

**REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSED DRIVERS TO UNDERTAKE A DRIVING ASSESSMENT EVERY THREE YEARS**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Grubb
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

Members are asked to consider whether to undertake consultation on removing the requirement for individuals licensed to drive hackney carriage and / or private hire vehicles to undertake a practical driving assessment every three years.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members direct officers to undertake consultation on removing the requirement for individuals licensed to drive hackney carriage and / or private hire vehicles to undertake a practical driving assessment every three years.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The costs associated with officers carrying out the consultation will need to be met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 Proper consultation on any proposals to amend the Council's policies minimises the risk of legal challenge if the proposals are subsequently implemented.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.4 The Council's current policy on the licensing of drivers of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles includes the following requirement:

*With effect from 1st December 2017, holders of driver licences must undertake refresher training in disability awareness and must pass a Driving Assessment test with Worcestershire County Council at least every three years.*

- 3.5 The Licensing Committee resolved to introduce this requirement at their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
- 3.6 The requirement to undertake a driving assessment test every three years has been consistently opposed and challenged by licensed drivers as being disproportionate and unreasonable.
- 3.7 The issue was raised again by licence holders at the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Liaison Forum held in September 2019. At the Licensing Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Members resolved to add an item to the Committee's work programme to review the current rules whereby drivers are required to undertake three yearly driver assessments.
- 3.8 Before the Council can amend its policy on the licensing of drivers of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, officers believe that it is necessary to carry out appropriate consultation.
- 3.9 Members are therefore asked to consider whether to undertake consultation on removing the requirement for individuals licensed to drive hackney carriage and / or private hire vehicles to undertake a practical driving assessment every three years.
- 3.10 For the sake of clarity, it is not proposed to consult on removing the current requirement for licence holders to undertake refresher training in disability awareness every three years.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 None

**5. APPENDICES**

5.1 None

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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