

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
MISCELLANEOUS LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE: TUESDAY 26 MARCH 2019
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS 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 the following amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy:-

- a) Inclusion of Disability and Equality Awareness training for all existing drivers and new applicants
- b) Commitment to register and be an active member of the NAFN (National Anti-Fraud Network) Refusals and Revocations Register

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the revised wording be approved.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Annex 3 – West Oxfordshire District Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (April 2018)

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2. The new policy was designed to drive up standards of taxi and private hire licensing in the West Oxfordshire District Council area.
- 4.3. Currently, all licensed drivers are required to undertake safeguarding training every 3 years.

5. PROPOSED CHANGES

- 5.1. There are no current disability/equality awareness training requirements for drivers or new applicants. To further drive up standards of our licence holders, this will be included in the safeguarding training from May 2019.
- 5.2. The Sub-Committee is required to approve the following addition to Section 3.3 of the Policy:

‘Disability and Equality Awareness Training:

Where available, this training will be mandatory for all existing licensed drivers and new applicants’.

5.3 In 2018, the NAFN (National Anti-Fraud Network), which West Oxfordshire District Council is a member of, created the National Refusals and Revocations Register. This enables local authorities to enter any refused or revoked driver licence information on a national spreadsheet.

5.4 It is suggested to include a new paragraph at 2.6 of the Policy which commits are registration to this scheme. The following wording should be considered:

‘2.6 Registration to the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN) Refusals and Revocations Register

West Oxfordshire District Council will be an active member of this initiative and share information regarding refused and revoked driver licences on this register. This will be in addition to the local information sharing within Oxfordshire.’

5.5 Both of these changes are in-line with the Task and Finish Group recommendations that were published in September 2018 and demonstrate West Oxfordshire District Council’s commitments to implementing high standards. It is likely that both of these recommendations will become statutory in the future.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

7. RISKS

There are no risks directly linked to this report.

8. 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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