

Name of meeting and date: **LICENSING AND SAFETY**
21 FEB 2011

Title of report: **HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE
 DRIVER TRAINING COURSE.**

Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not Applicable
Is it in the Council's Forward Plan?	Not Applicable
Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	Not Applicable
Cabinet member portfolio	Not Applicable

Electoral wards affected and ward councillors consulted: **ALL**

Public or private: **PUBLIC**

1. Purpose of report

- To consider sanctions available to Regulatory Committee

2. Key points

- The Council currently operate a policy in relation to Licensed Hackney Carriage/Private Hire drivers. This policy relates, amongst other things, to the issue of the accrual of penalty points on a licensed drivers DVLA driving licence.
- Currently, should a licensed driver accrue in excess of 6 penalty points, the driver would be required to appear before the Regulatory Committee of the Council
- Regulatory Committee members had a number of sanctions available to them when dealing with drivers in these circumstances. These included referral for either a 'speed awareness course' or a 'driver improvement course'.
- Both the above courses were originally designed to accommodate referral from the Police rather than the Council's Regulatory Committee.
- Due to a contractual issue, the facility for members to refer for both of the courses in their current form has been withdrawn.

- Both courses were, administered on behalf of West Yorkshire Police, by what is now known as the Streetscene department of the Council
- In an effort to find a credible alternative, the Streetscene department have drawn up details of a course that fulfils the elements of the two previously mentioned courses, but designed specifically for licensed taxi drivers.
- Members will see a draft agenda for the newly designed course attached to this report.
- The cost implication to the driver is in the region of £125.

3. Implications for the Council

Not applicable

4. Consultees and their opinions

None

5. Officer recommendations and reasons

- Members are asked to consider the content of the report.
- Currently members have the facility to refer licensed drivers to the Driver Standards Agency to retake a Taxi driver test, but the newly designed course is seen as an opportunity for drivers to obtain suitable training in a full range of issues relating to the use of a vehicle.

6. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

Not applicable

7. Next steps

Not applicable

8. Contact officer and relevant papers

C Walter, Licensing Manager (01484 456868)

Suggested timings for the new "Safe taxi driving and Eco skills course".

- 8. 45** **Registration and eye check.**
- 9. 00** **Driving at work**
- How do crashes occur and avoidance, covering:**
- Planning and hazard awareness to avoid crashes
- The law and safe use of mobile phones looking at the problems caused and coping strategies.
- The law and smoking whilst in a work /driving environment looking at the problems and coping strategies
- Understanding the effects of stress and fatigue and coping strategies
- 10.30** **Break**
- 10.45** **Speed:**
- Understanding speed issues and how to avoid excessive or inappropriate speeds.
- 11.10** **Customer services:**
- Customer services and good practice
- 11.30** **Eco Practices:**
- How to become a more eco friendly driver, safer driver and save and save on fuel costs.
- 12.00** **Vehicle maintenance and safety checks**
- 12.30** **Buffet lunch.**
- 1.00pm** **Putting safe driving skills into practice with an approved driving instructor:**
- To include 15 – 20 minutes vehicle checks.
- Assessment drive by the client.
- Demonstration drive by the instructor.
- Improvement drive by the client.
- Report on clients' drive.
- Recap and course evaluation.
- 4.30pm.** **Course ends.**