

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Licensing Committee
DATE	5 June 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Taxi & Private Hire Driver Training
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/24/173
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Alan Thomson/Vikki Cuthbert
REPORT AUTHOR	Sandy Munro
TERMS OF REFERENCE	16.3

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval to establish a training qualification for all new and current taxi and private hire drivers.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee authorise the Chief Officer (Governance) to:-

- 2.1 Introduce the training qualification for all taxi and private hire drivers;
- 2.2 Complete all necessary background works required to implement the program; and
- 2.3 Provide one month's notice of the date of implementation on the Council's website

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 Officers were instructed by the Committee to investigate the feasibility of introducing a driver training program for all taxi and private hire drivers to include, but not limited to, customer service training and disability awareness training. Discussions were held with Disability Equity Partnership as well as other local authorities to establish relevant content of any training program.
- 3.2 Initially this proved problematic due to a lack of training providers locally but following discussions with a number of parties it has now been established that it will be possible to introduce the eQualify training program which results in an SQA level 5 qualification.
- 3.3 An overview of the program and an indication of how it works in Glasgow is attached as Appendix 1.

3.4 Discussions have taken place with local educational establishments who offer SQA courses to determine a timescale for implementing the program. At the time of writing this timescale has yet to be established.

3.5 It is suggested that all new applicants for a taxi or private hire driver's licence will require to achieve the qualification within 1 year of being granted the licence, and that all current drivers will require to achieve the qualification within 1 year of their first renewal once the program comes into effect.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Training costs will be paid by the applicant direct to the training provider so there will be no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Scottish Government Guidance for Licensing Authorities recommends that licensing authorities have minimum training requirements.

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	n/a			Yes
Compliance	n/a			Yes
Operational	n/a			Yes
Financial	n/a			Yes
Reputational	n/a			Yes
Environment / Climate	n/a			Yes

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	New Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	N/A

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None

11. APPENDICES

11.1 eQualify report

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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