

Report

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Report to:	Licensing Committee
Date of Meeting:	7 November 2007
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Licensing of Taxi Drivers – Disability Awareness Training
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1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update members on the introduction of Disability Awareness Training for taxi drivers
- ◆ seek approval to include the requirement for taxi drivers to undertake a Disability Awareness Training course as a Condition of Licence

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the successful outcome of the pilot Disability Awareness training course carried out by Corporate Resources' Training Team be noted; and
- (2) that Disability Awareness training be made a Condition of Licence for all new taxi drivers and for existing taxi drivers on renewal of their licence.

3 Background

3.1 At its meeting on 12 March 2003, the Committee agreed to introduce Disability Awareness training for all taxi drivers. A pilot training course was undertaken by an organisation called Insite. It was then agreed that the Corporate Resources' Training Team would provide future training courses. A very successful training course was held in 2005 at the Council's Learning and Development Centre in Atholl House, East Kilbride. This was attended by 11 taxi drivers from all 4 licensing zones.

3.2 Further training has been held since then but the attendance levels have been low. Therefore, to ensure that all taxi drivers undertake the training it is considered necessary to include this training as a condition of a taxi driver's licence. This will ensure that the course must be undertaken by all new taxi drivers and by existing taxi drivers on renewal of their licence when new conditions can be applied.

4 Employee Implications

4.1 None

5 Financial Implications

5.1 The Corporate Resources' Training Team is prepared to carry out this training course for all the Council's taxi drivers at the cost of £175 for a half-day course for up to 16 persons. This compares with £220 charged by Insite, excluding accommodation costs.

- 5.2 There are approximately 800 taxi drivers licensed at present. The costs of this training for all drivers in South Lanarkshire would be recovered from the licensing fees. This will result in an increase in fees for taxi drivers' licences which is likely to be between £5 and £10.

6 Other Implications

- 6.1 None

7 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 7.1 This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 7.2 A representative from the Hamilton/East Kilbride Disability Forum attended the pilot course and was very supportive. This positive view was shared by the representatives of the Taxi Trade who also attended.

Robert McIlwain
Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

19 October 2007

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- ◆ Improve Community Safety
- ◆ Improve Lives of Vulnerable Children, Young People and Adults

Previous References

Licensing Committee, 1 October 2003

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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