

Report

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Report to:	Licensing Committee
Date of Meeting:	24 August 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Licensing of Taxis
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- consider a proposal by Hamilton Taxi Owners Association to introduce a formal qualification for the taxi trade on a voluntary basis. This course would sit side-by-side with any training courses introduced by the Council.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the introduction of a training course on a voluntary basis suggested by the Hamilton TOA be fully supported by the Council and this qualification be accepted as an alternative to any training for the trade introduced by the Council; and
- (2) that the taxi trade in all other areas throughout South Lanarkshire be encouraged to undertake this training on a voluntary basis.

3. Background

3.1 The Hamilton Taxi Owners Association have, for some considerable time, been working in conjunction with 'Go Skills' (The Sector Skills Council for Passenger Transport) to prepare a professional qualification for taxi drivers. The qualification is known as an "Introduction to the Role of Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driving". The proposed qualification will have an SQA accreditation.

4. Present Position

4.1 Currently, there is funding from the ILA (Individual Learning Account) available for the qualification subject to the driver satisfying the income criteria and, as long as the qualification is not mandatory, to enable the driver to carry out his employment. Therefore, it is suggested that this qualification be accepted by the Council as a voluntary qualification which would lie alongside any training the Council introduces. As members are aware, for some years the Council has been carrying out disability awareness training. However, there has been limited uptake and the Council is currently looking at reviewing the format of the training provided.

4.2 In the meantime, while alternative methods of training are being looked at, it is recommended that this course could run as an alternative to any training the Council would require i.e. if a driver undertakes this training, he will not require to undertake any course introduced by the Council. The cost of this course is approximately £220

but, as long as the driver meets the criteria mentioned above, funding is available at the present time to cover the cost.

- 4.3 The content of the course includes various units of which the following are examples:-
- ◆ Health and Safety in the taxi/private hire work environment
 - ◆ Road Safety when Driving Passengers
 - ◆ Professional Customer Service including
 - ◆ Disability
 - ◆ Race
 - ◆ General discrimination
 - ◆ Taxi and private hire services for passengers who require assistance.
- 4.4 It is understood that this will be the first introduction of the qualification in Scotland. The course was originally designed for English taxi drivers but has been amended for the Scottish trade (although it is understood that some of the wording still needs to be altered slightly).
- 4.5 The Hamilton TOA have presently approximately 28 drivers willing to participate in the initial pilot.
- 5. Employee Implications**
- 5.1 None.
- 6. Financial Implications**
- 6.1 None.
- 7. Other Implications**
- 7.1 The risk to the Council is that it fails to fulfil its duty to protect the public. There are no apparent implications in terms of sustainable development.
- 8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
- 8.1 There is no requirement to carry out an impact assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.
- 8.2 Consultation has taken place with the Hamilton Taxi Owners Association. Further consultation and discussion will take place with the rest of the taxi trade throughout South Lanarkshire to see if they are agreeable to extend the pilot if approved by Committee.

Robert McIlwain
Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

29 July 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Improvement Themes/Values

- ◆ Improve Community Safety

Previous References

- ◆ None

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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