

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Licensing Committee
DATE	6 September 2022
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Street Knowledge Test Consultation Results
REPORT NUMBER	COM/22/181
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie – Director of Commissioning
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell – Chief Officer - Governance
REPORT AUTHOR	Sandy Munro
TERMS OF REFERENCE	17.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with the results of the consultation with the taxi trade and the general public on possible amendments to the Street Knowledge Test.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- 2.1 Considers the Consultation responses; and
- 2.2 Agrees to progress any options considered appropriate;

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Committee on 5 July 2022 the Committee agreed on consultation options for the Street Knowledge Test.
- 3.2 A public consultation was held online between 8 July 2022 and 19 August 2022 and was advertised on the Council's social media channels as well as being circulated to the taxi trade.
- 3.3 A total of 1112 responses were received and a summary of the responses is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.4 A slight majority of responses to Q1 were not in favour of an amended test for Private Hire drivers, with 553 in favour and 559 opposed. The main reasons given for this were a fear of a lowering of standard of driver and a perceived lack of reliability in technological guidance tools. This appears to have been the case in the responses from both the trade and the wider public. The counter argument was that an amended test was reasonable in conjunction with the

technology available. The comments made in response to this question are attached as Appendix 2.

- 3.5 If the Committee wishes to adopt this proposal an amended test will be prepared and put into practice as soon as possible and the proposal in question 2 would automatically fall as it is not possible to both amend and abolish the test for private hire drivers. If the Committee chooses not to adopt this proposal then, dependant on the decision on question 2, the test for private hire drivers will continue as currently.
- 3.6 Similarly, the responses to Q2 were predominately opposed to abolition of the test for Private Hire drivers, with 447 in favour of abolishing the test and 665 opposed. Again, the responses were based on the belief that a degree of knowledge was preferable to a complete reliance on guidance devices. As per Q1, this appears to have been the case in both the trade and wider public responses. The counter argument could be summarised as a belief the test was no longer necessary for private hire drivers. The comments received in response to question 2 are enclosed as Appendix 3.
- 3.7 If the Committee chooses to adopt this proposal then the test for private hire drivers will be abolished immediately. If the Committee chooses not to adopt this proposal then, subject to the decision on question 1, the test for private hire drivers will continue to be applied.
- 3.8 The responses to Q3, however, were largely in favour of amending the resit procedures for the test, with 859 in favour of the proposals and 253 opposed. A number of responses indicated that there should be a time limit in which the failed section must be resat. For clarity, any changes to the resit procedure would apply to the test for both taxi drivers and private hire drivers, depending on the outcome of Q 1 & 2. Again, any comments received are attached as Appendix 4.
- 3.9 If the Committee opts to adopt this proposal, then the new procedures can be implemented immediately. It is suggested that a time limit for the resit of the failed section is stipulated, possibly within 3 months of the failed test. If the Committee chooses not to adopt this proposal, then the current procedures will continue.
- 3.10 The majority of respondents were not in favour of introducing an SQA qualification or equivalent, at least not at this time. A total of 520 responses were in favour and 592 opposed. Some respondents indicated that they were in favour of the principle but given that it would be an additional financial burden on drivers then the current climate made it unfeasible at the moment. The comments to this section are attached as Appendix 5.
- 3.11 If the Committee decides to adopt this proposal then enquiries will be made to training providers to assess potential options and the results will be reported back to committee. If the Committee decides not to adopt this proposal at this time then no further action will be taken at present.

3.12 A final question allowed respondents to add any further comments and these are attached as Appendix 6 to the report.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified.			
Compliance	No significant risks identified.			
Operational	No significant risks identified.			
Financial	No significant risks identified.			
Reputational	No significant risks identified.			

Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified.			
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8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	Impact of Report
	The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	None

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of responses.
- 11.2 Appendix 2 – Comments on Q1.
- 11.3 Appendix 3 – Comments on Q2.
- 11.4 Appendix 4 – Comments on Q3.
- 11.5 Appendix 5 – Comments on Q4.
- 11.6 Appendix 6 – Additional comments.

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Sandy Munro
Title	Solicitor
Email Address	AleMunro@aberdeencity.gov.uk