



Derby City Council

## LICENSING COMMITTEE 27 July 2017

Report of the Strategic Director of Communities  
and Place

# ITEM 9

## Update on Changes to Taxi Licensing Administration

### SUMMARY

- 1.1 At Council on 23 November 2016, it was agreed to implement a new taxi licensing administration system for the council and a minimum application threshold criteria.
- 1.2 Committee have also considered these changes on 19 January and 23 March 2017.
- 1.3 The report provides an update on the implementation of these changes and seeks approval from committee to delay the application of certain requirements set out in the minimum application criteria to a small number of existing licence drivers.

### RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the information provided on the implementation of the changes made to the taxi licensing administration system.
- 2.2 To approve the proposal set out in the report to defer the introduction of the need to obtain and produce a Level 1 functional skills assessment certificate in Maths, English and ICT to before or no later than on application for the next renewal of their drivers licence from 1 July 2018.
- 2.3 To approve the proposal set out in the report to defer the introduction of the need to undertake the prescribed mandatory safeguarding training to before or no later than on application for the next renewal of their drivers licence from 1 July 2018.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To give effect to the need to allow this specific group of existing licensed drivers a reasonable and proportionate amount of time to obtain the certain required standards.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 At Council on 23 November 2016, it was agreed to implement a new taxi licensing administration system for the Council which included the introduction of a new Derby penalty points based system and a minimum requirement application threshold. Licensing Committee also considered these changes on 19 January and 23 March 2017.
- 4.2 Work has continued to be undertaken on implementing the measures agreed. The licensing pages of the Council's website have been updated to set out the changes introduced, which includes access to downloadable content for interested parties to use. All existing drivers have been written to updating them on the changes and providing a link to the website.
- 4.3 A final first version of the Derby Based Point System has been produced and is being applied. As Members requested, this incorporates certain scenarios whereby determination will be made by Taxi Licensing Sub Committee.
- 4.4 Work has been undertaken with the Derby and Derbyshire LMC to ensure all our local GP Practices are aware of and understand the requirement for all drivers to undertake a Group 2 medical examination.
- 4.5 Local providers of the relevant basic skills tests have been identified and information is available on the website, along with information on the providers of the practical driver tests that are applicable to new licensed driver applications.
- 4.6 The dual badge option for licensed drivers will be available from July 1 2017, subject to the applicant meeting the minimum application threshold.
- 4.7 Officers from our safeguarding teams will be delivering the prescribed mandatory safeguarding training. They have developed the training package that includes information on a range of safeguarding issues that are relevant to both adults and children. The short course is being offered initially on a monthly basis for existing drivers, operator representatives and new applicants to book on to. A number of bookings have already been taken; with three courses being fully booked.
- 4.8 There has been a delay in recruiting to some of the additional posts identified and agreed previously. An additional member of staff has been recruited and further work is being done to fill the remaining posts.

- 4.9 A specific issue has been identified in relation to the basic skills tests and the prescribed mandatory safeguarding training for existing licensed drivers who currently hold an annual licence.

Although a small number compared to the majority of drivers holding a three year licence, as it currently stands, those drivers who hold an annual licence will need to ensure that they obtain and produce evidence that they have satisfactorily completed all the basic skill test requirements and mandatory safeguarding training on or before the renewal of their next licence. In many cases this will be impossible to achieve because of the time it takes to complete the training, particularly in relation to the basic skills tests.

- 4.10 The proposal therefore, in order to allow this specific group of existing licensed drivers a reasonable and proportionate amount of time to obtain the certain required standard, is to defer the introduction of the need to obtain and produce a Level 1 functional skills assessment certificate in Maths, English and ICT, and evidence of completing the prescribed mandatory safeguarding course, to before or no later than on application for the next renewal of their drivers licence from 1 July 2018.

#### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 None.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Olu Idowu n/a n/a n/a John Tomlinson
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Michael Kay, Head of Environmental Health & Licensing - 01332 641940 <a href="mailto:michael.kay@derby.gov.uk">michael.kay@derby.gov.uk</a> None Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

1.1 None directly arising from the report.

**Legal**

2.1 None directly arising from the report.

**Personnel**

3.1 None directly arising from the report.

**IT**

4.1 None directly arising from the report.

**Equalities Impact**

5.1 None directly arising from the report.

**Health and Safety**

6.1 None directly arising from the report.

**Environmental Sustainability**

7.1 None directly arising from the report.

**Property and Asset Management**

8.1 None directly arising from the report.

**Risk Management**

9.1 None directly arising from the report.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

10.1 The proposals set out in this report address the corporate objectives of:

- protecting vulnerable children, young people, adults and older people
- promoting health and well-being
- being more commercial
- delivering our services differently

10.2 The proposals also meet the Council's core vision of being 'safe, strong and ambitious', and the aim to be a 'modern, flexible and resilient Council'.