

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

**LICENSING POLICY
HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the proposal to introduce a requirement for all hackney carriage and private hire drivers to undertake Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) awareness training.
- 1.2 That the CSE training be made a condition of obtaining a licence for every new driver and drivers renewing their licence.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire Council has a duty to protect the public and is authorised to carry out the statutory function of issuing licences in relation to hackney carriage and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.
- 2.2 The licences are issued in accordance with the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 2.3 In accordance with the legislation, before a licence may be issued the Council must be satisfied that the applicant is a “fit and proper person”. In order to determine if a person is fit and proper, the applicant currently has to pass a knowledge test, have a medical, have a disclosure of their criminal record, and produce their DVLA licence. None of the requirements used to determine if a driver is a “fit and proper” person are statutory. The proposed CSE training would be added to the requirements for obtaining a licence.
- 2.4 It is proposed that all new applicants and all drivers applying to renew their licence would attend a training session to raise awareness of the issue. Refresher training will be carried out at renewal every 3/6 years.

- 2.5 The training for licensed drivers will be carried out before their licence is renewed. Conducting the training in this way will mean that it will take a number of years to train the drivers, however this should be accomplished using current resources.
- 2.6 The need to train Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers is supported in the Casey and Jay Reports which looked into Licensing issues at Rotherham MBC.
- 2.7 The training will be developed with North Lincolnshire Council's Social Services Department.
- 2.8 Following the training, a certificate of attendance will be issued to all drivers.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option 1 – To reject the proposal.
- 3.2 Option 2 – To approve the proposal for new drivers only.
- 3.3 Option 3 – To approve the proposal for new drivers and for renewals.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option 1 – Rejecting the proposal would result in the need to raise the awareness by other means. As a result not all drivers would be made aware of the issues.
- 4.2 Option 2 – Training only new drivers would mean that current drivers would not be trained. As with option 1 other methods would be needed to ensure all drivers were trained..
- 4.3 Option 3 – This option would ensure that all drivers are trained on the issues.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 If the training is carried out as part of the application process for new drivers and on renewal for current drivers, then it can be delivered within current resources.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Statutory – There is no statutory requirement to train drivers on CSE, however the Council has a duty to protect children and vulnerable adults and this training would assist in doing so.

6.2 There are no environmental, diversity, Section 17 or Risk implications.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 There are no issues raised from the integrated impact assessment.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

8.1 The three hackney carriage and private hire associations have been consulted on the proposal at the Taxi Licensing Forum. All have agreed to the proposal and will be among the first drivers to attend the training.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Option 3 be approved and that all new applicants and applicants to renew drivers licences be required to have CSE training as part of the requirement to obtain a licence.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Consultation File