



**Name of meeting and date:**  
**Licensing and Safety Committee 18 March 2011**

**Title of report: Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver Medicals**

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

**Electoral wards affected: All**

**Public or private: Public**

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## **1. Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report is to provide the panel with information relating to when we as an authority request a medical from applicants wishing to apply for/renew their Hackney Carriage/Private Hire licence. The panel is then requested to decide if we as an Authority should bring our requests for medicals in line with PSV licence medical checks which are submitted to the DVLA.

## **2. Key points**

We currently request applicants to undergo a medical assessment as part of their application. The medicals are required at various ages as dictated by us the Authority. Many of our drivers also have PSV licences so that they may drive vehicles with over 8 passenger seats and have to have separate medicals for the purpose of retaining their PSV licence.

The ages we specify for our checks do not correspond with the ages the DVLA sets out in their guidelines. It would be financially beneficial to our customers that do have both licences to bring them in line and it would also be of benefit to the Authority when processing applications that we have clear, concise information regarding the medical issue following DVLA practise.

### **2.1 Background**

The House of Commons Transport Select Committee on Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles recommended in 1995 that taxi licence applicants should pass a medical examination before such a licence be granted. This recommended

that the Group 2 medical standards applied by DVLA in relation to bus and lorry drivers should also be applied by local authorities to taxi drivers.

Currently Kirklees ask for a medical on the first application and then at ages 50, 56 and every three years up to 65 (59, 62) and annually after 65

Drivers with PSV licences are required to obtain a medical when they first apply for the licences and then when they are 45 then every 5 years after (50, 55, 60, 65) until the age of 65 when they are required annually.

Currently a driver with both a PSV licence and a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire driver licence would be asked to produce a medical for both authorities at ages 45, 50, 55, 56, 59, 60, 62 and 65. Medicals from the authorities medical team would cost £104.00 (current price) or prices vary from GP's between £50 and £150 so it is an extremely costly exercise.

## **2.2 Representations**

This matter has been brought to the Committee at the request of our customers.

## **3. Implications for the Council**

Positive - Improved practise inline with Government standards  
Negative – none

## **4. Officer recommendations and reasons**

Officers recommend that Kirklees Council adopt Government standards as their own for medical checks

## **5. Contact officer**

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