

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MISCELLANEOUS LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

FRIDAY 1 JUNE 2018

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE
LICENSING POLICY

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

(Contact: Michelle Bignell Tel: (01993) 861000)

(The decision on this matter will be resolution)

1. PURPOSE

To consider an amendment to Annex 3 of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the proposed amendment set out at paragraph 4.5 of the report be approved.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee approved the new Hackney carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in March 2018 and this came into effect on 1 April 2018.
- 3.2. The new policy was designed to drive up standards of taxi and private hire licensing in the West Oxfordshire District Council area.
- 3.3. Annex 3 of the policy outlines the Knowledge Test which Dual (permitted to drive both taxis and private hire vehicles) and Private Hire Drivers are required to pass as part of the licensing process.

4. PROPOSED CHANGE

- 4.1. At present, Annex 3 requires both types of drivers (Dual and Private Hire) to achieve a minimum of 80% to pass the knowledge test.
- 4.2. The intention of the revised knowledge test was to ensure that the applicant has an in-depth knowledge of each section of the test that they are sitting and that they achieve a minimum of 80% in each section (16/20).
- 4.3. The sections are:

Dual Drivers

- 1) Highway Code
- 2) Numeracy
- 3) Policy Questions
- 4) Routes
- 5) Places of interest

Private Hire Drivers

- 1) Highway Code
- 2) Numeracy
- 3) Policy Questions

4.4. As the current 80% has been challenged by applicants that it translates as a 80% pass mark across the whole test, this has resulted in an applicant achieving a small score some sections, e.g. places of interest (knowledge of the area) and the highway code sections, but passing the 80% overall. This causes concerns for the Officers that the applicant does not have a knowledge of the area and basic road knowledge.

4.5. The Sub-Committee is required to approve the following change to Annex 3 of the policy:

‘Each section has 20 questions. You must score at least 16/20 in each section and achieve a pass mark of 80% overall (e.g. Dual Drivers 80/100 and Private Hire Drivers 48/60)’.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

6. RISKS

There are no risks directly linked to this report.

7. REASONS

The Council exercises control over Taxi and Private Hire operations in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to ensure that vehicles, operators and drivers meet the required standards in order to protect the public.

Philippa Lowe
Group Manager for Professional Services

(Author: Michelle Bignell Tel: (01993) 861000 email: michelle.bignell@publicagroup.uk
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