

TO: REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 4TH APRIL 2007

SUBJECT: DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING FOR LICENSED DRIVERS

FROM: MEMBERS' SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To confirm the committee's decision to ensure that all of the council's licensed drivers take a disability awareness course.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At a regulatory committee meeting on 24th September 2004, it was resolved 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.

- 2.2 Due to logistical and staffing reasons, the course has not been able to go ahead.

- 2.3 On 13th march 2007, the officer attended a meeting at the offices of the Guide Dogs for the Blind in Leamington with a view to a disability awareness course being formulated. An officer from Stratford District Council also attended.

- 2.4 Notes from the meeting are attached as appendix 1

- 2.5 In summary, the course will cost each driver £30 and will take approximately one morning.

- 2.6 Existing drivers will be called in to attend over a period of 12 months.

3. POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 None as the drivers pay themselves for the course.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To confirm the resolution made in September 2004 to ensure that all of the council's drivers take the disability awareness course within a period of 12 months.
- 4.2 When all existing drivers had been on the course, new drivers would be called in when a course was sufficiently full to enable it to run.
- 4.3 If drivers did not attend the course without reasonable excuse, they would be invited before the regulatory committee in order to justify their none attendance.

David Davies
Licensing Services Manager

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

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

For further information about this report please contact:

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