporting economic growth, development and regeneration.
- 4.2 The Council is required by law to license the operation of taxis and private hire vehicles. The foremost consideration in this respect is the safety and convenience of those travelling in licensed vehicles. Any policy considerations or changes should therefore reflect this need.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1 That the conditions remain in place and new drivers will have to meet the cost of the training (Not recommended).

6. Implications

6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

The appropriate enforcement of licensing Legislation in partnership with relevant agencies is a key tool in assuring the maintenance of community safety.

6.2 Workforce

None arise directly from this report.

6.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's

Diversity and Equality Policies.

6.4 Financial Considerations

New Driver financial implications are considered within the report.

6.5 Legal

Section 48, 51 and 55 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits local authorities to place conditions on licensed private hire vehicles, drivers and operators. Conditions should be aimed at improving service and protecting the user of licensed vehicles.

6.6 Sustainability

None arising from this report.

6.7 Consultation

Due to the minor nature of this amendment a full consultation is not considered necessary.

6.8 Risk Assessment

None arising from this report.

Mark Trillo

Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer

**Web Links and
Background Papers**

https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/media/1241/Taxi-Licensing-Policy-November-2016/pdf/Taxi_Licensing_Policy_Final_Version_HPBC.pdf

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