

TO: **REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 28 SEPTEMBER 2004**

SUBJECT: **DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING FOR TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE APPLICANTS**

FROM: **MEMBERS' SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To agree the introduction of “disability awareness training” for applicants for taxi and private hire drivers licences.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee did ask, some time ago, for reports on the introduction of disability awareness training and “knowledge” tests for taxi and private hire drivers.
- 2.2 It was not possible to pursue these initiatives until the new Licensing Enforcement Officer was appointed in December 2003.
- 2.3 Knowledge tests were approved by the Committee in January 2004 and became operative on 1 March 2004.
- 2.4 The Licensing Enforcement Officer has now agreed with the County Council for applicants to attend their training scheme for passenger assistants. Details of the scheme are attached.
- 2.5 It is proposed that applicants should make their own arrangements with the County Council and pay the fee direct to the County Council.
- 2.6 When they make the application to the District Council for their hackney carriage or private hire drivers licence, they will have to enclose a copy of the certificate issued by the County Council, otherwise the application will not be considered.

3. DECISION REQUIRED

- 3.1 Members are asked to resolve that:-
- (1) With effect from 3 January 2005, all new applicants for hackney carriage or private hire drivers licences be required to attend a training scheme for passenger assistance, as provided by the County Council, and provide a certificate awarded by the County Council with their application.
- (2) The Officers be authorised to make all the necessary arrangements to bring the training into effect.
- (3) Applicants be required to pay the County Council direct for the cost of the training.

- (4) Authority be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive (Members' Services) to refuse applications in respect of applicants who do not attend the training and obtain the certificate.

Colin Tubbs
Senior Committee Services and Licensing Officer

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Areas and the District Affected: All
Key Decision: No
Included in Forward Plan: No

For further information about this report please contact:

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